

# THE MANSFIELD BREW

WINTER 2024 ISSUE 5 .....

## A TALE OF TWO FOSTERS

Dennis Foster and his showbiz son Toby

## GEOFF TEE

A life under the bonnet in Hull

...AND  
MUCH  
MORE

.....



Produced by  
**THE BENEFICIARY LIAISON GROUP**  
Funded by  
**THE BAILY THOMAS PROVIDENT FUND**



# WELCOME TO OUR WINTER 2024 EDITION OF **THE MANSFIELD BREW**

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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 The Mansfield Brewery past and present we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at [mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com](mailto:mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com).

### 01 **WINTER 2024 ISSUE 5**

# TRUSTEE UPDATE

## AN INTRODUCTION

Shelley Rowley is a consultant who has been working with us over recent months, helping us to identify new benefits, leading on negotiations with providers and then helping us to implement and roll out arrangements – so we thought we should give her a bit more of an introduction, given she has been working so hard for all of us.

Shelley is an experienced senior executive, with many years' experience working within the health and wellbeing sector.



Shelley is passionate about positively impacting the lives of others through providing health and wellbeing solutions that work.

Her experience spans health insurance, private medical provision, mental and physical health support and much more. Throughout her career she has developed, sourced and taken to market innovative products that enhance the lives of individuals and their families.

I am sure you can all see the positive impact she is having in helping us to expand the impact and benefits of the fund.

## BENEFITS

We hope by now you are all well aware of the new benefits:

- 1) Health Cash Plan provided by Medicash
- 2) Financial coaching by Maji
- 3) Mental Health Counselling and therapy by Mynurva.

In addition to this we confirmed we were providing an energy grant again this year (and increasing the amount to £300) and confirmed Circle Health as the new provider of health assessments.

It is fair to say the office had been competing with the North Pole for volumes of mail in recent weeks! We have had over 600 applications for the energy grant, over 300 for the health assessments and over 700 for the Health Cash Plan, almost 250 for the financial coaching and nearly 300 for the counselling. Huge thanks to Steph and Pam for their hard work, at the same time as dealing with the regular grant applications.

We were delighted that last year we awarded grants at a record recent levels – well with four months still to go, we have already surpassed the sums awarded last year. Finally we are delighted to see an increasing number of beneficiaries applying for grants for the first time.

## BENEFITS MORNING

With so much information to take on board, we have arranged an Open Morning at Mansfield Civic Centre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am for anyone who does want to learn more about the new benefits. Medicash will join us to present about the Health Cash Plan and Shelley will also be on hand to cover the Financial Coaching and Mental Health Counselling.

We will issue a formal invitation soon, but if you would like to come along, please add it to your diary.

## OPEN MEETING

We are also able to confirm that the next Beneficiary Open Meeting will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11am at Mansfield Civic Centre. Once again, we will issue a formal invitation in the New Year, but in the meantime please do keep the time free – it would be good to have as many beneficiaries there as possible. There will be a display of archival material by the BLG to commemorate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Mansfield Brewery. A buffet will be served from 1pm.

## THANK YOU'S

Finally, we are always delighted to see how the Fund helps people, so here are a few more recent notes received, showing the breadth of the help and support we can provide.

*“Good morning, I just wanted to email you to say a big thank you for the letter I received yesterday regarding the Energy Grant. Now I won't be receiving the Government Winter Fuel payment I had been so worried for the upcoming winter months. Receiving your letter and grant form actually brought a warm smile to my face and has relieved some pressure for the costs. So a very big thank you to you all and the Trustees from a very grateful ex employee of Mansfield Brewery.”*

*“I would like to thank you for enabling me to attend the Summer Academy at Leeds Conservatoire – I had a brilliant time making new friends and learning about the University. During the week there were course talks, playing in ensembles, going in the recording studios with top producers to record two original songs and playing at the showcase at the end of the week to many family and friends. The week really helped me make up my mind about going to University, I definitely hope to be going there next year.”*

*“We cannot thank you enough for this it's going to make such a difference. Please can you pass on my thanks to the Trustees for their generous grant.”*

*Jain Blatherwick*

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<sup>nd</sup> October 2050 at which time all remaining funds will be passed to trustees of The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund.

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:

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

TEL 01623 473 290 | EMAIL [enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bailythomasprovidentfund.org.uk)

The opening days/times of the BTPF office are: **MONDAY to THURSDAY 0900 - 1630 & FRIDAY 0900 - 1230**



# JOHN HINGS

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

### SPORT IS KING

What is it about SPORT that it has that unifying affect?

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By the time you read this it will be nearly Christmas and the summer of sport... the Euros, the Olympics, Para Olympics, the cricket and other events will be distant memories.

Don't you wish you could bottle the unity, the feeling of well-being, the excitement and enthusiasm that it generates and spread its contents of goodness on those communities and families that are in such need of those feelings.

It's not just those who observe and support these sporting activities but for those who participate, the feelings of belonging, hard work and achievement can be massive. And for those who contribute towards the training, motivation, share the satisfaction, the feelings can be overwhelming. This is the effect of TEAMWORK. And this transcends into sports and social clubs, the work place and the pub. Indeed sport is the most talked about topic of conversation in pubs up and down the country.

