

THE MANFIELD BREW

SPRING 2026 ISSUE 9

CLOSING TIME? SAVE OUR PUBS

The changing face of the Great British pub

WELCOME HOME DEREK

Derek's appointment as a BTPF trustee

AND MORE...



 **Baily Thomas**
PROVIDENT FUND
A helping hand

Produced by
THE BENEFICIARY LIAISON GROUP
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THE BAILY THOMAS PROVIDENT FUND

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING 2026 EDITION OF THE MANSFIELD BREW



I hope you have all weathered the wet weather and rejoice in seeing the first signs and green shoots of spring - it's very welcome.

This Mansfield Brew issue covers a topic close to our hearts and I hope one that you will agree with - **SAVE OUR PUBS**. The number of pubs closing both nationwide and across the Mansfield Brewery region is shocking and the article expands on reasons, numbers and asks for suggestions as to how we all can do something to save our pubs.

We welcome the appointment of Derek Mapp as a trustee of the Baily Thomas Provident Fund. Derek, as many of you know, was a key figure in Mansfield Brewery and it is good news that he is bringing his experience to help continue the development of the Fund to meet your needs.

We also cover a great Life Behind the Bar story and there is tongue in cheek piece on how business has changed over a working life. This is one I can relate to as all nine companies I worked for over 40-odd years no longer exist. By contrast there is a story of how a chance conversation developed into a job offer.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Mansfield Brew and continue to share your recollections of your time at the Brewery.

The Editors *Elaine & Jamie*

With thanks to Sue and John for their support and guidance.

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EDITORIAL & CONTACT

EDITORS	Elaine Chadwick & Jamie Traynor
DESIGN & PRODUCTION	Jamie Traynor
WITH THANKS	John Hings & Susan Walters

If you have any stories, tales and anecdotes from your time spent working for Mansfield Brewery we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

We hope this update finds you well. The Fund has been very busy since the publication of the last Mansfield Brew, and we are pleased to share some key highlights with you below.

LAUNCH OF OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

As part of our commitment to improving communication and building a stronger sense of community with our beneficiaries, we recently launched our quarterly newsletter. This provides more regular and detailed updates on what's happening at the Fund, including information on grants and benefits, good news stories, upcoming events and other important developments. The first edition was sent out in March and will be issued quarterly. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the office team on enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk or 01623 473 290 and they will be happy to send you one and ensure you receive future editions.

LAUNCH OF OUR ONLINE GRANT APPLICATION PORTAL

One of the most significant developments this year has been the launch of our online grant application portal in January. Feedback so far has been very positive, and we are pleased to see many grant applications being submitted through the portal.

The portal allows you to apply online, track the progress of your application and send messages directly to the office team. Registration is quick and simple. Simply visit - www.btpf.benefactorcloud.co.uk and

click 'Register' to create a new user account. You'll need an email address to get started. A step-by-step user guide is available here: www.bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/step-by-step_guide_digital.pdf and hard copies can be requested from the office team. If you need any additional support, please don't hesitate to contact us or drop in to see the team on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:30am and 12pm. We would encourage everyone to give the portal a try, as it is quick, easy to use and helps us process applications more efficiently.

REMINDER OF OUR UPCOMING OPEN MEETING

We would also like to remind you about our upcoming Open Meeting which will be held on 22nd April at Mansfield Town Football Club. Doors open at 11am and the meeting will close at 1:30pm. This will be a valuable opportunity to hear updates on the Fund and our priorities for the year ahead, as well as a refresher on grants and benefits and any recent changes. It is also a chance to ask questions and connect with fellow beneficiaries and trustees. As in previous years, the event has proven very popular and we are already close to capacity. If you would like to attend, please contact the office team as soon as possible. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with a reserve list in place. We hope to accommodate as many beneficiaries as possible and look forward to seeing many of you there. The meeting will be recorded for those who can't attend on the day.

NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

We are also delighted to welcome a new trustee to the board of trustees, as announced in our quarterly newsletter. Derek Mapp

joins our existing trustee team in a voluntary capacity and brings with him a wealth of experience. Having spent 10 years at Mansfield Brewery PLC, he went on to build an extensive business career, including establishing a chain of family-friendly pubs and holding several high-profile roles; we are confident this will be a very positive appointment for the Fund. Derek will be attending the Open Meeting where beneficiaries will have the opportunity to meet him and ask any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finally, we would like to highlight a couple of upcoming events:

ONLINE PORTAL TRAINING

We will be hosting a face-to-face training session on the online portal on Friday 8th May at Mansfield Library, 10am to 12pm. This will provide hands-on support in using the portal, as well as help with basic digital skills. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please contact the office if you would like to attend.

MEDICASH WEBINAR

Medicash will be hosting a webinar on Thursday 21st May at 10am. This online session is a great opportunity for anyone who has not yet registered for the health cash plan, or for those who would like to better understand how to make the most of it. The session will cover what the plan includes and provides an opportunity to ask questions.

If you would like more information on any of the above, or to book a place at an event, please contact the Fund office team on enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk or 01623 473 290.

THE MANSFIELD BREW is a newsletter produced by members of the Beneficiary Liaison Group (BLG), in partnership with the Baily Thomas Provident Fund which funds and distributes the newsletter on behalf of the BLG. The editors of the Mansfield Brew are always keen to hear from beneficiaries who have interesting stories to tell. If you have a story or interesting fact to share, get in touch with the editors, Elaine or Jamie at mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com.

The Baily Thomas Provident Fund is always looking at ways it can reduce its environmental impact and sending information via email is one of them. Our email address is enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk

- If you are happy to receive emailed information, email us stating **"please send me information about the BTPF by email"**
- If you wish to also receive the Mansfield Brew by email, email us stating **"please send me the Mansfield Brew by email"**
- If you wish to unsubscribe from further editions of the Mansfield Brew, email us and state **"unsubscribe me from the Mansfield Brew"** in the subject line
- If you wish to receive paper copies of the Mansfield Brew in the future, rather than by email, email us stating **"please send me the Mansfield Brew in hard copy"**

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.



All the information about grants available for application are on the BTPF website together with the application forms for each of the grants. The office can also be contacted for the forms and grant guidance to be posted. If you would like further information, please do get in touch with the BTPF office at:

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

Telephone **01623 473 290** and email enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk

The opening days/times of the BTPF office are: **Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 16:30 & Friday 09:00 - 12:30**

WELCOME HOME DEREK

COMMENTS ON DEREK MAPP'S APPOINTMENT AS A BTPF TRUSTEE FROM JOHN HINGS.

MANAGING DIRECTOR 1979 - 1988

One of the best decisions I made after I joined the Brewery in 1979 was to employ Derek Mapp as Retail Director in 1981. The recent decision by the BTPF Trustees to invite Derek to become one of their number will, I'm sure, turn out to be one of the best decisions they will have made.

You may recall in the 170th Anniversary Special Edition of The Mansfield Brew, among many of the reflections of employees, those of Derek's...

"My halcyon ten years at Mansfield Brewery provided me with friendship, skills and invaluable personal values.

Despite being deliberately structured to uniquely create benevolent values to the benefit of its employees, it was tragically sold to others who had much to learn and who destroyed the very essence of what made Mansfield Brewery unique.

Wherever I have subsequently worked, I reflect with admiration on what made Mansfield Brewery so special and always try to mirror it."

From these remarks and those made in the article "Two lives in hospitality" about Derek and his son Chris which appeared in last summer's edition of The Mansfield Brew, Derek clearly got a great deal from his time at the Brewery. But he gave so much during his 10 year tenure with the Company. And in accepting this position, it gives him the opportunity to give even more with the added skills and experience he has gained since leaving Mansfield in 1991.

He's a first generation beneficiary like many of us but he is waiving his eligibility for grants to enable him to take on the role.

I remember interviewing Derek for the job at the Station Hotel in Chesterfield and thought wow this chap will certainly change things that need changing... which was to bring a professionalism to the retail side of the business. We became much more customer focussed as a result of his influence on our decision making. I held the view that there's no point in having a dog and barking yourself. I had to have skills in the top team that complemented my own and others such that as a team we became as good as any and better than most in the industry. Indeed, not much matched Mansfield in so many ways.

