

RuRAD In the Sticks

LEADMILL BREWERY and BOTTLE BROOK BREWERY

Producers of Traditional Hand Crafted Real Ales

In the Sticks

Welcome to the latest issue of "In the Sticks" the newsletter of RuRAD, Rural Real Ale Drinkers. We hope you enjoy reading it.

If you want to receive a copy electronically, e-mail snugdaye@outlook.com.

For current & previous issues log on to www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad. You can also find copies of the newsletter on the Loughborough CAMRA web-site (www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/magazines) along with digital copies of other local beercentric publications.

In Memoriam

The Didler was sorry to report the sad passing of Mary Short, legendary landlady of the classic **Barley Mow** pub in Kirk Ireton who died peacefully at home on Thursday, 22nd February aged 90. Sincere condolences go to all the family. RIP Mary.

Tracy and all the staff welcome you to the

OLD OAK INN

176 Main Street Horsley Woodhouse DE7 6AW Tel: 01332 881299

East Midlands Pub of the Year 2016

Serving a wide selection of beers from BOTTLE BROOK and LEADMILL plus Guests Beers

RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

Beer & Pub News

Approval has been granted by Amber Valley Borough Council to demolish the **French Horn** pub in Codnor and build a Farmfoods store in its place. The pub has been closed since August 2021 and there has been no interest from prospective licensees to take it over.

Pete Wright at the **Hop Wright Inn**, Heanor is planning to open the upstairs of the pub on Key Street to create space for darts, dominoes and other games (oo-er, missis).

It has been heard on the grapevine (hopvine?) that the **Peacock**, Derby is to get a new landlord on 2nd March to replace Ed who is going abroad. The new man is local to the pub and has run pubs before.

Paul Garner, the landlord of the Poet &

MARCH 2024

Castle, Codnor who took over around August 2023, also runs the New Albion in Alverthorpe, just outside Wakefield. The New Albion offers 5 real ales and Paul has put in a manager while he brings the Poet & Castle up to where he wants it to be. He is working to try and get guest beers in eventually, but thinks it will probably take some time. The pub is owned by Everards.



The Cross Keys at Belper, formerly owned by Batemans and recently taken over by the Pub People group, closed for some "much needed refurbishment" on 17th February. The forecast re-opening date is Friday 22nd March "as long as nothing unforeseen happens". Progress updates can be found on Facebook.

It is reported that the **Dead Man's Tankard** micro-pub in Heanor is having a tap takeover at the end of each month for the whole year. January featured **Castle Rock**, February was **Black Hole Brewery** and in March it is the turn of **Alter Ego**. Check Facebook for the full calendar and updates.

And talking of tap takeovers, Paul Guilford at the Horse & Jockey in Stapleford is also featuring a monthly event which started with Neepsend on 15th February. There were 7 Neepsend ales on the bar (plus 6 beers from other breweries). The next date is 7th March which will feature 8 new ales from The Durham Brewery. 6 Nations Rugby will also be showing in the raised back room.

The Red Lion, Birchover, home to the Birchover/Red Lion brewery and free of tie, which has been on the market for a year, has dropped its asking price to £425k.

The Fishermans Rest on Broadholme Lane, just outside Belper, closed its doors "for the

Free Copy

foreseeable future" on 18th February. Licensees Nick & Andy stated on the pub's Facebook page that a combination of ill health, escalating costs and a poor return on their investments has prompted this decision. They are now retiring (again) and booking a holiday.

It was widely reported in the media that Elland Brewery was holding meetings of both the shareholders and its creditors on 16th February to consider passing a resolution for the voluntary winding up of the Company. As a result of that meeting the following resolutions were passed...

"That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same, and accordingly that the company be wound up voluntarily and that Simon Weir of DSi Business Recovery be appointed Liquidator for the purposes of such winding up".

The brewery was founded as Eastwood and Sanders Fine Ales in 2002 and renamed as Elland Brewery in 2006. Probably its best known beer is the 1872 Porter (6.5%) which won CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain in 2013 and 2023. It is described as a ruby black porter, with chocolate and caramelised fruit flavours with a hint of black toffee on the nose.