Whether you're a spectator, supporter or participant of sport or a member of a choir, orchestra, art, book or sewing club or a walking group as many of you are, you will all identify with the cohesive feeling and rewarding joy that's experienced.

Mansfield's pubs, similar to many pubs there are today, have their darts and pools teams and support their local football and cricket and bowls clubs. Many organise quiz nights where the degree of competitiveness can be fierce. This social intercourse is precious. Indeed it's what the pub is all about.

We all like to win or associate ourselves with winners but surely it's the taking part that's just as important. That's my view anyway and we had members of the Brewery and Mandora that were players in the same TEAM trying to win in their respective ways and succeeding much of the time. We can bottle that and treasure it. Others had it too and have it today. For those who do, they will have similar feelings to those we had. If only it could be more widespread, there would be more happiness to be shared.

When we look at or hear the news, we observe widespread dissatisfaction in the form of riots and disharmony. The divisiveness caused by Brexit continues to be with us but strangely the COVID pandemic brought people together as we all shared the difficulties that came with it. People were nicer to each other during the period and somehow there was a sense of national pride in having come through it despite the sadness it created for many.

It's this national pride that SPORT generates and it is that, together with the prospect of hope for things to get better, that we all yearn for. Let's hope those in charge capture its elusive ingredients and apply it to improve people's lives, particularly the young.

*John Hings*

Managing Director, 1979 - 1988

# A SERIES OF MANSFIELD PUBS REVISITED

## THE RAILWAY INN MANSFIELD

The Railway Inn is a Grade II listed pub situated on what is now Station Street in the middle of Mansfield, but what makes it even more important is that it was the very first public house acquired by Mansfield Brewery in 1867 for £800.

The Grade II listing suggests that the building was built sometime in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, but whether it was always a pub is not known. It was certainly a pub in 1841 when Jesse Herrett was the landlord, and Jesse was still the proprietor in 1847, when the inquest into the tragic death of a child who had drowned was held there. In 1861 the landlord was a John Woodward, a 60-year-old widower, but by 1866 the pub was being run by 40-year-old William Fielding and his wife Mary Ann (or Maria).

William is described as a *'victualler and farmer'*, and he was at the helm when Mansfield acquired the pub, which he ran for 39 years, up until 1903. During William Fielding's tenancy the pub was frequented by an infamous local named Isaac Armstrong, who was apparently constantly in trouble with the police. In 1876 he was convicted of an unprovoked violent attack on a railway navy called Charles Dobbs which took place in the Railway.



By 1939, the landlord was William Johnson, a WWI veteran who had served in the Royal Army Medical Corp.

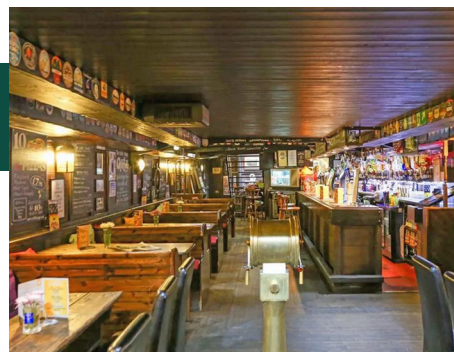
The area where the pub stands was previously known as Railway Side there having been a railway station in the town since 1849, and before that, a horse-drawn tramway established in 1819. However, the current station was not built until 1872, thus, the pub and its name, predates it by many years.

When Mansfield Brewery closed in 2000, it became a Bateman's outlet, rare in the Mansfield area as is stated in the 2002 CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

## THE CASTLE BARGE NEWARK-ON-TRENT



The Ril Elsie is a barge, more correctly a lighter, built in 1923 by Henry Scarr Ltd of Hessele on the River Humber, for Rishworth, Ingleby & Lofthouse, the owners of Spillers, millers, grain merchants, and of course manufacturers of Winalot dog biscuits.



What connection does that have to Mansfield Brewery? Well, in 1979 she was retired from her work carrying grain on the River Humber and sold to The Hull Brewery Company who repurposed it as a pub. In 1985, she became the only floating member of the Mansfield pub estate. Frank & Muriel Dyson have run the *'pub'* since it began trading, which means they have worked for three breweries. Hull, Mansfield, and now Marstons.

**THE GROUSE & CLARET**, Rowsley (cover image) will feature in a future issue of The Mansfield Brew.

# A TALE OF TWO FOSTERS

**Dennis Foster hailed from South Yorkshire, the son of a miner. He joined Mansfield Brewery in May 1980 as Free Trade Sales Manager after seven years with John Smith's in Tadcaster.**

In June 1981 he was promoted to Free Trade Divisional Director, quickly taking on additional responsibilities for wines, spirits, factored beers and soft drinks. He was appointed commercial director of Mansfield Brewery Trading Ltd and director of Mansfield Inns in October 1983.

He was an inspiration to all of his team and as the free trade side of the business expanded, he refused to take credit saying that he only developed the collective will and potential that was there when he arrived.