I believed in creating an environment in which Derek and others in the top team could succeed. Derek grasped the opportunity and brought enthusiasm and a work ethic that were infectious. With Hugh Wilson, who had an eye for building pubs that were both beautiful and operationally practical, we had a perfect combination and the Board found it easy to invest in the new build programme of the 80's that Derek led.

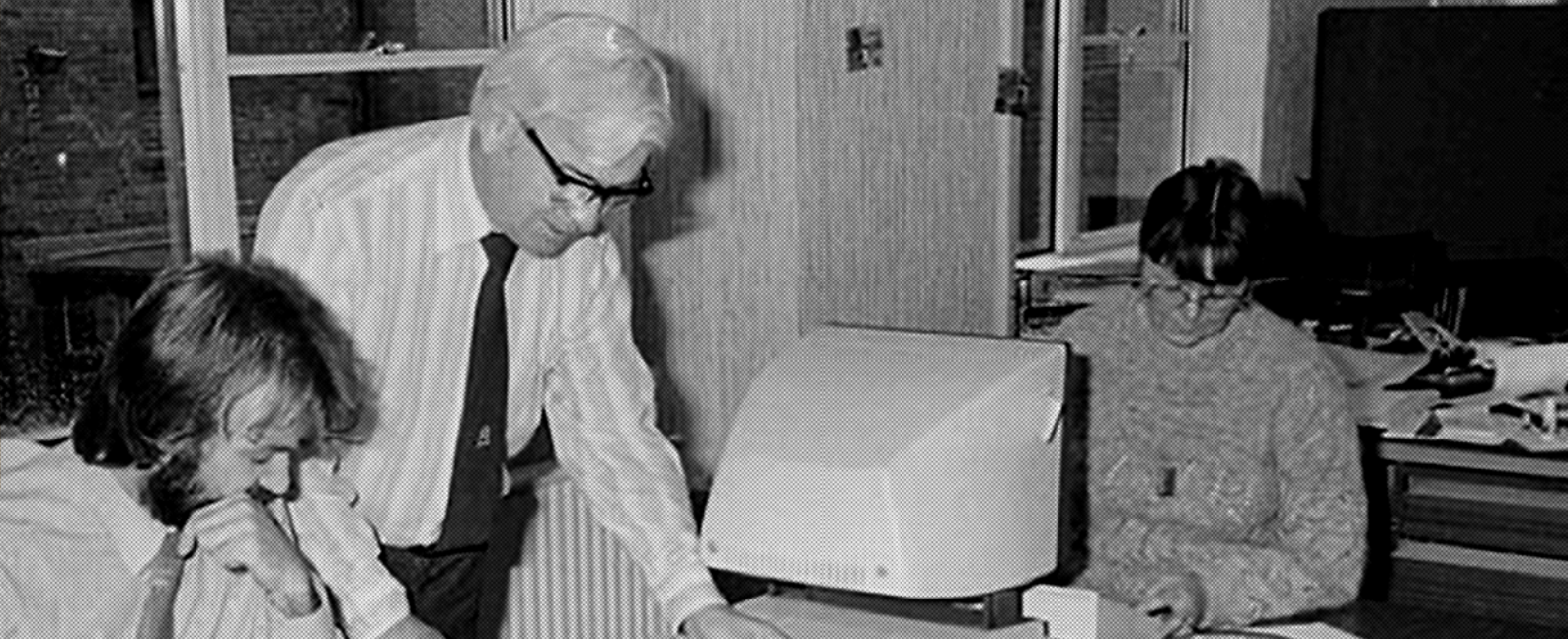
It was this strength in management that gave us the confidence to build a new brewhouse which came on stream in 1984. Derek helped underwrite its future and that of the business after we acquired the Hull Brewery in 1985. The assimilation of the Hull estate and the optimisation of the combined managed and tenanted business that



resulted thereafter, was directed and managed by Derek to great effect. Derek went on to achieve other things in his career not least founding the Tom Cobleigh pub chain which he floated on the stock exchange and eventually sold out to Rank plc in 1996. But this was just one of many, and he spread his skills across different sectors of industry, during which time he also held government appointments. These are detailed in the new BTPF Newsletter which you will have received. This tells you about his family and his association with Barlow. What is not mentioned, is his contribution to Derbyshire which includes serving a term as High Sheriff and being a Deputy Lieutenant.

What is gratifying to me is what he says about mirroring the lessons and experience he gained from his time at the Brewery.

Those experiences are shared by many of us particularly those on the Beneficiary Liaison Group and we look forward with optimism in working closely with him in partnership to the mutual benefit of all beneficiaries and the Trustees. We wish him good luck and thank him for devoting his time in our best interests in his busy life.



MY ROLES IN MANSFIELD BREWERY...

MARGARET BROOKS

FROM FACTORY FLOORS TO
FINANCE SUPERVISOR AND A
SUCCESSFUL ACCOUNTS CAREER
AT MANSFIELD BREWERY.

Margaret moved to Nottingham in September 1982 when her husband relocated to Annesley, with Kodak Manufacturing. She had always worked full time from the age of 30 - every kind of work imaginable - fish factory, pen factory, bar maid and so on.

She realised when she was 28 that she wanted to go back into education so she could get a “proper” job. Her children were eight and three so she did a full-time college course in accountancy, achieving RSA3 in Accounts as well as English and Maths.

Margaret didn't think she would be successful in getting a job, but luck was on her side with her first interview. She started a job in Accounts with Redlands Roadstone and worked her way up through the department until she relocated to Nottingham.

In July 1983 Margaret started work at Mansfield Brewery, covering a maternity leave, reporting to George Harding in Managed Houses. This involved checking managers' accounts and entering them into the computer. At the end of the maternity cover, George offered her the permanent role.

Managed Houses became Mansfield Inns under Derek Mapp and the department moved to Rosemary Street, where Margaret became Supervisor to Managed Houses. She also managed the petty cash for the District Managers and paid all Managed Houses invoices. She had two staff working for her and all ran very smoothly.

In 1991 the entire department moved over to the new offices in Littleworth. Accounts Payable supervisory responsibility at



that time was split between Sharon Cox (*Mansfield Brewery*) and Margaret (*Mansfield Inns*). After Sharon's promotion into a different section, Margaret was also promoted to Accounts Payable Supervisor across all areas of the Brewery, with a staff of six. She reported to Alec Welham, then Ron Kirk, then Tony Gilbert and latterly, Paul Handley.

She continued to manage the Mansfield Brewery Accounts Payable function until the closure in July 2000. For Margaret this was a sad time - she experienced both good times and hard times during her time with Mansfield, but she persevered with it throughout and received her 15 year service gold watch.



CLOSING TIME? THE CHANGING FACE OF THE BRITISH PUB.



From bustling community hubs to boarded-up buildings, the British pub is undergoing a profound transformation with far-reaching consequences for both the trade and the communities it once served and where would Mansfield Brewery have been without its pubs?

Where would Mansfield Brewery have been without its pubs? Brewing good beer is only half of the challenge - the beer needed to have a ready market, and having control of the drinking outlets within delivery distance of the brewery and thus acquiring an estate of tied-houses was the aim of any ambitious brewery like Mansfield. Without owning its own pubs, a brewery's potential for expansion was limited. At its peak Mansfield had over 500 pubs and had expanded via the purchase of Chesterfield Brewery, North Country Breweries and packages of pubs from John Smith's/Courage and S&N.

Unfortunately, today we are seeing a huge reduction in pubs across the country. Recent figures from the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) show 15,800 pubs have been lost over the last 25 years, with the highest annual drop in 2017 with 1,950 lost. More recently a consistent drop of between 350-500 a year is depressing. Overall, this represents a loss of 26% of licenced premises in a quarter of a century.

IMPACT ON THE MANSFIELD ESTATE

Thanks to the hard work of Colin Stump, John Hubbard, and John Hings we now have the statistics on the number of Mansfield Brewery establishments that have closed/repurposed since the Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries (Marston's) take over. Compared to the national statistic of 26% loss, the Mansfield estate has suffered 192 closures out of 500 at the time of the sale - a 38% rate of the Mansfield estate at the end of 1999. This reflects the BBPA report that the East Midlands has been one of the hardest hit by closures together with London, West Midlands and the North East.

Of the 500 Mansfield estate premises transferred, the tenanted pubs have fared the worst. Managed houses have been less affected while most of the concept pubs have been maintained, albeit under new ownership.

