

DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Cheers to Derby's Summer Beer Festival!

Derby will host its 38th annual Summer Beer Festival from July 8th to 12th.

Recent figures show that British pubs are closing at the rate of 31 a week. But Derby appears to be at the very forefront of a real ale revival. Dubbed the "Beer Capital of Britain", the city is able to boast the largest number of real ales per head of population, more than 120 real ale pubs, several micro-breweries, a Be A Brewer For The Day experience, and two annual CAMRA Beer Festivals...not to mention, Britain's first and only "Beer King", Les Baynton.

Baynton can tell you just about everything you need to know about real ale in Derby - from how many brews it is now possible to sample on any visit to the city (200), through to the name of Madonna's favoured pint ("Landlord").

The only Beer King in Britain, Les will himself be marking his 11th year on the throne during this year's Beer Festival.

"The question most often asked," he says, "Is 'What does a Beer King do?' He must obviously develop a keen palate for real-ale and be able to address halls full of drinkers. The Derby Beer King also has a duty to promote Derby as 'The Capital Of Real-Ale' and according to beer writer Roger Protz - 'The perfect place for a pub crawl'."

There is, he adds, an entirely new generation of drinkers who are expressing an interest in real ale. And around 10,000 of them are about to converge on Derby this July for one of the biggest CAMRA Beer Festivals of the year.

Les opens the Festival every year with the Mayor and will be holding court in the Market Place, in Derby, inside a marquee that will be showcasing a selection of the best real ales from Derby's very own micro-breweries and from around the UK. Also on offer will be a full range of ciders, perries and meads; a variety of continental beers; and a lively line-up of live music.

And for anyone who wants to know how it is done, local micro-brewery is offering visitors to the city at any time of the year the chance to "Be A Brewer For The Day". Starting with breakfast, it's a full day of brewing, including lunch. A great way to learn about micro brewing, the experience costs just £40 per person. For more details, visit <http://www.derventiobrewery.co.uk>.

Anyone else tempted by the prospect of spending a day or two at Derby's Summer Beer Festival, meanwhile, might also be interested in the way in which VisitDerby has teamed-up with a couple of its city centre hotels to offer accommodation from as little as £20.15 per person, per night. Further information can be found at <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/2015-hotel-offers/>.

For full details of the 38th annual Derby Beer Festival, visit <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/events/derby-summer-beer-festival/>

All other tourist information about Derby can be found at <http://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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