Dennis loved working for Mansfield Brewery and saw it as a family. He was happily settled with his own family in Rotherham – wife Carol and sons, Toby and Matt. Carol was a teacher at Dearnside School and on top of this full time job accompanied Dennis every Saturday on his visits to the free trade pubs and clubs. Salesmen's wives became a great part of their husbands' job going out on the pub and club visits, sometimes every night. It was the only way they got to spend with each other.

Free Trade was “a work hard play hard” career. There is a tale of a salesman who worked his socks off in the Skegness area and when it was the Mansfield Fortnight there, he would never “be available”.

Dennis and Carol had an interest in theatre and Toby obviously inherited this interest from them as he set his heart on an acting career, heading off to the Oxford School of Drama. After a number of “wrong turnings” he joined Mansfield Brewery as a Free Trade National Salesman in the late 1980s. Keeping it in the Mansfield family.

*“Pubs were thriving then, so I travelled the country flogging beer to all these big posh pubs in the likes of Brighton and*



Dennis Foster...



... and son, Toby

*Sussex. Because you lived out of hotels, you needed somewhere to go on your own at night without looking like a weirdo. It was either live music venues or comedy clubs, and music was a no-go for me as the noise didn't sit well with my brain”.*

It was while at these comedy clubs in the mid-90s that Toby was inspired to start writing his own material. He saw a comedian who told the audience how much he was making for the set - “That was more than I made at the brewery for a day's work! So I started writing. I was 27 then”.

Dennis Foster died in 1996 at the tragically young age of 52. His funeral was incredible with many of his ex-colleagues present and all of the salesmen particularly hard hit by his unexpected death.

Toby reflected that his dad had been a sales manager all his life, always on the road and he realised he was following the same path as him. In one of those breakthrough moments he thought, “What's the point?” So in 1997 after ten years with

Mansfield, he left – to do stand-up. But no comedian goes straight to Live at the Apollo. He needed to fund his comedy career so, together with his younger brother Matt and a friend, Toby bought the Courthouse pub in Barnsley, where they ran a weekly comedy night every Saturday, the first in Barnsley.

It was also where he met his wife, Nikki. She was walking past the pub and recognised Toby from school. Five months later they were engaged. They celebrate their silver wedding next year.

Around the same time, Toby bumped into someone else who would have a lasting impact on his life: Peter Kay. They were both on the Manchester comedy circuit and Toby became acquainted with Peter. They put on a gig in Barnsley and Peter asked Toby to be in a TV show he was doing. That TV show turned out to be That Peter Kay Thing, a six-part mockumentary that aired on Channel Four in 2000. The first episode was called *In The Club*, set in the Neptune working men's club. It introduced the world to Brian Potter,



Jerry St Clair, Max and Paddy, and Toby's character Les, a drummer in the house band. Channel Four wanted to do a spin-off series about the club and Phoenix Nights was born.

Everybody's got their favourite Phoenix Nights moment. Sammy the snake bouncy castle, Young Kenny's tiger face paint, Clinton Baptiste's psychic night. Even twenty years on, that wry portrayal of a northern working men's club remains an iconic part of British television history.

After Phoenix Nights, Toby's stand-up career took off. He was booking huge gigs across the world in places like China and Dubai and spent years doing audience warm up gigs for TV shows like the National Lottery and Question of Sport.

More TV work came in the form of Extras Christmas special in 2007, playing a Northern comic in the Big Brother house with Ricky Gervais' character, Andy Millman. He worked with Gervais again for the Derek Christmas 2014 special, and then in series two of After Life.

Most of his work comes from the connections he's made from years on the comedy circuit. He'd turned down a big agent in London for fear of it affecting his family life. With two young daughters, Maisie and Annabel, he didn't want to be away from home five nights a week.

So he stayed up north, living in Harley village for the last twenty years and running his Last Laugh comedy clubs around South Yorkshire.

And alongside this acting and comedy career, Toby also has another string to his bow. For the last 22 years, he's been entertaining audiences as a presenter on BBC Radio Sheffield. But again, it was Phoenix Nights that led to him getting the job.

He was invited onto Tony Capstick's show to talk about series two and, after the interview, the producers asked if Toby would be interested in filling in for him while he went in hospital. He went from having never stepped foot in a radio studio to being a presenter in the space of about two weeks.

When Tony moved to the breakfast slot, Toby was offered the afternoon show. He then moved to the breakfast show, where he stayed for 18 years until last autumn when changes at the station saw him move back to afternoons. He now plays out to the Sheffield, Leeds and York areas.

Toby says *"I do quite well with listeners and awards but I'm not really a radio presenter and never wanted to be one. I just talk to people. I've never changed. It's warts and all and people seem to like that. Sometimes I say things wrong or make a mistake, but I always admit it and apologise. People usually just say fair enough and move on."*

*"After 22 years on radio I've told my listeners everything. I had a bad journey with anxiety about 15 or 20 years ago and I got ambulanced off the radio many times due to panic attacks. But I've always talked about it because why be ashamed of something you can't change?"*

He credits his kids with helping him get over the hurdle of anxiety, realising that he couldn't have a panic attack if he'd got two young children to look after. They've also been one of the reasons he was diagnosed with ADHD in his late 40s.