PUB TYPE	TENANTED	MANAGED	CONCEPT	TOTAL
TRANSFERRED	335	132	33	500
CLOSED / CONVERTED	147	39	6	192
% LOST	44%	30%	18%	38%

OF THOSE LOST IN THE TENANTED / MANAGED ESTATE THE REASONS ARE:

CLOSED / DEMOLISHED	77	18	At the end of this article there is a list of all the closed / repurposed tenanted and managed pubs.
HOUSING	29	2	
RETAIL	17	8	
NEW OWNERS			
TRADING	13	19	
RESTAURANT	7	3	
COMMERCIAL	3	2	
COMMUNITY	1	1	

Geoff Ikin, a highly knowledgeable brewing industry observer, has undertaken an analysis of pub closures in the areas around Mansfield. He states "The picture is one of complete devastation. Mansfield itself has come off best but still with a high number of closures. Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton in Ashfield and Kirby in Ashfield have all had a huge number of closures. My heart goes out though to Huthwaite and Tibshelf. Blackwell and nearby Westhouses have been wiped off the map. Most of the Clubs are still holding out, but I wonder for how long. Nightclubs are booming though."

LICENCED PREMISES INCLUDING PUBS, CLUBS, MICROPUBS, PUB/RESTAURANTS, NIGHTCLUBS

NOTE - THESE ARE ALL PREMISES NOT JUST PREVIOUS MANSFIELD BREWERY HOUSES.

AREA	OPEN	CLOSED	% CLOSED
MANSFIELD	43	21	33%
MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE / FOREST TOWN	13	6	32%
SUTTON IN ASHFIELD / SKEGBY / KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD	31	29	48%
HUTHWAITE	2	6	75%
TIBSHELF	1	6	86%
BLACKWELL / WESTHOUSES	0	5	100%
MANSFIELD AREA CLUBS	30	6	17%
MANSFIELD NIGHTCLUBS	11	0	0%

NATIONAL TRENDS

In 2024 alone, around 289 pubs closed across England and Wales, resulting in approximately 4,500 direct job losses. The trend is continuing, with one pub closing every day in 2025, and projections suggest more than 5,600 direct job losses in that year. London, East Midlands, and West Midlands have seen the highest closure rates.

The BBPA outlined the impact of the closures on the sector, a theme echoed by many other pub owners and brewers. Beside the loss of jobs (both in the pubs and in the wider supply chain), there is a huge impact on the local communities served by those pubs. This can lead to social isolation and drives further dependence on drinking at home using supermarkets that do not suffer the same tax and business pressures experienced by the pub trade.

It is not uncommon now to travel through villages and small towns and see no pubs open - they are either boarded up, demolished or converted for residential or commercial use.

INITIATIVES TO REVERSE THIS TREND INCLUDE:

- Designating pubs as community assets, which can empower local groups to save and run them. This can be a difficult and challenging process often pitting the community against the pub company/brewery. The Plunkett Foundation has 215 community pubs within its network and receives 30 new enquiries every month.
- Some pubs have converted part of their premises to host the Post Office or local shop to share costs and refocus on community service.
- Other pubs have teamed up with local churches to bring together the community. By collaborating, pubs and churches can offer spaces for social interaction, reduce isolation, and support local needs.

REASONS FOR THESE CLOSURES ARE WIDE RANGING AND BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM:

- ECONOMIC PRESSURES**
 - rising costs (energy, wages, business rates)
 - reduced consumer spending
 - increased tax burdens
 - recent government budget changes have further increased costs for pub operators
 - cuts in local bus services by local authorities



• CHANGING SOCIAL TRENDS:

- The loss of major industrial employers, in Mansfield's case the pit closures
- The move to working from home - hence no after work drinks
- Fragmentation of families so fewer opportunities for family meet-ups
- Post-COVID trend to stay at home with a supermarket beer and the latest programme on the TV.

• SOCIAL PRESSURES:

- Health messaging: "Alcohol is bad for us", Dry January, Sober October
- Drink driving limits to be further reduced.

Actions that can slow/reverse closures and support the existing pubs, mitigating job losses from pub closures requires a combination of government support, community action, business innovation, and regulatory protections. Diversifying pub services, investing in staff, and empowering local ownership are proven strategies. Continued advocacy for broader relief and planning protections will further safeguard jobs and the social fabric pubs provide.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

• **BUSINESS RATES RELIEF:** Extending and reforming business rates for pubs is consistently cited as the most impactful intervention. The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and think tanks urge swift, meaningful reform to reduce operational costs, slow closures, and preserve jobs. Without this, pubs face unsustainable bills and increased employment costs, leading to avoidable job losses.

• **REVIEW OF OTHER COSTS:** National Insurance, Minimum Wage, Energy, VAT equalisation with supermarkets, wider employment costs (sickness pay, pensions).

SO WHY ARE PUBS SO IMPORTANT AND WORTH SAVING?

A lot is spoken about today re mental health, social isolation and loneliness. Pubs have been the place for centuries for strangers to come together and strike up conversations and develop friendships. Equally friends, workmates and acquaintances can meet to catch up.

Pubs are central points in a community, enabling people to come together and chat about things - news in the media, sport, work, holidays, family etc.

Imagine having a dreadful day at work. You walk into the pub, the landlord smiles and says "Hello, the usual?" You stand at the bar or sit and drink your beer taking the time to process the bad day. In walks someone you have seen in there before. You nod and then something sparks a conversation. Next thing you are feeling "human" again and you can then continue on your way home, leaving the bad day feeling behind.

Pubs are great social levellers - in my pub we had a mechanic and a high court judge chatting away a couple of times a week. A partner in a major accounting firm talking with a chap that works in a poultry farm and finding that they both know how to put up fences and sheds. Two colleagues sharing their frustrations with the workplace, knowing that what is said in the pub, stays in the pub - a problem shared is a problem halved.

Pubs enable people to form friendships. If you have just moved to a new town or village, it is hard to find new mates. By going into a pub regularly you become accepted and people start to chat with you. Before you know it you have been invited into the quiz team and a barbeque the following weekend.

Friends can arrange to meet with friends, sharing a drink and laughter. Friendship groups develop around shared interests, bonding over a beer and/or a wine.

There is no current alternative to pubs - there seems little opportunity to get to know someone in the local takeaway or 24 hour shop. Without pubs, something dies in a community - the central light that brings in all types of people and enables human connections. Staying home with a supermarket beer and a delivered meal doesn't quite do that.

This is why it is so important to fight to keep pubs and clubs going - they can be an important part of our lives providing just what we need when we need it - a quick drink, a random conversation, a meet up with friends. When a pub is lost, all this is lost too.

So how can we as individuals and as ex-employees of the Brewery do our bit to retain what is such an important part of our culture?

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Arrange to meet up with friends in your local once a week / fortnight
- Take part in quiz nights, special food nights, entertainment offerings
- "Early Doors" - you can still be home in time to watch your favourite programme
- Take advantage of *Happy Hours* with reduced prices for both food and drinks.

The Mansfield Brew spoke to a number of local (to us) brewers and pub owners to get their histories and ideas.

THE SPIRIT VAULTS, MELBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE

Brothers Simon and Matt Morgan, together with their partners Kayleigh and Amy, continue the family business started by their grandfather, Ron. The family renovated the pub in 2019 changing it from a "wet" pub to now include a microbrewery, restaurant, letting rooms, terrace and two bars. As they were immediately impacted by COVID shutdowns, takeaway pouches of their own brews kept the pub going. Their peak customer times are now lunchtimes and early doors - an increasing trend they see in other establishments.

Changes in demographics have affected cask sales with the younger customers choosing the keg ales. The rise in raw materials has also affected them as breweries and suppliers imposing delivery charges and minimum quantities. They do see a future although rising costs and reduced customer spend will continue to impact them. They both see pubs as addressing issues such as mental health, social inclusion and work isolation.

TOLLGATE BREWERY, CALKE PARK, DERBYSHIRE

Located in Calke Park, Tollgate has just celebrated its 10th Anniversary, we offered a weekend of beer prices from that time - it was a huge success in the Brewery Tap and their three pubs. Jamie (your Mansfield Brewery part editor) comments...

