



# RuRAD In the Sticks

LEADMILL BREWERY  
and BOTTLE BROOK  
BREWERY  
Producers of Traditional  
Hand Crafted Real Ales

## In the Sticks

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

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

### SMITHFIELD

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

**Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year  
2018 - 2022, 2024**

**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

### From the Chair

As was announced in the September issue of "In The Sticks", I am stepping down as editor of the newsletter and this December issue is my last. And in the absence of anyone or any group volunteering to take it over, there will in all likelihood be no more.

I would like to thank all those individuals who have supported the project since it started in 2003 but if I tried to mention everybody by name it would turn into an Oscar Acceptance Speech and I would inevitably leave someone out and would then be trolled relentlessly on Tik-Tok (although I have no idea what that means). However, I think I should mention some key figures.

Firstly, Charisma Bypass who is a founding father of the newsletter since it first started as Little Eaton CAMRA (which incurred the extreme displeasure of the Derby CAMRA committee at the time). Despite holding down a full time job until very recently, he has always made every effort to ensure that the paper copies are distributed around the region in a timely manner. And for many years, it was Charisma Bypass who organised the RuRAD bus excursions. Secondly, there's Rodders who did this job of editor for 12 years, finally stepping down

## DECEMBER 2024

in April 2018. That surely deserves a mention in the Guinness Book of Records?

RuRAD also wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by Chris P Duck for the wealth of "Out & About" reports he has submitted over the years (183 he tells me), and also Sooty who has faithfully compiled the beer festival list every month.

I would also like to thank Ripley Printers who have done a grand job in producing the newsletter and also, Richard Creighton, owner and brewer at **Leadmill Brewery** who paid the printing costs in the early days. And finally (finally!) the RuRAD Team are grateful to the publicans who have advertised in "In The Sticks" over the years without whom publication would not have been possible. And a special award should go to Sally, Jean and Steve at the **Royal Oak**, Ockbrook who have advertised in every issue since paid advertising was introduced in May 2006. OK, that's it I think. Snug Dave.



### The Story Of RuRAD

Some 22 years ago, a small band of us started RuRAD and the newsletter "In the Sticks". It didn't start off as that, but we called ourselves Little Eaton CAMRA, but we had to change the name as CAMRA objected. So Rural Real Ale Drinkers was born. We started the newsletter because places outside Derby rarely got a mention. The popularity of the project grew with more people coming on board.

The newsletter started off with 2 sides of an A4 sheet edited by me with the help of my daughters as my computer skills were not very good (and still are not). After the early years, it was a struggle photocopying the newsletters in large numbers and also

financing the project - that was until we managed to get Richard Creighton (the **Leadmill** Brewer) to get involved. He very kindly financed the newsletter and helped get it printed at Ripley Printers until such time as we managed to finance it ourselves with adverts. We will be forever grateful to Richard for all his help.

Regular meeting places were the **Stables Bar** and the **Royal Oak** at Ockbrook, but after the very sad closure of the **Stables Bar**, the **Old Oak Inn** at Horsley Woodhouse became the new home, with licensee Tracy Creighton and her parents, Frances and Roger, naming the back bar the RuRAD bar, which was a nice gesture.

I passed on the editing baton to Billy One Mate and it then passed to Rodney You Plonker, who did a fantastic job, and did so for longer than anyone else. Then it was saved from folding first by Trevor Spencer, and latterly Snug Dave and I would like to say that they did a brilliant job in their individual ways and helped the newsletter get even better.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who got involved and made "In the Sticks" what it was (brilliant!) - it was very much appreciated. I would especially like to thank those who submitted news items and articles, the distributors and the editors - without you it would not have reached the heights that it did. **Charisma Bypass**.

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

Steve Cresswell, owner/landlord of the **Groovers Arms** in Ripley, has announced that he is retiring on 4th January. Steve posted the following message on his Facebook page on 13th November...