His youngest daughter has autism and when she was being diagnosed her nurse watched Toby run frantically round the house and asked if anyone had ever tested him. A lot of the symptoms of ADHD are how he gets the job done.

Toby organises the annual Went Fest – an idea that started after a few too many shandies watching Billy Ocean at Silverstone in 2017. Since 2018, he's also been the narrator of the hit TV show Bangers and Cash, which follows a family-run classic car auctioneers in North Yorkshire. It is now on the tenth series with about half a million viewers per episode. People recognise Toby's voice more from Bangers and Cash than 20 years on radio.

*"I'll just carry on until I drop. That's what broadcasters do. It's not so much a job, it's just a laugh."*

**He and Dennis have a lot in common - strong family, hard work and Mansfield Brewery.**

**By Elaine Chadwick**

### THANKS & COPYRIGHT

Many thanks to Toby for his recollections and to the editorial team at Aroundtown Magazine, distributed in Barnsley and Rotherham, who kindly gave their permission for us to extract from their longer article on Toby in the September/October edition.

A quick aside, when Dennis and Toby lived in Bolton on Dearne they shared a garden fence with Elaine's Chadwick's mother and father in law. Small world!



# GEOFF TEE

## A LIFE UNDER THE BONNET IN HULL

Did you ever wonder how the beer brewed in the brewery magically comes out of the pumps in the pubs and clubs? There was a large fleet of originally horse drawn drays and then wagons and tankers, manned by draymen, that ensured that the beers were delivered to all of the tenanted houses, managed houses, free trade pubs and clubs at the right time and in the best condition.

However, this fleet required continual maintenance and response to emergency breakdowns. This is a story of one man, Geoff Tee (pictured above), who carried out this work for over 32 years in Hull. An unsung hero of the beer world. Here is Geoff on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last year with over 40 people attending.

Geoff was born in 1933 and started work at 14 as an apprentice mechanic at a commercial garage in Hull – MacDonalds Cars & Commercials.

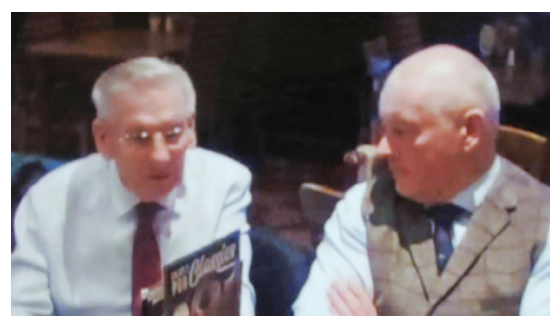
Geoff was called up for National Service and after initial training, the deployment officer asked him whether he could maintain army vehicles – “*Would you mind working on tanks?*” Geoff replied “*It’s all the same to me*”.



Land Rovers and motorcycles, going out to breakdowns in the desert as required. He spent 20 months in Egypt.

On his return to the UK, Geoff spent another eight years in the garage and then saw an advert in the Hull Daily Mail for a mechanic at Hull Brewery. He joined them in September 1965 at Silvester Street garage, maintaining the wagons and tankers that transported beer to the 78 Town Houses, 120 Country Houses and free trade (as at 1972).

They were a small team – five mechanics, a foreman and a transport manager (pictured next page) – and they expanded to maintain all of the



The outcome of this was that Geoff went off to Egypt (pictured above) in 1954 on the road from El Ballah at the field workshop. He served in 44 Transporter Company working on the tank transporters, five ton lorries,





Brewery's company cars as well. In 1972 Northern Foods took over Hull Brewery, renaming it North Country Breweries. Geoff and the team continued to service and maintain the fleet. Geoff was made foreman and acted up as manager as required.

In 1985 Mansfield Brewery took over North Country Breweries and the garage was moved to a new bigger site on Harpings Road, Hull.

The servicing also covered roadside breakdowns and Geoff remembers taking a bag of bolts out to a wagon whose propshaft bolt (driving > back axle through the gearbox) had sheared near the Crossroads pub near Holmesfield.

Geoff continued to work for Mansfield Brewery and is pictured far right receiving 25 years long service award from Richard Chadburn in 1990. Further to this he is pictured right at a another long service event from Mr Robin

Geoff was made redundant in 1997 with over 30,000 services under his belt and devoted his time to gardening and Tai Chi exercises. He also took up night school teaching for motor maintenance and enjoyed it, with his classes being very popular.

He has had a number of health issues since 2020 which he is recovering from slowly. Geoff married Jean, who celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, in 1958 and they have a son, Paul, and daughter, June. He continues to receive his weekly beer supplies and thanks to the Baily Thomas Provident Fund team for assisting him with his TV licence applications and he fondly remembers the Christmas hampers.

Without the sterling work provided by Geoff and his team over 30 years the beer might not have reached the pumps.

**By Elaine Chadwick**

Many thanks to Geoff for taking the time chatting to us and for the many photos of his, and some of Mansfield Brewery's, history.



On the occasion of the 1000<sup>th</sup> vehicle serviced - **Garage Team 1968**

**Back Row:** Wilf Nicolson, John Scott, Geoff Tee, Peter Stephenson, Harry Barnett  
**Front Row:** Jack Pickering (Transport Manager), George Render (Foreman)



25 years long service with Richard Chadburn in 1995.