"We've made significant investments in sustainability, including installing 59 solar panels across our courtyard buildings. We also transitioned from a diesel van to two electric vans - timed well, as it turned out. Recently, we secured a long-term lease with our landlords, the National Trust, whose support of our business plan has allowed several projects to move forward into capital expenditure."

"It's been a real advantage that 75% of the beer we brew is sold through our own establishments, giving us greater control and stability. We're a close-knit team, with our core management group having worked together for around ten years now, which brings consistency and shared purpose."

"Our online sales continue to grow steadily, and I like to think I've been doing a great job managing trade sales alongside the day job as Operations Director. We don't rely on traditional advertising; instead, word of mouth has helped that side of the business develop organically over time. Ultimately, our survival comes down to a strong local support for the brand, a passionate team, a focus on keeping things simple, and a constant, careful eye on costs. Let's hope it's enough."

BLUE MONKEY BREWERY, GILTBROOK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Since set-up in 2008, Blue Monkey has won more than 100 national awards. They are located in Giltbrook, Notts (just behind Ikea). They have six Organ Grinder pubs in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire as well as a Tap Room at their brewery.

Ian Wesley, Commercial Director, believes that the greatest risk to pubs nowadays is the supermarket take home trade. The disproportionate burden of minimum wage, National Insurance, Business Rates, VAT and beer duty puts pubs at a serious disadvantage. He considers some of this unevenness is political with both "big" central government and "little" local authorities enforcing restrictions and fears that alcohol consumption may be pushed down the same route as tobacco, with A&E and policing impacts being increasingly highlighted. That said, he states that the Blue Monkey pubs have zero incidences of trouble. He recently attended the Houses of Parliament Beer Regulation Committee where no MPs attended - he and other trade attendees expressed frustration with the overall approach to supporting brewing and pubs.

One often overlooked aspect of the brewing industry was the introduction of the beer relief measures which has seen the nationals reducing the ABV of their flagship beers to reduce the duty payable. It also affects small to mid-size brewers who have to restrict their production to under 500 hectolitres otherwise they incur much higher beer duties. This limits their options to take on more pubs and to increase production to cover ever increasing costs. Blue Monkey have looked longer term and have installed solar panels on the Brewery roofs - over three years payback to reduce their energy costs.

In conclusion a more "holistic" approach to this core Great British industry would be of great benefit to those struggling to keep the brewing and pub trade thriving.

MANSFIELD BREWERY PUB CLOSURES

A DEPRESSING READ...

Compared to the national statistic of a 26% loss, the Mansfield estate has suffered 192 closures out of 500 at the time of the sale - A 38% RATE. As we stated above it is the tenanted pubs that have fared the worst. Managed houses have been less affected while most of the concept pubs have been maintained under new ownership.

Many of these Mansfield Concept pubs (13 out of 33) have been sold/ transferred to the larger UK wide pub operation companies - JD Wetherspoons, Brewhouse & Kitchen, Yates. The ongoing success of these organisations makes for interesting comparisons. Is it the purchasing power that supports low price beer, the good value food offerings, the central locations or the extended opening hours? Or is it a combination of these things?

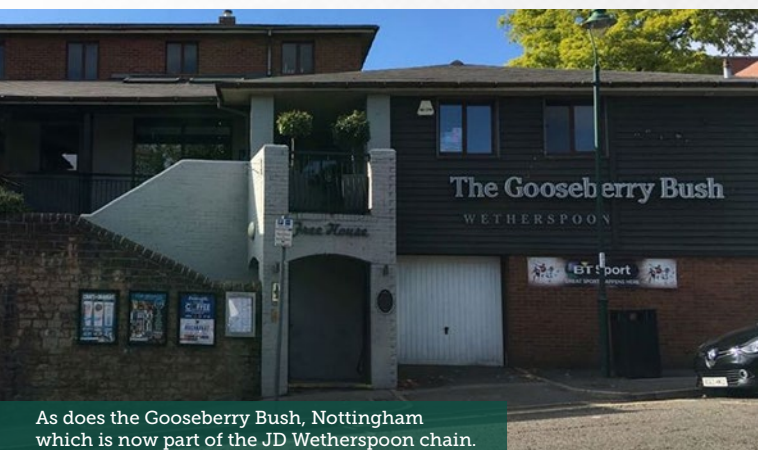
The following list of Tenanted and Managed establishments makes for very sad reading for many of you who will have worked in the pubs, socialised there or seen them as an important part of your community. To somewhat combat this feeling of loss and generate something more upbeat, we would very much like to receive your recollections of time spent in these pubs: *What were the best things about running the pub? What you enjoyed when the pub was open? What you miss most and what impact it has had where you live?* We will publish these recollections in the next edition of the Mansfield Brew. Send your recollections to us at mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com or contact us on 07957 806 454 to talk through your memories.

In order to **SAVE OUR PUBS**, we'd welcome you to share your ideas of how we and society might help with this. Again, send them to us at mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com

A big thank you to Clive Baxter who spent time compiling this list.



The Firebug, Leicester (formerly the Lamplighters under Mansfield Brewery) continues to thrive.



As does the Gooseberry Bush, Nottingham which is now part of the JD Wetherspoon chain.

MANAGED HOUSES

Acorn, Doncaster - closed Feb 2022, now a Co-op
Adam & Eve, Doncaster - permanently closed 2018
Beamhouse, Northampton - became a Subway store, but this closed in 2021
Billing Mill, Northampton - became a Greene King pub, but never reopened after Covid in 2000. Now derelict.
Black Bull, Stanford - closed 2009, became an upholstery shop with B&B upstairs
Bridges, Hull - demolished in 2013, now an Aldi
Brownes bar, Leeds - closed
Brownes bar, Nottingham - closed
Cotes Park Inn, Somercotes - closed 2022, agreed redevelopment for flats and retail
Endyke, Hull - closed 2014, now a Farmfoods store
Friar Tucks, Beverley - became The Victoria, but demolished in 2015 to make way for a care home
Friar Tucks, Calow - still under Marston's but now the White Hart
Frog & Fiddler, Kingsthorpe - since renamed the Old Five Bells but now appears to be permanently closed
Fulwood Inn, Sheffield - still under Marston's, and is now a 4* hotel called the Florentine Hotel
Gardeners Arms, Chesterfield - permanently closed 2013
Gooseberry Bush, Nottingham - now a thriving JD Wetherspoons (pictured)
Irwin Arms, Leeds - demolished in 2022, now a Lidl
Jack & Danny's, Harrogate - permanently closed
Kings Head, Melton Mowbray - closed 2019 or 2019, converted into residential apartments
Lamplighters, Leicester - now trading as a music venue called Firebug (pictured)
Linnets & Lark, Hull - currently closed by Marston's for refurb and now called The Bowery
Macey's, Barnsley - renamed the Heart of Barnsley but closed 2011
Mapplewells, Sutton-in-Ashfield - closed in 2015, developed as a Co-op
Marmaville, Mirfield - closed 2012 and demolished
O'Reillys, Nottingham - no longer trading
Peacock, Market Harborough - closed in 2010, now a Pizza Express
Pen 'n Cob, Huddersfield - no longer trading
Pepi's, Hull - closed in 2003, demolished in 2009 to make way for landscaped waterfront gardens
Pike & Heron, Sheffield - closed 2008
Pump Rooms, Halifax - closed 2014, now demolished
Racehorse, Northampton - closed 2013, then rebranded The Black Prince 2016 as a music venue
Railway, Kirkby-in-Ashfield - demolished in 2007, now an Aldi
Rayners, Hull - now operated by Proper Pubs
Rotunda, Nottingham - now trading as the Roundhouse Bar & Kitchen since 2023 (partnership operated)
Rutland Arms, Newark - now operated by the Phoenix Pub group
Shenanigans, Sheffield - changed hands 2005, closed after Covid, now trading as The Wig & Pen, a cocktail and craft ale bar
Silvester Arms, Hull - now part of the Advocate Group and trading under its original name, the Hull Cheese
Slug & Fiddle, Wakefield - no apparent trading
Slug & Fiddle, Nottingham - no apparent trading
Slug & Fiddle, Sheffield - no apparent trading
Spreadeagle, York - closed in 2022 and converted to a restaurant
Strutts, Derby - reverted back to The Royal Telegraph operated by Marston's
Sun Inn, Chesterfield - now operated by Proper Pubs
The Surrey, Sheffield - renamed the The Graduate in 2003 and now operated by the Stonegate Group
The Wyvern, Leicester - now a small group-owned pub with a Nepalese restaurant operation
Thirsty Man, Mirfield - closed in 2018, then partially demolished to make way for a Capri restaurant
Three Legged Stool, Worksop - refurbished in 2014 and now operated by the Pub People Company
Three Tuns, Hull - trading under new owners (possible Marston's lease?)
Van Dyk Hotel, Clowne - acquired by Wildes Group in 2016; £10m extension to old building created a modern 4* 54-bed hotel
Vin Quatre, Leicester - renamed multiple times since 2003, then finally revamped by Marston's in 2019 and now trading as the Grand Union
Waterfront, Nottingham - closed in 2023 and being redeveloped for co-working space
Westleigh Hotel, Bradford - independent operation as a budget hotel
White Hart, Retford - sold, now operating as a gastro-pub as part of a three pub group. The restaurant operations branded 'Bull & Lobster.'
White Lion, Hull - demolished in 2004 to make way for St Stephens shopping centre development and a new bus station
Wig & Pen, Northampton - still trading under the McManus Pub Co.
Wise Owl, Leeds - closed in 2009 and demolished to make way for a health centre
Xtra, Kettering - became Remi's Bar and Nightclub, but closed since 2018