Sally. Jean & Steve welcome you to the...

ROYAL OAK
55 Green Lane, Ockbrook, DE72 3SE
Tel: 01332 662378

Derby CAMRA Country Pub of the Year - 2022

CAMRA 50th Anniversary Gold Award Winner - East Midlands

Bass + 3 Constantly Changing Guest Ales Available Beer garden and separate children's play area Lunches Served: Every Day from 12.00 Evening Meals: Mon to Sat

https://royaloakockbrook.com



A feature of the recent Hucknall Beer Festival, which by all accounts was well organised, staffed and attended, was the Spyke Golding Challenge where festival attendees were encouraged to taste and score 11 new beers from Nottinghamshire breweries. Details about the beers were given - name, ABV and tasting notes - but not who brewed them. The participants were asked to

rate how close the beer matched the tasting notes and also answer the question "Would you buy this beer in a pub?". And the winner is (drum roll)...

Lenton Lane *Escape*, 5.0%. A smooth (unfined) pale ale packed with fruity undertones and tropical flavours.

The full list of beers is as follows:

Beermats, The Beer with No Name (5.3%)
Black Iris, High Seas (7.0%)
Blue Monkey, RaspBEERy Wheat Beer (7.4%)
Lenton Lane, Escape (5.0%)
Lincoln Green, Morphia (8.0%)
Liquid Light, Ticket to Ride (7.9%)
Magpie, Cavern Dweller (4.2%)
Milestone, Doilem (4.5%)
Nottingham, Citra Pale (4.0%)
Shipstones, Frassai (4.8%)
Welbeck Abbey, Madagascar (5.5%)

Highly Commended awards were given to the beers from Black Iris, Blue Monkey and Magpie. Full details about these beers can be found by searching "Hucknall Beer Festival 2024" in Google (other search engines are available but only geeks use them).

April and the team welcome you to the

THORN TREE INN

21 Chesterfield Road, Belper Tel: 07974 470774

Winner of the Amber Valley CAMRA Winter Ale Trail 2019

Live Music --- Quiz Nights
Family and dog friendly
Real Ale, Real Cider, Real Fire

Real Pub

And while on the subject of awards...

The CAMRA Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2024 has been awarded to Sarah Hughes Brewery Snowflake (8.0% Amber Barley Wine). The joint runners up were Elland Brewery 1872 Porter (6.5%) and Muirhouse Brewery Magnum Mild (4.5%). The results were announced at the Great British Beer Festival Winter held in Burton-on-Trent.

The Amber Valley CAMRA POTY for 2024 results are:

1 Dead Poets, Holbrook

2 **Talbot**, Ripley

3 = Old Oak Inn, Horsley Woodhouse and Groovers Arms, Ripley

And for the Cider POTY:

1 **Angels Micropub**, Belper

2 **Dead Poets**, Holbrook

3 Groovers Arms, Ripley

4 Talbot, Ripley

The Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Final Friday @5 gathering will be a week early in March due to Easter. On Friday 22nd March, the destination is South Normanton, starting at the Villager at 5.00 pm. The planned route will then take in School House, Post Mill

Centre, Clock and Market Tavern.

Local CAMRA Branch Meetings are as follows: Amber Valley, 21st March, Railway, Belper Amber Valley AGM, 28th March, Old Oak, Horsley Woodhouse

Mansfield & Ashfield, Monday 11th March, Greyhound, Mansfield Woodhouse

All meetings are 8.00 pm start.