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



A very successful pie, chips and peas lunch which was held at the MBMA monthly meeting in October at Debdale Lane Park & Social Club. 53 members sat down for a delicious lunch prepared by the staff from the Club and it was the first time that this event was held, but I know from the response that it won't be the last!



## THE MANSFIELD BREWERY WALKING GROUP

The walks always take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month, from March to November. Normally in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire and between 5-6 miles in length. We walk at a steady pace with at least one 15 minute rest stop enroute. Afterwards, a pub lunch is often organised by the leaders for those who wish to partake, but this is optional. Well behaved dogs are welcome too. **Meet up time is 10am - walk starts at 10.30am - ends around 2.15pm.**

### Always looking for new walkers to join us...

Why not come along and make new friends or meet up with old work colleagues. Further information, please contact **Barbara Brown** on **01623 481 488, 07762 083 542** or email **barbyali72@gmail.com**

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2024, the walkers enjoyed amazingly good weather on the monthly Sunday walks. This continued into Autumn with September, October and November all being mostly dry, if sometimes a little cool!

The SEPTEMBER walk (top photo) incorporated a piece of Nottinghamshire's Industrial Heritage, as we began with a guided talk/tour of The Bennerley Viaduct near Ilkeston. An amazing structure that spans the Erewash Valley, the Erewash and Nottingham Canals and the Erewash River. The walk then continued along the canal and around the surrounding countryside. It was a very informative day concluding with a meal at The Hayloft in Giltbrook.

OCTOBER (middle photo) saw us starting our walk in Walesby. This pretty walk took us along paths surrounded by hundreds of free range chickens, all clucking madly as we passed by. Also several fields full of curious piggies who followed us around the perimeter fences. Legend has it that Robin Hood hid in a cave on the riverbank we followed on our walk, but despite two of our walkers looking for it, we didn't find any evidence. A delicious meal was enjoyed at The Carpenters Arms on our return.

NOVEMBER, (bottom photo) our final walk of 2024, saw us enjoying the beautiful Autumn colours along the very local Timberland Trail. Beginning at The Quarry Lane Nature Reserve, through the Oakham Nature Reserve and looping around Kings Mill Reservoir and the Hermitage Mill Pond. Being Remembrance Sunday, the group stopped at 11am to observe the two minute silence to honour the Fallen Soldiers. Sunday Lunch was enjoyed at Sandy's Bar afterwards.



## THE MANSFIELD BREWERY MEMBERS ASSOCIATION

ACTING CHAIRMAN **Val Moss** 07800 651 901, 01623 620 195 & vfmoss@aol.com  
 SECRETARY **Sharon England** 07944 337 057  
 TREASURER **Val Moss**  
 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY **Jenny Hall** 07746 103916 & 01623 557074  
 COMMITTEE **Eileen Spencer**

# 170<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION TRAILER IS ON ITS WAY...

The mystery and controversy of the precise date of the founding of Mansfield Brewery may have been resolved as a result of what Sue Walters retrieved from the National Brewery Heritage Museum in Burton.

It's the original Articles of Agreement drawn up between the three founding partners, William Baily, Samuel Hage and John Watson, "registered" on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1854 – the Agreement was subsequently signed and sealed on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1855.

It is planned to have the original Agreement as the centre piece of a display of archive material at the BTPF Open Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at Mansfield's Civic Centre. In addition, to coincide with the Open Day, we will publish a Special Edition of the Mansfield Brew marking MB's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So the question remains, was Mansfield Brewery founded in 1854 or 1855?



We are in the process of designing the magazine and invite you to contribute to it. We shall have a page or two devoted to "Reflections" from those who worked at the Brewery and its subsidiaries, so please let us have a few words about your time, recounting events, people and stories that you experienced. Hopefully the memories will be fond but there were difficult times too. A few of you may recall the first strike ever which lasted seven days in May 1975. Humour adds a special ingredient and there were plenty of laughs and a lot of fun over the years. Let's hear about them.

We have a copy date of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 but it would be helpful to have your submissions by the end of January.

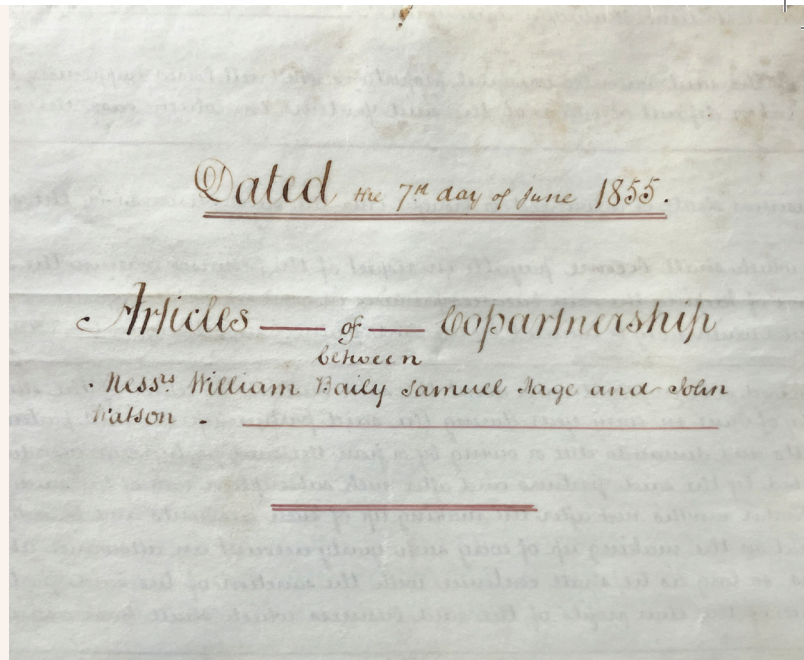
Please send to:

**[mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com](mailto:mansfieldbreweditor@gmail.com)**

or if you prefer to relate it,

call **Elaine Chadwick** on **07957 806 454**

who can write it up for you.



# EMPLOYEE STORIES

## LIFE BEHIND THE BAR HELEN TURNER

Helen started her journey in pubs in 1972 at the Punch Hotel in Queen Victoria Square, Hull with her husband Ray.

It was and still is an imposing building located near to the docks and was a popular pub with a good mix of regulars and passing trade. One customer was quoted in the Hull Daily Mail 1972 article saying "You can see the wife go past the window". Helen was 29 and according to her "I thought I knew everything. But the ladies of the night that frequented the Punch soon made me realise I had a lot to learn! And I did!"



After 15 months, with much learning under her belt, she and Ray moved to the Three Tuns on Boothferry Road. They stayed here for 10 years until 1983. They built up the business, especially the catering side hosting wedding receptions and other events.



She and the other landladies across Hull arranged and went on a number of trips:

**BREWERIES** - Park Royal courtesy of the local Guinness rep . After the visit they ended up at The Talk of the Town and Helen was on the front row ending up on stage with the dancer, Peter Gorden. They also visited Dublin and the Harp Brewery.

**AMSTERDAM** - The landladies organised a luxury coach and made sure it was "well stocked". During this trip they visited the Warninks Advocaat distillery. Helen was surprised that for such a big brand name, the actual business was very small and local. The eggs were delivered early morning and the advocaat created. At lunchtime the plant closed down to ensure complete sterilisation before the next day's batch. They also visited De Kuyper Royal Distillers (owners of Warninks) on this trip.

There were many social events including a visit to Mansfield where Helen sat next to Derek Mapp and over dinner was seen to be wagging her finger at him - suffice to say drinks had been flowing.

One story Helen remembers well was when the Kiwis and Aussies were due to visit Hull City for a friendly match at Boothferry Park, The Tiger's ground at the time. Helen and Ray



were asked to prepare a buffet for the teams. Sitting after Sunday lunch service, they decided that the room needed redecoration so, with regulars, set about stripping the wallpaper. First thing Monday Helen went to buy paper and paint and it was all completed. When the Area Manager, Terry Crockford came in, he was horrified – he didn't quite know whether to sack them or congratulate them. The proximity to the football ground also meant that every home Saturday the Three Tuns was closed by the police.

In 1983, Mansfield Inns decided to move Helen and Ray to the Green Dragon (pictured below) in Welton. This was the flagship pub in the Hull Brewery/North Country Breweries estate. Although they were sad to leave the Three Tuns they took on the challenge and stayed until 1988 when they came out of the pub business. They hosted a visit from the High Commissioner of New Zealand during their time here. A little known fact is that the Green Dragon is situated in "Cucumber Alley" - market garden businesses supplying the supermarkets.

After leaving the Green Dragon Ray became a security guard and Helen sold books and became assistant steward in the British Legion Club in North Ferriby. She then worked in Morrisons in Brough in various departments. She also cooked in a small canteen and, although now 82 and disabled, still enjoys cooking, making enough to feed her friends. Due to her ill health she has had to curtail her previous hobby of gardening. Sadly, Ray passed away in 2018.



## OPENING MANDORA'S BOX **DAWN UPEX**

Working as supervisor in the National Sales Office at Mandora UK was my first proper job after leaving college in the mid eighties. I loved it straight away from my interview with Pat Stanton, who was stylish and sassy, before being sassy was a thing. It was a great atmosphere, really busy and happy. I spent my days on the phone chatting to the senior buyers of national supermarkets and generally trying to keep them happy.



Our office team was a mix of ages and attitudes and we all got along like a house on fire, it was like being part of a family across the whole of Mandora. I especially enjoyed Friday afternoons when the guys from the Brewery brought us all a few cans of Marksman - never had another job where that happened, which is sad.

I remember the Mandora bus which was available for us to catch a lift to and from Bellamy Road - we were really looked after. I got married whilst working at Mandora - one of my colleagues rang the bells at the church, which was lovely.

I was also working behind the bar at the Rushley pub in 1983. It was so busy with punters packed in like sardines every night - a fabulous atmosphere. I loved the buzz of both jobs!