TENANTED PUBS

Bean, Hull - closed
 Beehive, Beverley - closed in 2005, demolished for housing
 Black Horse, Alford - closed in 2022
 Black Horse, Greetham - closed in 2006. Developed for housing
 Black Prince, Cottingham - closed in 2016 and converted to a shop
 Blacksmiths Arms, Preston - closed in 2015 and now a private residence
 Blackwell Hotel, Blackwell - closed 2010 and demolished in 2012
 Blue Boar, Loughborough - closed and demolished
 Bridge Inn, Chesterfield - closed in 2025 for planned apartment block
 Buckingham Club, Hull - closed in 2002, now a house
 Burton Arms, Lincoln - closed 2015
 Cardinal, Sutton-in-Ashfield - no longer trading
 Cart & Horse, Sutton-in-Ashfield - now trading as a free house, The Scruffy Dog, complete with on-site brewery
 Cavalier Club, Hull - closed 2015
 Charter Arms, Rotherham - closed in 2011, demolished in 2022 to improve Rotherham markets
 Chequers Inn, South Elmsall - closed and converted to offices
 Clarence Hotel, Rotherham - converted into an apartment block
 Coach and Horses, Dunwell - now a Chinese restaurant
 Coiners, Halifax - no trace
 Corner House, York - now a Heron Foods store
 Craven Park, Hull - demolished in 2005
 Crown & Cushion, Derby - converted to a convenience store
 Crown & Woolpack, Sutton-in-Ashfield - closed in 2009
 Crown Hotel, Tibshelf - closed 2022 and bought by Tibshelf Parish Council as a community asset
 Crown Inn, Chesterfield - now a JD Wetherspoon pub called the Spa Lane Vaults
 Crown Inn, North Muskham - closed in 2008
 Crown Inn, Somercotes - now owned by Admiral Inns but currently seeking a new tenant
 Darley Arms, Hull - closed in 2005
 Dart, Hull - closed 2021
 Devonshire Arms, Pentrich - closed and demolished for housing
 Dial Hotel, Mansfield - closed
 Dog & Doublet, Alfreton - now an Indian restaurant 'Delhi Signature'
 Double Top, Mosborough - closed 2019, now offices
 Elephant & Castle, Hull - closed in 2015, now a restaurant/take-away
 Elm Tree Inn, Clay Cross - closed 2011 for housing
 Elm Tree Inn, Staveley - closed 2015
 Engineers Arms, Hull - closed 2014, now a house
 Exchange, Holbeach - closed 2010-11, now a house
 Eyre Arms, Calver - now trading as the Calver Arms
 Florence Nightingale, Leeds - destroyed by a gas explosion in 2008
 Flower Pot, Hull - closed 2017
 Fox & Hounds, North Luffenham - still trading, now called The Fox
 Full Measure, Hull - closed
 Generous Briton, Melton Mowbray - now operated by Proper Pubs
 Goldminers Arms, Newbold - closed 2014
 Great Northern, Shirebrook - closed
 Greyhound, Pinxton - closed 2014
 Ivy, Pudsey - closed 2018
 King Edward, Sheffield - closed 2015
 Ladybrook, Mansfield - now operated by Proper Pubs Co.
 Lamb & Flag, Whaplode - closed 2016, site now has two semis on it
 Leather Bottle, Wellingborough - now operated by Admiral Taverns
 Lion & Lamb, Leeds - demolished in 2006 and replaced by an Aldi
 Live & Let Live, Morton - closed 2009
 Lord Byron, Workop - closed in 2012 and demolished. A Co-op now sits on the site.
 Lord Nelson, Ambergate - closed 2014 for housing
 Lord Nelson, Boston - closed 2015
 Lord Nelson, Morton - closed 2013
 Magpie, Sheffield - closed 2010, now a Costcutter convenience store
 Malin Wine Vaults, Derby - closed 2011 and converted into two shops
 Manor Arms, Elton - closed
 Marlborough Club, Hull - converted to 4 one bed apartments
 Master Brewer, Rotherham - closed 2013, demolished for row of shops
 Mermaid Hotel, Hull - demolished and replaced by houses
 Miners Arms, Chesterfield - closed 2024 and redeveloped for housing
 Miners Arms, Codnor - closed 2014, now housing
 Miners Arms, Pinxton - closed, now a house
 Miners Arms, Sutton-in-Ashfield - closed 2013, reopened 2017 after refurb then closed again 2019
 Nags Head, Burstwick - closed 2009
 Nags Head, Doncaster - closed, now in retail use
 New England, Pleasley - demolished
 New Inn, Alfreton - closed
 New Inn, Ringstead - closed 2013
 New Trent, Crowle - closed 2009
 Northwick Arms, Ketton - closed 2021
 Nottingham Arms, Nottingham - closed and developed for accommodation
 Oddfellows Arms, Beverley - closed 2013, now a house
 Old Blue Bell, Sutton-in-Ashfield - closed 2023, converted into HMO accommodation
 Old Crown, Rothley - closed 2018
 Oval, Sutton-in-Ashfield - demolished in 2009
 Park House Hotel, Chesterfield - closed 2013
 Pavilion Vaults, Scarborough - no trace
 Pavilion, Stapleford - closed 2014
 Peacock, Huthwaite - closed 2014
 Peacock, Oakerthorpe - now trading as Italian restaurant 'Pesto at the Peacock'
 Penguin, Sheffield - closed
 Pheasant Inn, Mansfield - closed 2023
 Pineapple, Leicester - closed 2004
 Poacher, Dewsbury - closed 2022
 Portland Arms, Mansfield - closed 2013
 Queen Hotel, Heckmondwike - now trading as 'Westgate 23'
 Queens Head, Mansfield - closed 2009 and since demolished
 Railway Inn, Ripley - closed 2013
 Railway Inn, Sutton-in-Ashfield - closed 2015
 Ram Inn, Mansfield - closed 2009, replaced by housing
 Ram, Holbeach - closed
 Rampant Horse, Hull - reopened late 2025 under Admiral Taverns ownership
 Red Cow, Donington - closed
 Robin Hood & Little John, Lambley - now trading as 'The Little John'
 Robin Hood, Blackwell - closed 2006
 Robin Hood, Brighouse - closed 2014, demolished 2018
 Robin Hood, Edwinstowe - closed 2023
 Robin Hood, Rainworth - closed 2012, now a Tesco Express
 Rose & Crown, Islip - closed 2022 and now a house
 Rose & Crown, Sleaford - became the Watergate Yard bar restaurant
 Royal Hotel, Eckington - closed 2007
 Royal Mail, Thorngumbald - closed 2016, demolished and now a Co-op
 Royal Oak, Ripley - closed 2005, now demolished for housing
 Rutland Arms, Baslow - closed 2019, now a Co-op
 Sawmill, Newark - closed 2016, now a Co-op
 Spade & Shovel, Eye - closed 2012
 Spinning Wheel Inn, North Wingfield - closed 2013
 Spital Hotel, Chesterfield - closed 2015 and site converted into Co-op
 Station Gates, Spalding - closed 2013
 The Coach House, Wakefield - no trace
 The Fairway, Doncaster - closed 2019 and converted to residential in 2021
 The Falstaff, Lincoln - believed to be Airbnb units now
 The Poacher, Rossington - closed 2024
 The Swallow, Bransholme - renamed The Meadows under Admiral Taverns ownership
 The Welcome Inn, Nottingham - closed
 The Wilton Arms and Bridge Inn, Batley - closed
 Three Bridges, Nottingham - demolished
 Three Lions, Meden Vale - closed 2022
 Travellers Rest, Chesterfield - closed 2017 and since demolished
 Travellers Rest, Clowne - closed 2025
 Travellers Rest, Swinton - closed 2015
 Vernon Arms, Nottingham - closed 2012, now a Sainsbury's Local
 Victoria Hotel, Mansfield - became an Indian restaurant in 2016
 Victory Hotel, Lincoln - closed 2015
 Waggon & Horses, Caythorpe - now an Indian restaurant
 Watermill, Newark - closed 2023, to be converted to flats
 Welland, Spalding - closed before 2009, demolished and now a house
 Wellington Hotel, Chesterfield - closed 2012
 Wellington Inn, Hull - closed 2024
 Wentworth Arms, Penistone - closed 2013
 Westfield Hotel, Mansfield - closed 2014, converted to offices
 Wheatsheaf Inn, Chesterfield - closed 2017 and demolished. Co-op built on the site
 Wheatsheaf, Leeds - closed 2008
 White Hart Mount, Tibshelf - now an Indian restaurant 'Mount Gurkha Village'
 White Hart, Huthwaite - closed 2010
 White Lion, Blidworth - closed 2013, now residential
 White Lion, South Normanton - closed and demolished in 2014, now a Heron Foods outlet
 White Swan, Deighton - closed in 2024-25, application to convert to a house
 White Swan, Mansfield Woodhouse - closed 2011
 White Swan, Newark - closed 2023
 White Swan, Nottingham - closed 2009
 White Swan, Worksop - closed 2017