"So after nearly 32 years in the pub trade I have decided to hang up my bar towel and take my retirement. Over the years, I've had the pleasure of meeting lots of lovely folk, many becoming lifelong friends. We will be leaving our 2 great award winning pubs the Angels and Groovers Arms in the capable hands of our daughter Katy and son-in-law James. I will still be living in the converted Beehive and won't be too far away. I will still be in charge of the music and still be popping in for a pint on a regular basis. I'm sure I have left you some great memories over the years and I'm also sure there will be many more to come. Thank you for your continued support. I'm having a so-long farewell party on Saturday 4th January, 6pm till 12am, and all are welcome to join us. On a final note, many thanks must go to Lisa for encouraging me to follow my dream in the first place and keeping me on track. Love Groover xx"

## 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 & 2024  
Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail  
Winner 2019

The future of **Ashover Brewery** seems to be in some doubt but the details are not clear - financial problems have been hinted at. The brewery was founded in 2007 by Roy Shorrocks & Kim Beresford at the **Old Poets Corner** public house in Ashover, Derbyshire. The pub was taken over by **Titanic** brewery in 2019 and the following year, Kim & Roy decided it was time to enjoy retirement and handed the reins to local entrepreneur and publican David Neale. According to the Government register of companies, the status of Ashover Brewery is Active but with an "Active proposal to strike off".

An "active proposal to strike off" is a term used by Companies House, the official registrar of companies in the United Kingdom. It refers to the status of a company that has applied to be struck off the register and dissolved, but the process has not yet been completed.

Two stories doing the rounds in Heanor...

The sale of the **Redemption Ale House** is believed to be completed by mid-January, with 2 couples said to be the prospective new owners.

The landlord of the **Dead Man's Tankard** is now running the **Angry Bee**.

Amber Valley CAMRA's final meeting of the year is Thursday, 12th December, 8.00pm at the **Spotted Cow**, Holbrook. Nominations are also underway for the 2025 branch Pub Of

The Year (up to 12th December) followed by judging.

Contributors: Aron37, Charisma Bypass, Jamie Still, Snug Dave



## Beer Festivals

Not too many beer festivals in the list for December but since the newsletter will no longer be produced (boo-hoo, sob), a few of the forthcoming festivals in 2025 have been listed. For obvious reasons, confirmation of these events should be checked via Social Media next year.

This is advance notification that **Beestonia** brewery and Tap Room based at 5 Goodhill Court, Hallam Fields Road, Ilkeston (between Ilkeston Rugby Club and Hallam Fields Lock) are hoping to host a beer festival on 31st May 2025. They are planning to have an outside bar, music and food available as well as a selection of beers inside the tap room. More details will no doubt be posted via Social Media closer to the time.

## In The Papers

Various media outlets have reported that Shaun and Maxine Collinge have left the **Maltings** pub in York after 32 years behind the bar and the pub has been sold (or is currently for sale) and is closed (according to WhatPub). The pub is very popular with real ale drinkers and has been in the Good Beer Guide every year since 2006.

The Derby Telegraph (2nd November) reported that the **Fox & Hounds** in Coxbench was due to re-open under new management. The pub closed in May when the previous licensees decided against finally signing on the dotted line having taken over the pub in October the previous year. The new licensees are Kevin and Hannah Hiles and the pub re-opened on 23rd November with live music from Rosie & Glynn. **Hobgoblin Gold**, **Robinsons Trooper** and **Adnams Southwell Bitter** were on the bar.

Nottinghamshire Live (7th November) reported that the site currently occupied by the **Castle Rock Brewery** on Traffic Street, Nottingham (close to the Railway Station) has been put up for sale for £950k. It should be noted that it is not the brewery itself which is for sale.

According to a statement posted on the **Castle Rock** web-site, the land currently used by the brewery and the **Vat & Fiddle** pub next door is owned by three separate landlords, only one of whom wishes to sell at the present time. The leases on all three plots are only due to expire in March 2027 so the terms of the lease are secure until then.

As a consequence of this situation, **Castle Rock** are actively looking into new site options around Nottingham although they admit that it will be sorry to leave the site which has been its home for more than 25 years. As far as the **Vat & Fiddle** is concerned, following discussions with the landlord of the pub, **Castle Rock** are...

"...delighted to say that we expect a long and bright future for the pub. We are also hopeful about keeping the Old Cold Store and back garden, although that's still subject to ongoing discussions".

As an aside, Steve Westby, the chairman of Nottingham CAMRA said: "It sounds like they're looking to relocate and the important thing is that the city doesn't lose its brewery because they brew excellent beer and have highly regarded pubs". So it's a bit ironic that the **Vat & Fiddle** has been dropped from the 2025 Good Beer Guide for the first time since 2008. D'oh!

