



RURAD

"In the Sticks"

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and BOTTLE BROOK
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Producers of Traditional
Hand Crafted Real Ales.

In the Sticks

DECEMBER 2018

Free Copy

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 dedpoet702@yahoo.co.uk

Or for current & previous issues log on to <http://www.mansfield.camra.org.uk>

Well, another year almost gone, where did it go? Wherever it went, In the Sticks has continued to appear throughout, so here's your December edition - enjoy. Ed

Beer and Pub News

The Inkpot micropub in Rainworth opened about 6 weeks ago. It is on Kirklington Road close to Rainworth Miners Welfare football ground. It is open from 6pm Thursday, 2pm Friday and 1200 on Saturday and Sunday. **Gordon Cleugh**

THE SMITHFIELD

Meadow Road, Derby DE1
2BH Tel: 01332 986601
Derby CAMRA Pub
of the Year 2018

Tickers Paradise, 8 ever-changing ales from right across the UK.

Fantastic beer garden right next to the river.

Discount Mondays - selected ales £2.50 a pint.

On Sunday October 28th I caled at the Pick & Davy, the new Eastwood micropub which is at 237A Nottingham Road, although the entrance is on Dovecote Road. It's a bright, warm room with a church pew and a few tables and a mining theme. There's a ground floor cellar which can be seen through a glass door behind the bar, where there are 6 real ales, with Oakham JHB on permanently. The other beers were Blue Monkey Infinity, Oakham Citra, Grasshopper Devil's Horse, Castle Rock Elsie Mo and Black Iris Endless Summer, all at £3.00a pint and stunning quality. The pub is open daily from 12 - 10 and well worth a visit. **The Didler**

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
Mon to Wed 4 - 11, Thu & Fri 3
- 11

Sat 12 - 11, Sun 12 - 10.30
Serving a wide selection of
beers from BOTTLE BROOK
and LEADMILL plus Guest
Beers
RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

The **Red Lion**, Riddings is now serving 3 changing guest beers. **ChrispDuck**

The **Bulls Head**, Belper Lane End, should be open now as it was scheduled to do so on Now 17th. **Bald Eagle**

A new micropub called the Junction has opened in Stretton. **S Lawton**

The Meet the Brewer nights at the **Red Lion** in Ripley continue to prove popular, with the next one on December 3rd featuring Nottingham Brewery, while Welbeck Abbey will be appearing on January 7th. **Tweedle Dee**

Heanor's latest micropub is due to open soon. Situated on Ray Street and named the **Crooked Cask** the pub will have four handpumps and will also have real cider available.

The **Dead Poets Inn** at Holbrook is now under new management, with Brunswick landlord Alan Pickersgill taking over. Charisma called on the 19th and found the pub in excellent order. He was well impressed with the selection on the bar which consisted of citra, bass & abbots from the jug, Constellation from Aurora, Ruby from Silver St, Blue Bird from Lenton Lane, Deer Stalker & Buster IPA from Bowland.

The **Corner Pin** at Westwood appears to be closed as there were no lights on nor any sign of life when Charisma passed by the other day.

The **Honeypot** is now closed Monday - Wednesday, opening on Thursday and Friday from 4-10, Saturday 2-10 and Sunday 12-8. Ed

Amber Valley CAMRA Update

No meetings this month, but trips to Sheffield (Dec 8th) and Nottingham (Dec 28th) are planned - see the Branch Facebook site for details.