WAS IT ME?



A TONGUE IN CHEEK REVIEW BY **RICHARD LEWIS** ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE COMPANIES IN WHICH HE PLIED A TRADE...

Richard in the brewery yard at Littleworth, 1982

I left university in 1968, having established that I was not suited to a career in Botany, even with a posh piece of parchment saying I was a graduate. My determination was to find a career that would exploit my non-academic strengths; at the time I defined those as “*Managing things and people*”. This led me to Rank Hovis McDougall, a group operating largely in the food sector, employing 70,000 in the UK and today it no longer exists.

I joined as a Commercial Management trainee and opted to join the marketing team. After about four years I was entrusted with the marketing of one of its oldest brands, Paxo stuffing. My fascination with stuffing was not long lived and the booze trade beckoned. I was successful in landing a marketing role at Bulmers, best known for its ciders. John Hings appointed me on a Saturday morning in autumn 1973. Whilst waiting for my interview, I was astonished to meet up with an old school mate in reception, who went in before me for his grilling. He didn't get the job, but I did.

Working at Bulmers was real fun. The charismatic chairman was Peter Prior who created a positive and growth-orientated work environment. Grow we certainly did, with one of my more notable achievements being the brand management of the flagship product, Strongbow. John Hings left to advance his career with Mansfield Brewery and after a decent period, asked me to join him. I should mention now that Bulmers no longer exists in the form it was back in the day, so the more observant of you may have already identified a pattern here.

RHM no longer exists because it was broken up with some bits finishing up in Premier Foods, others in Quorn and so on. Bulmers no longer exists because it overstretched itself with ill-advised, over-ambitious investment in overseas markets, ran out of cash and was in effect rescued by acquisition by the brewing giant, Scottish & Newcastle. S&N was itself acquired by an even bigger brewing giant, Heineken, a short while later. A great shame for the Bulmers family

who had maintained 52% ownership before all these shenanigans. Any road up, my role at Mansfield as Group Marketing Director.

Amongst other things I was a prime mover in the re-launch of Marksman lager, the Ronald Reagan advertising campaign and the architect of the infamous Passport Promotion. This started off as a low-key initiative to introduce customers to other Mansfield pubs but it very quickly went somewhat out of control. I can say, without a word of a lie, that the few months the promotion ran were the worst of my life.

Thinking about it now, and the endless sleepless nights I endured, still gives me the shivers. Somehow, I survived and spent my last years with Mansfield at Mandora Soft Drinks, responsible for Radial Business. I can confidently say that it will not have passed you by that Mansfield Brewery also no longer exists.

My next job was Marketing Director at the dry-cleaning chain, Sketchley. We had 300-odd shops, mainly in the Midlands and South. I would like to say that I had learnt some significant lessons from my experience with the Passport Promotion - if only...

Previous marketing at Sketchley had leant towards relatively low-key product by product sales promotion, but not Lewis here. The deal the promotions company came up with was a “Free weekend's accommodation at a hotel, as long as you ate at the hotel” deal. The promotion was launched and went off like a Saturn rocket on steroids.

The business volume it generated literally brought the shops to a standstill. The Sketchley operations team had never seen anything like it and they were overwhelmed. I was both a hero and villain at the same time. I was expected to pull a similar rabbit out of the hat the next year and when I was unable to do that, the CEO politely suggested I should find alternative employment.



As Managing Director of Granby Marketing receiving Investors in People accreditation from Tom Farmer, founder of Kwik Fit.

A few years later, Sketchley got itself into a right pickle. In my time it had been trading profitably at 10% before tax. However, it suffered terribly when shop rentals increased by about twentyfold, rendering the whole operation spectacularly unprofitable. Similarly, it was broken up into little bits which were farmed off in different directions. Another sad demise.

My next job was Managing Director of a privately-owned publishing company, Newhall Publications. It published a magazine named *Candis*, sold and distributed door-to-door, which is why you may never have heard of it. Nowadays *Candis* is still in operation, with a workforce about a fifth of what it was, and thanks to technology, presented entirely via the miracle that is *the internet*. Phew, here's one business that survived the test of time.

I was with Newhall a relatively short time before I was lured away to run a promotional fulfilment company, Granby Marketing Services, a subsidiary of the largest advertising company in the world at the time, Omnicom. Their overwhelmingly most significant client was Kellogg's, for whom we fulfilled their on-pack promotional coupons, sending out millions of Dinky toys or similar rewards. This was the best job I ever had and we were successful in trebling the profits over five years. For me it came to an end when I was informed that Granby was to be combined with another Omnicom company and in this structure, I would be reporting to someone I regarded as a clown.

I was given the option to either continue as Managing Director or take a compensation package and go. I went. These days Granby is no more - some of the low-tech bits were sold off and the remainder was incorporated into Counter Products Marketing, an in-store merchandising part of Omnicom.

When I was "liberated" from Granby, I had some money in the bank and tried to find a company where I could perform a "BIMBO"



As business consultant working with Chief Executive of William Santos, the manufacturer of Uncle Joe's Mint Balls.



With advertising director Mike Williams at a TV advert shoot for Strongbow. Richard is the one wearing of the props used in the filming, a pastiche featuring Marlene Dietrich.

(*Brought In Management Buy Out*) but that was unsuccessful. So I took a senior role in a data handling company, Acxiom, another American outfit that, surprisingly, survives to this day.

After that I found a job as Managing Director of Handling Solutions, also operating in promotional handling and part of the Park Hamper Group. I was hired by Peter Johnson, the majority shareholder, founder and Group Chief Executive. Within a couple of months, Peter decided to step back from day-to-day duties and appoint a new Group CEO. I didn't like the new person and they didn't like me so that all ended in tears pretty quickly. Surprise, surprise - Handling Solutions doesn't exist anymore. In fact, the Park organisation no longer fills Christmas hampers and it has transmogrified into a financial services operation. By this time I was somewhat disenchanted with office politics and decided to go self-employed, offering myself as a marketing expert, strategy planning specialist and interim Chief Executive. This was good fun, although not as rewarding as being a proper chief.