I (quite reluctantly) left Mandora after Home Brewery made me an offer I couldn't refuse to manage their

customer service department, but it wasn't the same positive vibe as Mandora so I moved on. I managed the customer service team at Colour Care (photo processing) and then the Import Customer Service and Sales teams at Thompson Jewitt International (freight) - these were both very happy roles, basically honing the people and organisational skills I originally developed behind the bar and at Mandora. I became responsible for arranging training for new staff and as things happened in those days I started writing and running the courses myself. After

having a few children I wanted to stop working full time and so started teaching evening classes for typing. I was very pleased with myself for doing this as I could not touch type myself! I loved teaching, so did a degree alongside my job and got formally qualified. This led to a 25 year career at West Notts College teaching subjects including business studies and teacher training. When I left the college in 2017 I was the Programme Area Manager for Business and Professional Studies.

I then had a go at being retired for a couple of years but I wasn't very good at that so volunteered at Barnardos and did some agency work in schools in Derbyshire and Sheffield. I now work a few days a week in a local secondary school in the Business Operations team. The BLG were very pleased when Dawn agreed to join their group earlier this year.

## THE BREW'S POETRY CORNER **LEST WE FORGET...**

Did you wear your poppy  
With gratitude and pride  
Remembering all the people  
Who for all our lives have died

Did you think of all the men  
And the women too  
Who have served our Country  
For people like me and you

Did you stand in silence  
On the eleventh at eleven  
And think of those who've passed away  
And resting now in Heaven

Did you catch the Cenotaph  
Many did - I bet  
We must keep the tradition going  
Lest we forget



*Sue Yates*

# MANSFIELD BREWERY ANNUAL REUNION

## NOTTINGHAM OCTOBER 2024



Frank Pates and John Hings (checking out the beers on offer)



Bill McCosh, Nathan Thadani, Nigel Brown, Chris Moores



Our organiser, Colin

There was a great turnout at a recent Mansfield Brewery reunion...

A few years ago, this started out as a pub crawl around Nottingham, the most central and accessible location for many. Over the years this has grown into a very well attended event with 25 people making their way on a chilly October evening from as far as Tyneside, Somerset, Cheshire, East Yorkshire, Northampton, Staffordshire and Cardiff.

The latest additions to the group this year were the Telesales team, plus members of the Retail sector. It was a great occasion to catch up on news, memories and enjoy good food at Binks Yard.



Hugh Wilson and John Hings



**THE TELESales TEAM**  
Margot Till, Lorna Gregory, Yvonne Murden, Sheila Morrell, Dawn Brown



**L:** Nathan Thadani, Bill McCosh, Richard Lewis, Hugh Wilson **R:** Colin Stump, John Parry, John Hings, Andrea Banton



**L:** Sheila Morrell, Elaine Chadwick, Kevin Hall, Clive Baxter  
**R:** Lorna Gregory, Yvonne Murden, Dawn Brown



**L:** Neil Bircumshaw, Ann Wooley, Sue Walters, Wendy Owen, Nigel Brown  
**R:** Frank Pates, Rory Carlin, Margot Till, Sharon Lloyd, Chris Moores

We're planning another event next summer so please contact **Colin** on [colin.stump@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.stump@btinternet.com) if you'd like to come along.

# OBITUARIES

## **DEREK WALTER TARR** 05.12.1941 - 24.06.2024

Born in Mansfield to Leonard and Kathleen (Midge) and after living in Mansfield throughout his life, Derek sadly passed away aged 82, after a long period of health issues. He leaves a sister, Carol, Marion, his wife of 31 years, daughter Jayne, step children, Richard and Jane and four grandchildren.

Derek started his working life at the Shoe Co, then spent time as a milkman, before joining Mansfield Brewery as a drayman, where he spent over 30 years making friends for life.

Derek enjoyed holidays and travel, with trips to the Channel Islands and Spain and, of course, Skegness as favourites. He was a big family man, enjoying time with his extended family, who made sure he got out and about to a garden centre, shopping trip or a ride out for coffee, whenever possible.



Derek had a keen interest in historic buildings and history, specifically World Wars and weaponry. He enjoyed visits to stately homes, especially Chatsworth.

If anyone asked for directions to anywhere from Derek, it would be by town/village but specifically by pub names! Derek will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.



## **TERRY BODDINGTON** 09.01.1946 - 29.08.2024

Terence Edward (Terry) Boddington was born in Northampton on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1946. Much to the disapproval of his father he went straight into the Royal Navy after leaving school at 16.

Completing a short stint in the Navy he left and started repairing and selling white goods. He became the manager of Northampton Saints Sports and Social Club, then moved to Scottish and Newcastle Breweries before joining Mansfield Brewery in 1981, where he stayed for five years and was General Manager of Managed Houses. He was a larger than life character and will be remembered by all his colleagues in the Brewery.

After he left the brewery he followed Derek Mapp into the Pub Co and then worked for Naylor's fruit machine company and Bateman's Brewery. Prior to retirement he had a business as a Licensed Property Valuer.

During his life he enjoyed holidays in Spain and Portugal and moved out to Portugal in 2019 where he passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> August after a short illness. Those who knew Terry, knew that he loved socialising, karaoke and golf. He will be very much missed by his friends in Portugal.