The Branch needs people to fill the roles of **Pubs Officer**, **Social Secretary** and **Beer Festival Chairman** as those occupying these roles are standing down in 2019. Please contact Chairman Chris Rogers if you are interested

Ashbourne's first micropub The Queens Vaults opened its doors on Friday 23rd November at 6pm, located at 6 The Market place Ashbourne which is just down from the town hall where the beer festival is held. The licenses behind this latest venture are Walter Scott and George Lambert who are famed for opening Derby's first micropub The Little Chester Ale House and also The Last Post. Even though there are still some finishing touches to be done to the pub they managed to open on time and when I arrived there was a good crowd in attendance. There are four wickets on the bar with three dispensing ale on this occasion which were Muirhouse Summit Hoppy 4.0%, Nutbrook Banter 4.5% & Wentwell Barrel Organ Blues 4.5% which had been brewed at Nutbrook until they find a site for their own new brewery. It is looking like another micropub in Derby will be opening soon, The Creaky Floorboard at 179 Kedleston Road now has signage up in the window so an opening before Christmas is looking very likely. **Sooty**



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Evening Meals:
Mon to Sat 6.00 – 8.30

Supporting local beer festivals

On Thursday 25th October I called into the Hollybush at Makeney, to see what the beer festival had to offer. There was a selection of some 20 ales on the festival bar, and a good selection on the main bar of a further 6 or 7 beers on offer, this was complemented by a good choice of ciders. My first choice was Gambler from Bristol beer factory, this was quickly followed by Lakeland Gold from Hawkshead, next from Hurricane Jack from Fynne brewery. The Verde from Thornbridge, this was followed by A Young Jeff Goldblum from black lodge, which I thought was the best light beer, but the best beer of the festival in my opinion was Fudge Brownie from North Riding at 7.4%, there was just enough time to squeeze in a Sarah Hughes, before leaving well pleased.

At the end of October I found myself at the dark v light beer festival at the **Furnace** in Derby. There was a selection of 12 dark beers and some 8 light beers, which I found a bit of a surprise, as it's normally the other way round. I first started with mxpa from Box Special at 4.5%, Fading Light from Fynne ales was next at 5.0%, City of Gold from Tiny Rebel at 5.5% was my final beer. I returned the next day to try the dark beers which were Tonkoko Milk Stout from Brew York & The Chocolate Milk Stout from Shiny which I have to say was very impressive, well worth the return visit.

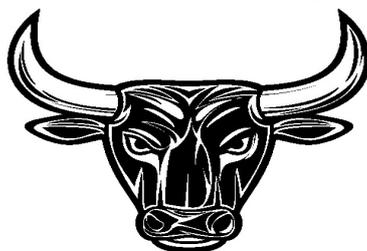
Between the 15th & 16th of November I was lucky enough to have a choice of 2 beer festivals, on Thursday I called into the Pot Hole at Allestree for their 1st anniversary festival. They had a choice of 18 beers, I had the buzooka Joe 4.5% from Hemlock followed by the Wild Cat from Fat Cat Brewing at 5.0%, the Driftwoods Spars JSB at 5.2% was my final beer of the day, but I returned the day after to sample the other Driftwood Spars beer Alfies Revenge at 6.5%, which was excellent.

Charisma

Also on Friday I called into the Arkwrights beer festival in Belper, where I decided to sample the beers in thirds. I started with the 2 Driftwood Spars beers the Spares Pale & the Blue Hills followed by the Pub Tropicana from Brewshed, my next selection of 3 thirds were Brew Foundations Laughing water & First Light together with Republic of Liverpool's Northern Brewhouse My Arse, all were in good nick and the best beer I sampled was the Brewshed beer. **Charisma**