**Looking back, I ask myself "was it all worth it?".
The answer is a resounding "Yes".**

There are some outstanding achievements in my career, of which I am justly proud, but plenty of things that didn't work out, for a variety of reasons. There is a saying "*You can't make omelettes without breaking eggs*" and I reckon I broke a few eggs along the way. The thing about marketing jobs is that you are hired as an agent of change, with markets in a perpetual state of change and therefore it is your role to respond to or even anticipate that state of affairs. Marketing is also a highly exposed role, pretty much everything you bring about is highly visible so everyone can see your successes and failures. If that is not the case, then you are not being very effective. It's a great role if you genuinely want to make an impact in business. I can thoroughly recommend it.

LIFE BEHIND THE BAR

GEOFF & MARIE DOVE

AS RELATED BY GEOFF...

I guess it started about 1983. I worked down the mines for 20 years and Marie worked in the factory. We visited the Forest Tavern in Skegby at weekends. Rex and Phill Johnson were the landlord and landlady then. Rex often asked Marie to work behind the bar when it was busy and he needed help - and she did.



Rex and Phill left the Forest Tavern, moving to the New England pub on Chesterfield Road North. We visited them there often and helped when needed. To cut a long story short - we both worked five nights a week straight from our "day" jobs - and all free gratis.

When Rex and Phill went on holiday they asked us to look after the New England. Austin O'Donoghue, their area manager, then asked us to look at the Carr Vale Hotel in Bolsover. We went along with my cousin - there was an artist on stage with about six customers in the big lounge. The artist said that he wished he had not been there! We thought it over and decided to take it on in 1984, at the height of the miners' strike. For two years we worked seven days a week with no days off.

Paul, a young organist, who had worked at the Carr Vale before, asked if he could play and anyone who could sing could get up and have a go - early Karaoke! After a while he asked if I could sing - having never done so before, I had a go and, with practising in the back room, it went well. The pub started to get packed at weekends and the organ and singing became a regular feature.

Mansfield Brewery organised a *Fun Week* - we put on a show every night and came 3rd out of all the pubs involved. Derek Mapp, Director of Mansfield Inns, presented us with a crystal biscuit barrel.

We then decided to have a yearly Sports Day Run which regulars entered, plus ladies pool, darts and dominoes teams - men's team as well. We also started to offer food in the afternoons as well as catering for functions such as weddings and parties.

After four years, Mansfield Inns sold the Carr Vale to Burtonwood Brewery and we were offered the Three Lions

in Meden Vale in 1988. We took it on reluctantly - John Hubbard, our area manager, who became a friend and mentor, told us it was not meeting its budget target. But from our great training with Rex Johnson, we started matching then beating the budget. When we started there we noticed that no one went into the Best side so we started to do food which then brought it back to life.

I started singing again with Paul on the organ and we did

"Open the Box", with nine envelopes, eight of which held £5 and one with £25 on Wednesday, £50 on Sunday then the following week it was £75 on Wednesday and £100 on Sunday. If the main prizes were not won, the money went into a pot which we used to rent a mini bus for the pub at Easter and also buy £500 worth of Easter Eggs to give away to the customers and their families. We started the Darts & Dominoes Volari league. The football team won the Junior Cup - all the pubs at that time had football teams.

After another two years, in 1990 Mansfield Brewery asked us to take on The Robin Hood in Edwinstowe. This was a different kind of pub, mainly passing trade. The previous two pubs had been community pubs and we took staff from the Three Lions to help us start this new project. We continued with the football teams and I became Chairman of the league.

The Brewery management wanted to standardise all the food menus which didn't sit well with us. Where is the individuality when you can go into any pub and it's the same menu? We stuck to our guns and Ian Tomlinson, another area manager friend, let us stay as we were. It was unbelievable how busy it got - full all the time. The Brewery had an extension built and we started doing a carvery - the first in the area at that time. Customers were queuing up at the doors every afternoon and evening. We were then asked to run the Rose Cottage as well as the Robin Hood for three to four months while they searched for a manager to take it on.

After 20 years in the trade, in 2004 we decided to retire to enjoy time with our grandchildren. We were successful in all three pubs, all of which, unfortunately, have now closed. Thank to Rex, a great business man, John Hubbard, Ian Tomlinson and all the areas managers who let us have our own way.



Derek Mapp, Director of Mansfield Inns, presenting Geoff & Marie with a crystal biscuit barrel (which they still own) for their outstanding efforts during the Brewery's Fun Week.

When meeting with Geoff and Marie at their home recently, they provided The Mansfield Brew with other snippets of their time in the three pubs:

- While at the Robin Hood, Bill McCosh, then Managing Director of Mansfield Brewery, wanted Geoff to come onto the committee for "Serving Quality". This initiative wanted to take the positive points from successful pubs and implement them across the estate. The key points included: appearance (*Geoff always wore a shirt and tie*); welcoming entrance; greeting customers (*by name for regulars*); experience during the visit; leaving (*goodbye and see you soon*). Bill invited all the Robin Hood staff to a weekend in Blackpool to show his appreciation of their efforts on "Serving Quality"
- Geoff and Marie hosted "Miss Mansfield Inns" competitions
- Geoff concentrated on front of house and doing his "turns"; Marie did all the cooking
- **Fundraising** - they raised thousands of pounds for charity including walking 82 miles to Skegness in two days
- **Target busting** - The Robin Hood had a £400 target when they started and they achieved £6,000 when they left
- Importantly Mansfield Inns recognised successful managers such as Geoff and Marie and let them do what they wanted - menus, food suppliers etc
- After retirement from the pub business, Marie spent seven years providing doggy day care and Geoff worked in property maintenance.

Brewery continue to invest in local community

Mansfield Brewery has enhanced facilities at the popular Robin Hood pub at Edwinstowe to cater for an even wider market including families. A £150,000 total refurbishment has also added a stylish dining room to cater for all tastes and pockets.

Although the pub attracts a wide range of local customers, it is equally popular with visitors to the area. The aptly named Robin Hood dominates the crossroads between Edwinstowe village and the main road. The pub has a wide range of meals, sandwiches and snacks, all at very reasonable prices. Meals are served Monday to Saturday between 12.00 and 3.00pm and in the evenings from 6.00pm to 10.00pm. Sunday features a traditional lunch and a can choose from the menu in the evening bar.

There is a comprehensive wine list and, being a Mansfield pub, The Robin Hood has a full range of Beers, including the award-winning Riding Troughman Lager. Managers Geoff and Marie Dove have been at the Edwinstowe pub almost two years, but have worked in the local trade since 1984. They have guided

throughout a trying period. Now, with all the refurbishment complete, everyone agrees that the pub has taken on a new lease of life and is well geared to serve its regular customers, as well as attract the scores of visitors to the locality each year. Situated midway between the tourist village of Edwinstowe and the extremely busy Center Plains Industrial Estate, the pub is a well thought out play area, which includes many exciting features designed to attract and cater for families with younger children.

Advertising Feature
Mansfield Brewery has continued its investment in outside play areas. The Robin Hood also has a popular summer bar available for private functions and regular customers from around the area. Other popular entertainment at The Robin Hood includes their regular Wednesday Quiz, Trivia Quizzes every Sunday

local customers from around the area. Other popular entertainment at The Robin Hood includes their regular Wednesday Quiz, Trivia Quizzes every Sunday

Village rallies round brave Neil

HEART-WARMING effort to help a computer stricken with a grave illness has been launched by members of a tiny North Derbyshire

to everyone's aid. Neil doesn't know this yet but the fund is also to help him somehow. The fund will help with his "effectiveness" and help him to live.

Because computer donors could not be found, Neil was the first patient to be treated with a new type of machine. In the past, Neil had been in hospital for his illness, which was a "computer" and he was "effectively" dead.

Afterwards, it was found that Neil was not only alive but also healthy and he was able to return to his home in London for treatment.