Contributors: Big Al, Andrew Ludlow, Aron37, Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, the Didler, Jamie Still, the Jedi, Tweedle Dee

SMITHFIELD

Meadow Road, Derby, DE1 2BH, Tel: 01332 986601

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018 - 2022

East Midlands Pub of the Year 2019

Tickers Paradise, 9 ever changing ales from across the UK, including 2 Stouts/Porters served all year round

Pork Pies & Fresh Cobs available daily
Fantastic Beer Garden right next to
the river

Beer Festivals

The 47th Loughborough Beer Festival will take place on 7th-9th March at the Polish Club on True Lovers Walk (LE11 3DB) and will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Loughborough & North Leicestershire CAMRA. 60+ beers are promised along with a selection of ciders and perries and hot & cold food. Entertainment on Saturday evening is provided by Wellard Willy (pop/rock covers) and the 6 Nations rugby will be shown on Saturday afternoon: Italy vs Scotland (14.15) and England vs Ireland (16.45). The festival opens at noon each day - free entry on Thursday and £2.00 on Friday & Saturday (£1.00 for CAMRA members). The beer list is available on the Loughborough CAMRA web-

Details of the Loughborough Pub Trails for 2024 have been announced which will take place on 11th-21st April and 19th-29th September. 7 pubs and two breweries are signed up for this year's events. More details in the next issue.

RuRAD Snippets

On a recent visit to the Bolsover area, I called in at the Horse & Groom in Scarcliffe, a pub new to me. It has a modest traditional bar and a larger lounge area. To the rear is a spacious, light and airy conservatory arrayed with house plants. And outside (for when the weather improves) is a patio area. There is also a small overspill room inside which the landlady was preparing to use to show the 6 Nations Rugby. I received a warm welcome and the locals were friendly. There were 8 real ales on offer - GK Abbot Ale, St Austell Tribute, Theakston Best Bitter, Welbeck Abbey Arcadian, Black Sheep Best Bitter, Bradfield Farmers Brown Cow, Bass and

Abbeydale Moonshine. I had a pint of the latter and it was in excellent condition. Definitely a place to visit if you are in the area. Snug Dave.

Pete and Tracey welcome you to THE RAILWAY

25 King Street, Belper

Serving 8 Cask Ales, 6 Craft Beers and Real Cider Star Bars Cask Ale Finalist 2019 Quiz Night every Wednesday Live Music at week-ends Food served until 8.00 pm Family and Dog Friendly

Fantastic Outdoor Garden

In The Papers

The Nottingham Post (10th February) reported that Nottingham City Council have put a former canal warehouse on Canal Street, Nottingham up for sale by auction with an estimated value expected to be about £975k. Part of the building is occupied by the Canalhouse pub operated by Castle Rock Brewery for which they pay an annual rent of £85k. A representative of the brewery explained that the pub will be unaffected by any sale and stated that "We have 26 years on our lease at the property, so we're not going anywhere".

The Nottingham Post (23rd February) reported that Lincoln Green Brewing Co. has come up with a (cunning) plan to create the perfect pint of beer. In January, they released the first batch of the ale What Makes A Good Beer Great? Batch #01 and have assembled a tasting panel to assess it and make recommendations to improve it. Information about the project can be found on the Lincoln Green web-site (under Our Story->What Makes A Good Beer) and a form is available which invites people to score the beer according to 18 flavour attributes (citrus, floral, woody, bitterness etc.) on a scale of 0 to 9. WMAGBG? Batch #2 has now been released and is available in the local Lincoln Green pubs. Oh yes, and the webpage includes the recipe for Batch #1 for aspiring home brewers.

On 1st April... no sorry, I mean 2nd February, the Derby Telegraph revealed that, according to a poll of its readers, the best pub in Derbyshire is the Victoria Inn, just off Railway Terrace in Derby, having received 56% of the votes cast. It's a bit difficult to know how to respond to this story but congratulations must go to John & Emma who have been doing a grand job since taking over. Eat your hearts out Holly Bush, Makeney (2nd) and the Flowerpot, Derby (3rd).

Out & About

Reports this month from Worcester, Gloucester and a quick visit to Liverpool. Thanks to Chris P Duck and the Didler.

Worcester, 19th Jan, 2024

A coach trip took Mythical John and myself to Worcester for the day. I had been a few times before and had realised that 2 of the 5 GBG entries were either too far out or late afternoon opening. Arriving late morning we were there before most pubs had opened so the Crown (JDW) was our only reasonable option. Incidentally the other Wetherspoons pub near the station had been demolished and converted into shops since my last visit. The Crown is a very impressive large building, formerly a coaching inn, on a pedestrian street with interesting low beamed rooms on different levels. Top marks for the preserved heritage interior but my Brewsters Hop A Doodle Doo was less agreeable. Other guest ales were from Gower, Branscombe and Brains plus the usual regulars.