# A BRIEF DIVERSION RUSSIAN ROULETTE

After seven years (1959-66) in the Merchant Navy, from my first struggling days as a full-time writer every project has been a learning curve. The privilege of producing *The Mansfield Brew* was another ride on a literary roller-coaster which included many bizarre challenges. The following story is just one of those.

By 2002 I had a book contract. It became Honoured by Strangers, the biography of submariner Captain Francis Cromie RN DSO CB 1882-1918. Cromie's submarines supported the Russian Navy against the Germans. I needed to spend a week in St. Petersburg, during which I would visit Tallin in Estonia for further research.

To get to Tallin (known as Reval in WWI) from St. Petersburg's Baltiysky Station would take 8 ½ hours on an overnight sleeper train. It was June, called the 'white nights' in Russia as the sun shone until midnight. With my rucksack I joined the throng and approached the sleeper carriage, where I was met by two strapping middle-aged 'Babushka' ladies bearing towels and soap, who seemed surprised to have a passenger, because I was the only occupant in the whole carriage. It appeared that the fare, approximately £27, was beyond most working Russians.

The compartment was plain, with a pull-down bed, a washbasin and a toilet. As the train pulled out about 6.30pm, I sat at the small table by the window enjoying the brilliant sunshine and the countryside. Feeling a touch of the Hemingways coming on, I took out my notebook and began making notes. The still-mystified Babushkas brought me some back-straightening Russian tea with enough caffeine to re-animate Stalin's corpse. As the sun kissed the horizon, I undressed and was cajoled by the rhythm of the rails into a deep sleep.

I was jolted awake around midnight by loud knocking at my door. It was dark now. Dressed only in my Y-fronts I sheepishly opened the door. I was faced by a uniformed trio of Russian guards; two tall, serious looking blokes accompanied by a squat, humourless woman, a dead ringer for Les Dawson. The train was stationary. They asked for my passport and Visa. The superior handed me back my passport but gave Les my Visa, which she pocketed. A long, broken English interrogation proceeded wherein I was referred to as 'Meester Bay-in-ton'. I explained I was writing a book about the co-operation between the British and Russian navies in WWI.

They homed in on my rucksack and emptied it on the bed. Then they opened a folder containing photographs of submarines. Was I a spy? Why was I going to Tallin? The questions rolled on. I asked the chief guard's name. Alexandr Skalovskii. Eventually I convinced them I wasn't in MI5, or the CIA and the atmosphere eased, although Les Dawson (who they referred to as the 'Buddha woman') remained silent with the expression of a bulldog chewing a wasp. They wished me luck and as they left, I suddenly panicked. 'Buddha woman' still had my Visa! Without that I'd be stranded. Barefoot and still in my underpants I ran along the corridor, then jogging down the aisle of a packed passenger carriage as women shrieked at

the sight of 16 stones of almost naked British blubber invading their space. I reached the trio at the carriage door as they were stepping on to the platform. Three startled faces looked up. "Please," I whined, "You still have my Visa!" Comrade Skalovskii shook his head. "You are on Russian border and train enters Estonia in five minutes. Your visa is only entry/exit visa. You need better visa to go back into Russia and to fly home. You must apply for one at Tallin embassy."

In wild panic, I asked "If I don't cross border, stay in Russia, get off train here, can I have my visa back?" The trio went into a murmuring huddle. "Is good idea Meester Bay-in-ton. You need visa to fly home to UK." He then answered a question I never asked. "Border woman stamp visa and return." So; she wasn't a Buddha, just a Slavic mispronunciation. From her breast pocket she took my visa and a small rubber stamp, stamped the document and handed it back. "Quickly now!" said Skalovskii, "get clothes and luggage - train is leaving now!"

The passengers enjoyed another quivering flesh pageant as I raced back to the sleeper coach, stuffed everything in my rucksack and waddled back, tumbling from the now slowly moving train to the waiting trio. They all laughed as I pulled my dishevelled pants on and tried to secure my rucksack.

Along the dimly lit platform, I surveyed the long, ramshackle wooden building which probably saw its last coat of varnish when Stalin was alive. Suddenly a door burst open, and we all froze.

Facing us was a figure straight out of Hollywood casting. In full fatigues, aiming her Kalashnikov, a very blonde, athletic female soldier. As the guards related my plight to her, she began steering me along the platform with the muzzle of her gun. She kicked open a door and bundled me into a darkened waiting room. The door was slammed shut behind me. The light switch didn't work. There was one plastic chair. Warily, I sat down and lit a cigarette. The next six hours were punctuated by Skalovskii entering the room with a flashlight asking me for cigarettes. I didn't mind. The company was welcome and he seemed a nice chap. The Baltic Boudicca, still waving her weapon, checked in frequently, too. At around 6am, it was light, and I asked for the toilet. She pointed at some bushes outside. "Is toilet for you!" she spat.

In the sharp morning air at 8am I shook hands with Tovarich Skalovskii and boarded the St. Petersburg train with the rail pass he'd given me. After several hours crammed in a four-berth compartment with five sweaty Russian paratroopers, I staggered into a bar and downed several vodkas. Had I bumped into Vladimir Putin on the Nevsky Prospekt that morning, I may well have aired a grievance or two.

*Roy Bainton*