IT'S CHARITY WEEK at the CARR VALE HOTEL

Main Street, Carr Vale, Bolsover. Tel: 823222

Sun 26th July	It's a Knockout Disco & Rock 'n' Roll demo	10.00
Mon 27th July	Neilson Brothers Barbecue & Barn Dance (weather permitting)	8.00
Tues 28th July	Trivia Quiz and Take Your Pick	8.00
Wed 29th July	Children's Knockout Flying Pitprops and Brian the singing miner	8.00
Thurs 30th July	Dr. Rhythm Darts & Dominoes v Village Inn Poolsbrook Plus a Pool Knockout	8.00
Fri 31st July	Party Night with the new "Nicky Thinks It's Tuesday"	8.00
Sat 1st Aug	Car Boot Sale Sponsored Pigeon Race Forces Night Out and Cabaret	8.00
Sunday, Tuesday, Friday - 7-8	Happy Every afternoon Dominoes and Pool Knockout WIN FREE BEER	

Brownies back pub facelift



Edwinstowe Brownies help licensee Geoff Dove try out new play equipment at the village's Robin Hood pub which has re-opened after a £150,000

A new family dining extension has been built, new disabled toilets installed and

Mansfield winners
Yesterday week's

THE MANSFIELD BREWERY WALKING GROUP



SUNDAY, 8 MARCH THE GROUP'S FIRST WALK OF 2026. ORGANISED BY SUE & JEFF WALTERS.

The route of 5.5 miles around Shirebrook Wood and Pleasley Park was originally decided upon in December but due to the constant wet weather during January & February, several diversions and alterations had to be made as the route would have been impossible without wellies! Fortunately, on the day, the weather stayed fine and although there were some muddy areas, we had a good walk.

Early signs of spring were evident - plenty of bird song, buds opening on trees and bushes and wild garlic just poking above the soil. It certainly lifted our spirits.

There were 19 walkers and two well behaved dogs and it was lovely to welcome back Chris & Malc Norman as well as a new walker, Richard Newton, a friend of one of our regular walkers. After the walk, 16 walkers/former walkers enjoyed a very nice lunch at the Serenity restaurant in Mansfield.

Our next two walks will be held on **Sunday 12 April & Sunday 10 May at 10.30am**. If you would like to join us or are interested in more information please contact on the details below.



The Group has always welcomed non-Brewery members as well as ex-employees. Well behaved dogs are also welcome. Currently walks take place for nine months of the year - March to November. Always on the 2nd Sunday of the month. If anyone wishes to join the group or requires further information your new contact is:
Sue & Jeff Walters 07803 697 183 or email: **susanwalters56sw@gmail.com**

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

THE MBMA ORGANISED A FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THEIR DECEMBER MEETING.

80 members attended and were rewarded with a superb Christmas buffet. Many thanks to Rita and Angie for their hard work in providing this buffet. Also many thanks to the MBMA Committee for organising this lovely get together. Thanks also to Trudie Boddice and Sue Walters for arranging a raffle with festive prizes. These pictures show what a great time was had by all.



THE MANSFIELD BREWERY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

If you wish to join the MBMA please contact **Jenny Hall** on **07746 103 916**.

ACTING CHAIRMAN/TREASURER Val Moss . 07800 651 901 & vfmoss@aol.com
SECRETARY Sharon England . 07944 337 057
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Jenny Hall . 07746 103 916 & 01623 557 074
COMMITTEE Eileen Spencer . 07815 446 526



GOOD NEWS STORIES...

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER.....

Those of you who attended the last Baily Thomas Provident Fund (BTPF) open meeting at Mansfield Town Football Club will have had the opportunity to view many items of memorabilia provided by and put on display by Sue Walters and members of the Baily Thomas Liaison Group (BLG). Obtaining and preparing all of the items on display took a great deal of effort, as did transporting and setting them up on the day of the meeting.

It was well worth the effort based on the amount of positive feedback that was generated by everyone there.

However, at the end of the day everything on display had to be dismantled, packed away and taken out of the meeting room and into the cars for transportation and back into storage.

As we went backwards and forwards, one of the catering staff who had been working at the event and finished his work, offered to assist and pitched in loading trolleys with boxes etc and helped with many trips to and from the car park. His assistance was gratefully received.

During our many trips in and out of the building I chatted with him to find out a bit about himself. He was working

for the catering company as he had no success getting employment in his chosen career - he had a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

This pricked my interest as I had recently retired from a very successful company in Mansfield that designed and manufactured parts for aerospace and defence industries, and were always on the lookout for good people.

So I gave him my contact number and the names of contacts within the organisation and encouraged him to make himself known to them.

I also made some phone calls to the right people and encouraged them to consider him for employment. As a result of him making the right impression during several interviews, he was offered a position in the company's design department.

So what turned out to be a good deed led to a valuable career opportunity. Sometimes in life you have to make yourself a little bit of luck and take advantage of it when it comes your way!

Clive Baxter

DIAMOND WEDDING

Huge congratulations to Geoff and Val Moss on their Diamond wedding anniversary on 19th March. Val is Chairman of the MBMA and has been instrumental in ensuring this regular meeting continues to take place. We also send Val all best wishes during her recent health issues.

A NEW GREAT GRANDCHILD...

Mavis Leverton has been blessed with a second great grandchild - Cassian Ari Mahendran, on 28th Jan born to Sabrina, Mavis's granddaughter and her husband Arvind. Cassian is brother to Ezra Leo, now four.

... AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Mavis's granddaughter Emilie Vassaux has been awarded a BSc in International Business Administration from the Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management.

Emilie says "I had the opportunity to explore a broad range of topics such as finance, marketing, and business law, some of which interested me more than others! In my final year, I went on a six month exchange in Singapore. I had the pleasure of meeting people from all over the world and travelling to countries I had only ever dreamed of visiting. Over these three years, I met many incredible people, developed new skills, and I am now very excited to continue my journey and see what the next chapter of my life holds!"

She is now taking a Masters Degree in International Management in Rotterdam, with six months based in Barcelona.



Geoff & Val on their wedding day



Mavis and Cassian



Mavis's granddaughter Emilie Vassaux in Rotterdam

THE HULL CHEESE PARAGON STREET, HULL

The Hull Cheese is a large stately pub on Paragon Street, not far from Hull Railway Station.

In fact, the former Hull Brewery Company pub was originally called the Paragon. Its current name apparently refers to a strong thick local brew which was nicknamed Hull Cheese. This in turn resulted in a local term for being inebriated...

"It looks like he's been eating the Hull Cheese"



THE KING WILLIAM (KINGS) MARKET PLACE, HULL

Now called 'Kings' and a music venue, the building has not always been a pub.

Before the mid-19th century, it was a shop, and then it became a coffee house, owned by a John Hellier who obtained an alcohol licence in 1840. But in 1860, the building became The King William, named after the 1734 gilded equestrian statue of King William III which stands opposite it. In 1887 the pub was acquired by Gleadow, Dibb & Co. which later became the Hull Brewery Company Ltd, and that is how it ultimately joined the Mansfield Brewery estate.

Legend has it, that when the neighbouring Holly Trinity Church clock strikes midnight, 'King Billy' dismounts from his horse and strolls across to the pub for a drink. I wonder if he was partial to a pint of Old Bailey.

More recently, the King William was identified with a local, Peter "Flash" Flanagan (1941 - 2007) who became landlord in 1982. Flash was a rugby player for both Hull KR and Hull and he also represented Great Britain 14 times. He brought "character" to the pub, famously installing a gym and boxing ring in the front upstairs room.



THE OLD EIGHT BELLS CHURCH STREET, MANSFIELD

The Eight Bells was latterly a night club called Urban Cherry which closed in 2018, with the building subsequently converted into supported living flats and activity/community space, but it was of course, once a Mansfield Brewery pub.

The closure of Urban Cherry ended at least 250 years of ale drinking on the site. Mansfield Brewery acquired The Old Eight Bells in 1895 and decided to rebuild it in 1925, as the dates above the main entrance and the rain-hoppers record.

Prior to the rebuild, the pub was a three-storey building, built of roughly worked stone (*pictured below*). A cart entrance, seen on the left of the photograph from 1900 led to a narrow courtyard where several other businesses were located. These including a dentist, an architect, and an ironmonger.

How old the original pub was is not known, although it is believed that it was once the home of Samuel Brunts, the benefactor who gave a bequest to the school, founded in Toothill Lane, that bore his name. Brunts

was born in the 1657 which suggests that the building was probably in existence in the 1690s but may have been much older. The building was certainly a pub in 1764, when it was called the Ring of Bells, but by 1808 it was known as The Eight Bells.

The peal of Mansfield Parish Church was originally six, but it received two extra bells which are dated 1762. This thus increased its peal to eight, so the modification of the name probably occurred shortly after 1764.

Whatever the true age of the building, it was certainly venerably old by the time it was demolished.