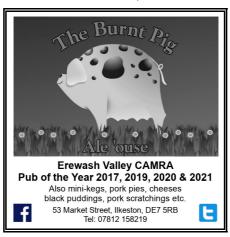


Across the street for noon opening time, we went in the newly opened Cocky Anchor. A very smart bar conversion with three cask ales and a keen welcome. I had their house ale brewed by Flack Manor, with Hartlebury Off The Rails and Ludlow Best completing the line-up. Worth a visit on future trips for good ale and excellent décor. We next took a longer walk to the north, reaching the GBG Dragon Inn which is run by Church End Brewery. The friendly barman had a range of 6 Church End ales along the bar of which I had Gravediggers Ale & Fallen Angel, both very good. There were also a couple of guest ales from Bristol Beer Factory and Teme Valley which we did not have time to try. A great pub with plenty of banter from locals and it would have been good to stay longer, but with plenty still to do we moved back towards the centre and the GBG Imperial Tavern. This is a traditional city pub operated by Black Country Ales and featured 3 BCA beers plus 6 guest ales which included the infamous Brew XI. I had a large cheese & onion cob with 2 excellent drinks - BCA Fireside and Woodcote Oatmeal Stout whilst having more good chat with some locals.

Not too far away is the medieval black and white timbered King Charles II which had an impressive 9 cask ales available. There were 4 from Craddocks, 2 from Fixed Wheel, 1 from Birmingham Brew Co and 2 from Hobsons of which I had The Champion. Decent quality ales in a 400 year old building but not greatly enjoyable with pretentious staff on the bar.

Further along the same street is the Cardinal's Hat, another very old pub and allegedly the oldest in the city. There is a choice of seating areas alongside a central stone floor corridor. I had not enjoyed a previous visit but it seemed a better atmosphere this time and my Uley Pigs Ear was one of the best drinks of the day. Other ales were 3 from Wye Valley and 1 from Purity.

Our next call was the Oil Basin Brewhouse, although the brewery is no longer there and the house ale, Butchers Beastly Best, is now brewed by Teme Valley. The interesting quest ales were Mallinsons Nelson Sauvin, Thornbridge Wild Swan and By The Horns Lambeth Walk plus a plethora of keg ales too. A very popular bar late afternoon time. We ended our trip at the GBG Plough which is a proper drinkers pub. Here I ignored Mighty Oak Twist & Sprout and Salopian Conundrum but indulged in Ledbury Bitter, Triple fff Moondance and we both finished off with Kinver Over The Edge (7.5%). It was not far back to the bus and we picked up further sustenance from the bar before our departure, eating these soon after the bus left, in case after the last strong drink we fell asleep, which we did anyway. There are a number of good historical pubs and plenty of good ales in Worcester plus a few more pubs we could not visit on the day. Chris P Duck.



Gloucester, 8th Feb, 2024

A coach trip took the Old Fruit and myself to Gloucester, my first visit for 6 years. Arriving just in time for noon opening pubs, we went straight to the GBG Fountain Inn, a historic pub accessed through an arched passage, to then indulge in a rather large meal along with one of my favourites, Dartmoor Jail Ale. Excellent food and drink to start with but the beer and wine was very pricey. I did not note the other ales apart from a couple from St Austell but recall nothing very exciting.

A walk through town to the docks area brought a first visit to the Hop Kettle (home to Hop Kettle Brewing) which was quite difficult to locate due to minimalist signage. Once in I soon found a modern industrial style room with six cask ale taps and even more kegs. Not knowing what to have from a new brewery I had a third of all six to share

with the Old Fruit. The agreeable barman offered samples including some of the keg ales (Red Star & Wild Stout) and generally the ales were quite decent. For the record the cask ales were Azacca Smash, Morning Star, Cosmic Shake, Western Star, Acton's Festive & Long Nights.