According to a report in Derbyshire Live (12th November), the **Butchers Arms** in Oakerthorpe is likely to be converted to housing. The planning application to Amber Valley Borough Council claims that the pub has already been closed for a number of years but WhatPub still seems to think that it's open. The business has been on the market since October 2024 but the response is reported as being very limited. And of course, the viability report paints a very gloomy picture regarding its future as a going concern.



## MARKET TAVERN

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SOUTH NORMANTON  
DERBYSHIRE DE55 2BP  
5 REAL ALES  
6 REAL CIDERS  
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According to a report in the Nottingham Post (20th November), Nottingham Castle will host a beer festival in April 2025, organised by a group of Nottinghamshire Breweries. The participants, as reported in the article are: **Black Iris**, **Blue Monkey**, **Castle Rock**, **The Grumpy Fish**, **Hollow Stone**, **Lenton Lane**, **Lincoln Green**, **Liquid Light**, **Neon Raptor**, **Nottingham Brewery**, **Shipstone's** and

**Sneinton Cider Company.** Called the Nottingham Independents' Castle Beer Festival, the new event will take place on Friday & Saturday, April 4th & 5th, starting at 5.00pm, with street food traders and live music as part of the event. Richard Neale, owner of **Shipstone's Beer Company**, said...

"They [Nottingham City Council] have been fantastic. They're really keen to make it a long-term project so we are not just talking about once, we're talking about developing it over the next couple of years and we're signing up to a long-term partnership."

Tickets are available from [gigantic.com](http://gigantic.com) priced at £10.00 (+£1.00 admin).



151 Peasehill, Ripley. Tel: 07510 431414

Selection of 9 real ales, 17 craft keg pub ciders & perries, many sourced from the south west and Herefordshire

Darts, Dominoes & Skittles on weekly

Quiz night Fridays plus card Bingo

Live music during the summer months plus regular vinyl nights featuring The Groover

## Out & About

For those readers who get inspiration from the **Out & About** reports, I can recommend (and have done so before) heading to the **Micropub Adventures** blog ([www.micropubadventures.co.uk](http://www.micropubadventures.co.uk)) which is well written and comes with lots of photos. In the meantime, here are two more reports from the ever reliable Chris P Duck.

## Around the Cotswolds, 31st May 2024 Cirencester, Lechlade & Burford

For this coach trip I was joined by the Krankies and we arrived around 10.45 in Cirencester. A ten minute walk to the market place area found the **Fleece** already open but being almost entirely covered in scaffolding we walked past it despite there being a distinctive black and white building behind the renovation works. This is I believe the southernmost outpost for **Thwaites** and we were surprised to find a local guest ale, **Corinium Ale Caesar**, which was very good - **Original Best Bitter** and **IPA** were the ales from **Thwaites**. Linked to a hotel it had plenty of old ladies taking tea but we had good feedback from the agreeable barman on **Thwaites** issues. We then walked on to the **GBG Hop Kettle**, a brewery owned micro-pub in a shopping mall with plenty of seating inside and out. The bar featured five **Hop Kettle** ales on cask and between us we sampled **Long Nights Irish Stout**, **Western Star Amber Ale** and **Jurupa Oaked American Brown** which were all well received. In here we met a fellow beer traveller and had plenty of chat with him and the enthusiastic barman. We

then moved on to the **GBG Twelve Bells** - just two cask ales available but our choice of **Tanners Box O' Frogs** was preferred to **Wye Valley Bitter** and very good indeed. We sat out in the impressive rear beer garden with almost certainly our last **Tanners** ale as they appear to have stopped brewing now. A brisk walk took us to the **GBG Marlborough Arms** which was fortunately adjacent to the bus pick-up point. Our new friend we had met at the **Hop Kettle** was already there and with limited time I quickly managed to sample **North Cotswold Windrush** (good flavour for a lower strength), **Wye Valley Wholesome Stout** and **Wantsum 1381** but no time for **Goff's White Knight** or **Bass**. There was good ale in the four pubs we visited, albeit briefly, but I suspect we would not have found much ale elsewhere in the attractive market town of Cirencester.