South Yorkshire trip

South Yorkshire was the destination for the Old Fowl and myself on Saturday Nov 17th namely Barnsley and then Penistone for their beer festival. So it was the train to Sheffield where a change was required to continue our journey to Barnsley, due to the continuing weekend strike action by Northern trains. After a short wait we travelled northwards to Barnsley, and the first port of call was Wetherspoons for breakfast, there are 2 in Barnsley The Silkstone Inn being the better of the two in my opinion. Beer wise, I tried Great Newsome Plotters gather 4.2 before we left. Next we visited the first of two micropubs in Barnsley, The Topsy Cow is relatively new and is accessed via a flight of steps next to the Premier Inn, but unfortunately they had had a water leak the day before and were unable to open. Acorn brewery's pub The No7 was our next port of call, this is located on Market Hill close to the Lloyds No1 Spoons, they offer a selection of their own beers plus guests, and I tried Loxley Wisewood Five 3.9 the Old Fowl's choice was Acorn Dutchess IPA 5.0 both were in good nick. Barnsley's 2nd micropub the Arcade Alehouse is just across the road down an arcade, this is Barnsley Camra pub of the year 2018 and it is well deserved, it is a smart and well laid out pub serving 6 quality real ales and very welcoming, a Mallinsons Pilsner Cascade Centennial 4.4 and Two Roses Chinook 4.0 were sampled here. The limited train service to Penistone beckoned just after 1pm so it was back to the station for the short forward journey, the Penistone beer festival was being held at The White Heart pub which is about a 15 min walk from the station. This historic building has been transformed into a modern friendly bar and contemporary restaurant with a recently opened function room which is where the beer festival was being held. They also have their own brewery on site called the Penistone Brewers



BLACK BULLS HEAD

2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate,
Belper, Derbyshire
DE56 0SF

Ltd and there were five on offer to try, Ambers Brew 4.3, Back Oil Tap 4.9, Praline Porter 4.9 (a Bold Eagle beer), Damson Blonde 4.7 & Queen Bee 4.7, all were tried and all were drinkable. Beers from Don Valley, Little Critters, Rat, Acorn, Wold Top, Great Heck, Severn Brewing, Two Roses, Wantsum, Welbeck Abbey & Blue Bee were also available on a purpose built long bar with 29 handpulls. Although the pub has been modernised inside to cater for dinners and to hold functions ect it is still doing its bit to support real ale with its brewery and beer festivals. The last train of the day was at 1730 so back to the station after an enjoyable few hours imbibing, another change at Barnsley and Sheffield where there was just time to call in at the Tap for a Thornbridge Tapit 5.0 and a Tapped Sheaf Street Pale 4.5. **Sooty**

The Tip Inn

Real Ale Bar

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Bass and 5 constantly
changing guest ales available
plus a good selection of
ciders and perries.

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 4 - 10
Saturday & Sunday 12 - 10

Poolo Visit 26th Oct - 1st Nov

During the week staying at **Poolo** I visited all of the pubs in the old town, some of which would not be revisited if there again. My first call was at **Drift**, a small rustic bar with a friendly bar manager. He only had one cask ale, Eight Arch Session IPA, which was also available on keg along with 2 others and was comparable in taste. Whilst on the quayside we tried the **GBG Poolo Arms** and sampled Flack Manor ale for the only time. This (Double Drop) was ok with their Wolfie also on alongside Dorset Jurassic and St Austell Proper Job. Not particularly welcoming on my visit and more interested in foodie patrons. We ate at the JDW **Quay** nearby for their Fish Friday but it was a very poor ale selection with only Dorset Jurassic Dark and Hawkshead Pale of any interest, although the fish and Jurassic were decent. After this we left the water and headed inland to the **GBG Brewhouse** which proved both welcoming and a better beer selection with samplers offered. The Milk Street Same Again was excellent with others being Acorn Barnsley Bitter & Gorluka plus Trefforest LOL. Well recommended for a further visit. I saw a notice for Poolo Beer Festival but it concluded the following day, was a bus ride