After departing, I left the Old Fruit and a longish walk brought me to the GBG Turk's Head. This was a very traditional micro-pub, only opened since my last visit, with much brewery and other memorabilia including beermats supplied on tables in ashtrays redundant from a previous era. There were three cask ales on offer with the very popular North Cotswold Windrush having loads of flavour for 3.6%. I also had a good Glastonbury Voodoo whilst waiting for the rain to desist with Nine Lives Porter not sampled. A nice landlady here and ales at £3.80 so well worth visiting.



I then walked to the GBG Pelican Inn, which I had enjoyed previously and was not to be disappointed again. This Wye Valley pub had Goff's Jester Brew 28 as a guest ale and seven WV cask ales. The barman correctly predicted that I would like their Usual Suspects, a dark special bitter, with four of their regular ales plus Moonshot and Hopfather completing the set. As before, it was a most friendly pub where I had plenty of chat with locals and the barman.

My final call was at the GBG Drunken Duck. another new pub to me, located down a narrow side street. Another small micro-pub albeit with TV sport. The three cask ales comprised a house beer from Butcombe (Original) and their Haka plus Loch Lomond Lost In Mosaic, I had the former and latter, both very good but whilst talking with the landlord forgot to pick up my hat from the table (senior moment, too much ale or a combination of both?). I did not have enough time to visit Brewhouse & Kitchen, Gloucester Brewery or Tank that apparently also sells their ales, so I never tasted a Gloucester ale all afternoon. There were also 2 or 3 later opening pubs that may have been worth a try too. Chris P Duck.

Liverpool, 16th Feb. 2024

Accompanied by sister Kit and Health & Safety Dave, we started our visit at the Liverpool Beer Festival, held in the Crypt of

the Metropolitan Cathedral in time for the lunchtime session. Ales sampled were Lakes Brew Duty Bound (3.4%), Born Blonde (3.8%), Consett Ale Works Blast Bitter (4,3%), Five Kingdoms Bright Idea (3.8%), Spey Valley David's Not So Bitter (4.5%) and Rat Golden Rat (4.0%), the last one specially brewed for the 50th anniversary of Liverpool CAMRA. There was a grand selection from local breweries plus Cumbria, the North East and Scotland and all the beers were in good order

apart from being a little bit on the warm side in my opinion.

I bumped into Swifty from Swanwick, along with Richard and his Mrs from Hucknall. We later left to sample a few pubs with the first stop being the Belvedere for Stonehouse Tap Tackle (4.5%) which was best beer so far today. Then it was on to the Grapes (Rock The Boat Liverpool Light, 3.4%, very nice), the Roscoe Head (Fyne Ales Jarl, 3.8%, excellent) and finally the Globe (TT Landlord, very good condition). It's always a great finisher here for us especially with great 60s records blasting out, a warm welcome and friendly customers chatting. Brilliant classic pubs as always and it was just a pleasure to be in this city again. We managed some fish & chips in Yanni's chippy just down the street before making our way back to the railway station for the train home. The Didler.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

29th Feb-3rd Mar. Dungeon/Crich Tap Takeover@The Market Tavern, 41 High Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire 1st-2nd Mar. Indie Beer Feast Craft Beer Festival. Trafalgar Warehouse, 120 Trafalgar Street, Sheffield 1st-3rd Mar. The Smithfield Derby 7th Birthday Weekender. Celebration Beer From Urban Chicken To Feature 6th-17th Mar. Wetherspoons Real Ale & Cider Festival. All Wetherspoon Pubs. www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk 7th-9th Mar. Magna Real Ale & Music Festival. Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. 250+ ales 7th-9th Mar. 47th Loughborough Beer Festival. Polish Club, True Lovers Walk off William St, Loughborough. 60+ ales 14th-17th Mar. Burton Ale Trail. 11 Pubs. See www.burtonaletrail.com