The bus then took us to Lechlade which is a much smaller town by the River Thames and I was not expecting much with no **GBG** entries there. However in the **Crown** the friendly barman provided my best drink of the day in the form of **Butcombe Original** with **Adam Henson's Rare Breed** also on from the same brewery. A very good quirky old pub which has an unused brewery to the rear, formerly **Halfpenny**. We then walked a short distance to the **Riverside** which is a rather commercial foody type place with uniformed staff. Situated by the fledgling River Thames it is a draw for families with a large outdoor seating area overlooking the river. Fortunately it was a fairly quiet Friday afternoon and they had a couple of reasonable ales - **3B** and **Wiltshire Gold** from **Arkells**. I nearly wore one of the ales when the barmaid caught it on a pump clip passing it across but my surprisingly quick reflex action avoided a soaking. The three other pubs here were more like old hotel bars in the Cotswolds tourist style so not visited, also due to lack of time.

**Pete and Tracey welcome you to**

## THE RAILWAY

**25 King Street, Belper**

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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

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Back to the bus for the last destination, arriving shortly after in Burford. Here there were quite a lot of similar pubs to Lechlade but most located on the long main road between tourist shops. Our first visit planned was the **GBG Golden Pheasant\*** but this had closed down, so around the corner we came to the **GBG Angel**. A historic pub operated by **Hook Norton**, I selected **Old Hooky** over **Off**

**The Hook** or **Hooky** and it was a very good drink. The **Royal Oak** is a similar establishment a few doors away and again offered three cask ales, this time from **Wadworth**. I was not tempted by **Henry's IPA** or **Horizon Gold** but went with **6X** which is one of my favourites and good quality again. Our last call for the day was the street corner **Cotswold Arms**, yet another similar old pub, this time featuring **Prescott's Chequered Flag** and my choice **Hill Climb**. We then raced back to the bus with seconds to spare as usual. Overall I found that most of the pubs visited were not individually memorable due to the similarity of being several hundred years old with low ceilings and flag floors but pleasant none the less - a plus point was that local breweries frequently featured. Cirencester being the larger town had more commercial facilities, whereas Lechlade and Burford were more tourist attractions and best visited during quiet periods. Beware of ale prices though as I recall three half pints costing £8.30 in one pub. **Chris P Duck**.

\*At the time of going to press, the still appears to be closed although this is given as "Temporary" on WhatPub.

*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

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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 Weekend in Bakewell, 26th Oct, 2024

On Saturday 26th October, I arrived in Bakewell for a three night stay in our regular cottage and drove to Over Haddon for lunch at the **Lathkil Hotel**. With comparatively reasonable prices in the Peak District for food and drink it also offers panoramic views from the windows or outside seating overlooking Lathkill Dale. The meal was good as was my **Welbeck Abbey Limelight** and, following a walk down into the dale, I returned for **Whim Hartington Bitter** with **Blue Monkey BG Sips** also available.

In the evening we walked into Bakewell for a return visit to the **Joiners Arms** micro-pub where we stayed much longer than expected due to the excellent performance of a female vocalist from Sheffield. During this time I reacquainted myself at the bar with the charismatic manager and consumed **Abbeydale Heathen**, **Temper Relacite**, **Marble Stout** and **Shiny 4Wood**, with **Peak Ales Chatsworth Blonde** not sampled.

A walk on Sunday at Longstone Edge and Middleton Moor saw a return stop at the

**Ashford Arms** in Ashford. This has recently re-opened after closure and refurbishment with a very smart interior as befits a boutique hotel. The ales were not as expensive as expected and included four casks featuring **Thornbridge Lord Marples** and **Longbow**, **Bradfield Farmers Blonde** and **TT Landlord**. Reasonable quality and friendly service with the food menu not too pricey either, so a good addition to the area.

Back in Bakewell during the evening we returned to the out of town **GBG Thornbridge Brewery Tap Room** for a pizza meal. Here I found their **Wild Swan** and **Brother Rabbit** much more to my taste than previous recalled experiences and also sampled some thirds of various keg beers. Walking back into the town we returned to the **Queens Arms** which is my favourite pub here with comfortable seating,

real fire, friendly staff, four changing ales and no food served. My ale choice here was **Storm Storm Dexter** with the others saved for the following day.