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away from the town and the initial entry ticket was £10 each which included just one pint plus a glass and a programme; consequently we did not bother. The first evening concluded at the **Rope & Anchor** which is a Wadworth's house with 4 of their ales. My 6X was ok and we stayed a while to listen to the singing duo who were quite good. The next day we visited Brownsea Island via boat on the penultimate day of their season but it was very cold and on return we headed for some warmth in the **Lord Nelson** which was the first of several Hall & Woodhouse pubs. 3 of their Badger beers were on and my Red Ramble was good. I then realised to my surprise that they had interesting guest ales around the other side. The bar staff offered samples and I had Buffy's Mucky Duck ahead of Gadd's She Sells Sea Shells, partially because I could not say the latter. Also on was Piddle Bent Copper and it would have been rude to not have the excellent Orkney Skull Splitter 8.5% which was straight from the cask on the bar. Forced to leave by an early evening Halloween private party, we tried another H&W pub along the quay, the **Portsmouth Hoy** which had failed to offer adequate bar service the previous evening. I thought I would try the Badger Best but not one of my best decisions, although the place itself is pleasant. The next evening we had a pizza meal at the **Stable** where we had a platter of 5 ciders from their vast range before I sampled Eight Arch Square Logic, this being their only cask ale. I then made a solo trip to the **Antelope Hotel**, which despite being a GK pub was ok and I again had a reasonable Jurassic with the usual GK ales also featuring Spooked Hen. Next door at the **Kings Arms** which is another H&W place, I found this pretty unwelcoming and had a very quick Fursty Ferret. Later on the Old Fruit and I tried the **Brewhouse & Kitchen** and as expected found their 4 regular offerings to be routine as was the created environment. Next day we tried the former **GBG King Charles** with a very interesting dated interior and several local darts and pool matches taking place. The Sharps Sea Fury was very good which was just as well with Doobar and Landlord as the other options

On to the Fullers owned **Blue Boar** with ESB selected ahead of Seafarer or London Pride and served by a miserable barman. The **Queen Mary** is on the main road to the boatyard and close to our accommodation and proved a friendly locals pub with the sole beer being a superb Palmers IPA as the Dorset Gold had run out. Next day at the **Slipway Bar**, which is in the enormous RNLI complex of modern buildings, Ringwood (Marston's) ales were encountered for the first time and the Lifeboat Ale was predictably bland. Nevertheless it was great to sit in palatial settings overlooking the vast waters of Poole Harbour in the sunshine and to support a deserving charity. There is also a decent restaurant downstairs which we did not have the opportunity to test out. We also visited the **George** on the way to the railway station, another Marston's place where the Razorback was no better than the previous in this rather battered old boozery. After another train trip the following day we revisited the **Queen Mary** for more of the splendid Palmers IPA and to watch DCFC v Chelsea.

The Angels

29 Market Place,
Belper DE56 1FZ

Now open serving a
selection of real ales
from the barrel and a
selection of ciders

Opening hours:
Thursday to Sunday 12 – 10
(Also bank holidays)

. This is the only outlet for Palmers in the area. On our last evening I foolishly decided to visit the remaining town pubs after yet another train trip and stopped for a meal in the Wetherspoons, the **Lord Wimborne**. Another poor selection though with a moderate Blindman's Funny Farm chosen. It was to get worse with the **Foundry Arms** slightly better than the **Butler & Hops**. I then completed the hat-trick of Razorbacks in the **Angel** which is more of a restaurant before seeing no cask ale at the **Crown** and as if this was not bad enough an Abbot at the **GK Jolly Sailor** on the quayside road. The latter was only used because the music was too loud in the Lord Nelson but at least concluded the survey of Poole pubs. I thought about 8 of these were worthy, 3 or 4 possibly better on a return visit but about 10 fairly routine or worse. Whilst out in the car we twice visited **Wareham** which was I believe the old county town and a premier port. The **Duke of Wellington** was a popular old pub with 5 cask ales, the most interesting being Barnet High Speed, Dead Brewers X Mild and Isle of Purbeck Solar Power. The former was very good and was subsequently encountered elsewhere several times. The **GBG Kings Arms** featured a most

excellent Exmoor Stag with Exmoor Ale, Hogsback TEA, Bath Gem and Hobgoblin in support. This was another very old pub with several small drinking areas but the other GBG pub, the Horse & Groom, was not open on our visit. There were 3 other decent looking pubs down by the waterside quay so this looks a good venue for ale for another time.

Our first train trip was an evening visit to seek out micropubs in the **Parkstone** area between Poole and Bournemouth. Needing some food we called at the **Cow** which is a GK eatery. With good food and pleasant décor it was disappointing to send back the GK Abbot which was willingly replaced with Landlord albeit being not much better. A 10 minute walk took us to our first target, the **GBG Bermuda Triangle**, which was surprising as I expected to get lost there. Whilst being an atmospheric building with a boat hoisted against the roof I found the staff to be disinterested and the beer range of Sea Fury, Dark Star Pale and Hopback Empire Stout disappointing.