15th-16th Mar. Knowle Beer, Gin & Prosecco Festival. Knowle British Legion, 1611 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull 15th-17th Mar. Nottingham Brewery Spring Beer Festival. The Plough, 17 St Peter's St, Nottingham. 30+ beers (3 new + 6 experimental) 22nd-24th Mar. The Smithfield Murk Fest. Meadow Lane Derby. 12 Hazy Unfined Ales 28th-30th Mar. Holly Bush Inn Beer Festival. Holly Bush Lane, Makeney, Derbyshire. 20+ ales 28th Mar-1st Apr. Doncaster Brewery & Tap Festival. 7 Young Street, Doncaster. 14 real ales, 12 keg 29th-31st Mar. Black Iris Spring Bash. Unit 1 Shipstone Street, New Basford, Nottingham 29th Mar-1st Apr. The Old Hall Hotel Easter Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ ales 30th Mar. National Bass Day@The Smithfield, Derby

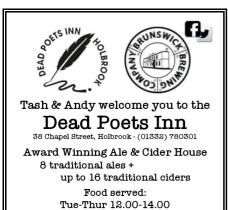
29th Feb-2nd Mar. Bradford Beer Festival. Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Bradford. 110 ales, cider/perry 1st-2nd Mar. Gosport Winter Beer Festival. Thorngate Halls, Bury Road, Gosport. 40+ ales + cider/perry 1st-3rd Mar. Dog & Bell Cornish Beer Festival. 116 Prince Street, Depford, London 8th-9th Mar. Harrogate Beer Festival. The Crown Hotel, Crown Place, Harrogate 11th-14th Mar. Dog & Bell Irish Cask Ale Festival. 116 Prince Street, Depford, London 14th-16th Mar. St Neots Booze on the Ouse Beer Festival. Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots. 60+ ales + cider 15th-17th Mar. 4th Bognor Beer Festival. The Garden Centre, Canada Grove, Bognor Regis. 20 cask, 6 keg 22nd-23rd Mar. North Sussex Beer & Cider Festival. Horsham Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham. 50+ ales, cider/perry 22nd-23rd Mar. International Brewing & Cider Festival. The Depot, Mayfield, Manchester 25th-31st Mar. Drink Valley Easter Beer Festival. Fleet Square, Swindon 27th-30th Mar. 42nd Egham Ale & Cider Festival. United Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham, Surrey. 60+ ales 27th-30th Mar. Wandsworth Common Beer Festival. Le Gothique Bar, John Archer Way, Windmill Road, Wandsworth 28th-31st Mar. 17th Wirral Beer Festival. Hulme Hall, 23 Bolton Road, Port Sunlight. 80 real ales, 80 craft beers 28th Mar-1st Apr. Old Cannon Brewery Beer Festival. 86 Cannon Street, Bury St Edmunds 29th-30th Mar. 13th Larbert Beer Festival. Dobbie Hall, Larbert, Stirlingshire. 50+ ales, 14 ciders/perries 29th Mar-1st Apr. Old Cross Tavern Easter Beer Festival. 8 St Andrew Street, Hertford

We advise confirmation of dates and times before attending the above festivals, as changes may occur.

Well that's all for this issue folks. If you have any info or news which could be included in a future issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07891 365887 or Snug Dave at snugdave@outlook.com by the 23rd of the month.

Edited by Snug Dave

Many thanks to all our contributors and the "In The Sticks" distribution team - too many to mention but they know who they are. Thanks also to our advertisers without whom this newsletter would not get published.



Fri-Sun, 12.00-16.00

Angels Micro Pub

29 Market Place Belper DE56 1FZ Serving eight or more

real ales from the barrel and a similar number of ciders & perries

Derbyshire South CAMRA POTY Winner 2023 **Amber Valley CAMRA Cider POTY** Winner 2020 **Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail** Winner 2019



The Dew Drop Inn

Ilkeston Junction

Traditional, unspoilt, Victorian Pub in the CAMRA heritage pub guide (Ilkeston's best kept secret!)

A selection of the finest cask ales. ciders, craft beers and bar snacks

Two minutes walk from Ilkeston train station

Mon-Thur: 4 00-10 00 Fri: 2 00-11 00 Sat: 12.00-11.00, Sun: 12.00-10.00