Monday was a walk in the Derwent Dams area, followed by a first visit in about 30 years to the **Yorkshire Bridge** on the outskirts of Bamford. I was expecting national ales but was pleasantly surprised to find **Bradfield Farmers Blonde** and **Farmers Ale**, **Acorn Barnsley Bitter** and **Abbeydale Moonshine** on the bar. My **Farmers Ale** was decent, enjoyed in a rustic pub, especially as mid-afternoon there were no diners present. The Old Fruit then instructed me to visit the cutlery museum at Hathersage so I dropped her off there and forked off up the road to the **Little John**, where again I had not been in this century. This well-worn hotel surprisingly

had all three cask ales from **Pheasantry** - namely **Lincoln Tank Ale**, **Pale Ale** and **Excitra**. My **Tank Ale** was OK but I was not having the latter as I am not keen on Citra and the name if pronounced differently sounds like a condom. Later on back in Bakewell we tried the **GBG Manners Hotel** but found only the three usual **Robinsons** ales on and with nobody offering service it was a good excuse to depart. How this place makes **GBG** status ahead of the **Queens Arms** or **Joiners Arms** is beyond me. We returned to the **Queens Arms** where I enjoyed the other cask ales - **Alter Ego Mr Brown**, **Stancill Blonde** and **Whim WGV** before I went solo for a final drink at the **Joiners Arms**. With the manager absent it was less atmospheric but I still had a decent **Brass Castle Draft** to finish off the weekend. **Chris P Duck**.

### Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

- 28th Nov-1st Dec. Burton Bridge Winter Beer Festival. 24 Bridge Street, Burton-on-Trent. 20 ales on stillage + bar  
 5th-8th Dec. The Smithfield Nano Christmas Crackers Nano Brewery Tap Takeover. Meadow Lane, Derby. 20+ ales  
 14th Dec. Christmas (Tickers Ball) Festival. The Fat Cat, 23 Alma Street, Sheffield. 0114 2494801  
 14th-17th Dec. Welcome To The Darkside V Imperial Stout Festival. Tom Said Micropub, Well Street, Ripley

- 3rd-7th Dec. 40th Pigs Ear Beer Festival. The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, Hackney, London. 175 ales  
 4th-8th Dec. The Billericay Brewery Winter Beer Festival. 52 Chapel Street, Billericay, Essex. 25+ ales  
 5th-8th Dec. Back in Black Beer Festival. Victorian Craft Beer Café, 18-22 Powell Street, Halifax  
 14th Dec. Haddenham Winterfest Beer Festival. Tibbs Road, Pegasus Way, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire


### 2025

- 16th-18th Jan. 35th Exeter Festival of Winter Ales. Exeter Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter. 69 ales, 12 ciders  
 29th Jan-1st Feb. 16th Colchester Winter Beer Festival. Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, Colchester  
 7th-8th Feb. 15th Ely Beer Festival, (Provisional). The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire. 75 ales, 20 ciders  
 12th-15th Feb. GBBF Winter Beer Festival. Magna Science Adventure Centre, Templeborough, Rotherham, South York's  
 13th-15th Feb. Liverpool Beer Festival. Lutyens Crypt, Metropolitan Cathedral, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool  
 15th Feb. Devizes Festival of Winter Ales. Devizes Corn Exchange, Devizes, Wiltshire  
 21st-22nd Feb. Boston Spa Beer Festival. Boston Spa Village Hall, Boston Spa, Wetherby  
 27th Feb-1st Mar. 37th Wigan Beer Festival. Robin Park Sports Centre, Loire Drive, Wigan  
 6th-8th Mar. 48th Loughborough Beer Festival. Polish Club, True Lovers Walk (off William Street), Loughborough. 55 ales  
 27th-29th Mar. Burton Beer Festival. Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent. 180+ ales, cider/perry & bottled  
 4th-5th Apr. Castle Beer Festival. Nottingham Castle, Lenton Road, Nottingham. Local Breweries. £10 Admission


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

*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.



Tash & Andy welcome you to the  
**Dead Poets Inn**  
 38 Chapel Street, Holbrook - (01332) 780301  
 \*\* Amber Valley CAMRA POTY 2024 \*\*  
 Award Winning Ale & Cider House  
 8 traditional ales +  
 up to 16 traditional ciders  
 Food served:  
 Tue-Thur 12.00-14.00  
 Fri-Sun, 12.00-16.00



**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

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

**Disclaimer:** The RuRAD Team would like to wish all its readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
 However, this festive greeting comes with no guarantees of joy or goodwill to all men and they cannot be held responsible  
 in the event of excessive eggnog consumption or inappropriate behaviour involving mistletoe.