It appears to be a bit pretentious and the former ale was ok but we did not stay long here. Almost straight across the road from this is the **Butcher's Dog** which is a bit more down to earth and featured just 2 cask ales plus 14 kegs. I preferred it here and both of the ales were ok but not really to my taste - Five Points Green Hop Fuggles and Siren Undercurrent. It always seems that keg ale bars choose to have dry hopped ales when served as cask. We also tried a keg sour beer which caused the Old Fruit to make a face described as a combination of the worst of Teresa May, Angela Merkel and Nicola Sturgeon which is formidable indeed. A very long walk to the next place, the fairly recent **Barking Cat Alehouse**; this being by far the friendliest visited here. Very good ales and selection with Cerne Abbas Community Hop Brew, Cotleigh Dutch Courage and Barnet High Speed sampled.
ChrisPduck

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Live music every weekend
3 beer festivals a year

Beer Festival Diary - near and not so near

29th Nov-1st Dec Dudley Winter Ales Festival, Dudley Town Hall, St James Road, Dudley 70+ Ales Cider/Wine
29th Nov-2nd Dec Old Moseley Arms Beer Festival, 53 Tindal St, Balsall Heath, Birmingham
29th Nov-2nd Dec Shakespears Beer Festival, 146-148 Gibralter Street, Sheffield 30+ Ales
30th Nov-2nd Dec Clarendon Park Beer Festival, Conservative Club, Queens Road, Leicester Cask, Key Keg & Gin
30th Nov-1st Dec Beerheadz Nottingham 1st Birthday Celebration
30th Nov-2nd Dec Sir John Borlase Warren Winter Beer Festival, 1 Ilkeston Road Nottingham, 10 Extra Ales
21st-22nd Dec Thornbridge Tap Takeover @ The Dog Inn, 5 Lichfield Street, Burton-on-Trent Cask & Keg

28th Nov-2nd Dec Dove Street Inn Beer Festival, 76 St Helens Street, Ipswich, 60+ Ales
1st-2nd Dec Humpty Dumpty Brewery Open Weekend, Reedham, Norfolk
4th-8th Dec 35th Pigs Ear Beer Festival, The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Rd, Hackney, London 230 Ales, Cider, Foreign
5th-8th Dec Woolpack Beer Festival, 23 Mildmay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, 20 Festive Ales
6th-9th Dec 23rd Suddaby's Winter Beer Festival, 12 Wheelgate, Malton, North York's 26 Ales 4 Cider's
6th-9th Dec Church End Real Ale & Gin Festival, Church End Brewery Tap, Ridge Lane, nr Nuneaton 30 Ales 30 Gins
8th Dec Brentwood Brewery Xmas Beer Fest, Calcott Hall Farm, Ongar Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Essex 10 Ales
21st-22nd Dec Portsmouth Beer Festival, Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth
21st-24th Dec Green Duck Brewery Winter Beer Festival, Badelynde Bar, Unit 13 Rufford, Road, Stourbridge 30+ Ales
26th Dec-1st Jan Cricketers Arms Winter Beer Festival, 64 Peter Street, St Helens, Merseyside

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS, AND ESPECIALLY TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS - WITHOUT YOU THE CONTINUING PUBLICATION OF THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. WE THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH.

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

Well that's all for this issue folks however if you have any info or news which could be included in a subsequent issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07891 365887 or Exadman (Editor) at dedpoet702@yahoo.co.uk by the 23rd of the month.

. Other contributors and helpers for this issue of "In the Sticks" (not credited elsewhere) Nora Harper, Billy One Mate

April and the team welcome you to the
THORN TREE INN
21 Chesterfield Road, Belper
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Opening times: 4-11 Mon –
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