

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 snugdave@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/newsletters) along with digital copies of other local beercentric publications.

First of all, apologies go out to readers of the printed copy of "In The Sticks" for the missing characters in the December 2021 issue, with Ws and Fs being particular casualties. It is not at all clear hat the uck happened.

Angels Micro Pub

29 Market Place Belper DE56 1FZ

Serving up to nine (or more) real ales from the barrel and a similar number of ciders & perries

Amber Valley CAMRA Cider POTY Winner 2020 Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail Winner 2019

Beer and Pub News

The RuRAD team would like to offer belated condolences to the family and friends of Beau O'Dowd, co-founder and brewer at Grasshopper Brewery of Langley Mill who was killed in a motor accident on 15th September. Beau and his team had established an excellent reputation for their cask ales which were to be found across the Derby and Nottingham area. The future of the brewery has not yet been decided.

The Coach & Horses in Horsley has been taking professional advice from an experienced cellar manager in order to offer a wider range of cask ales to their customers. When I called in (for a very nice lunch) there was Pedigree, Bass, Purity Gold & Mad Goose and Adnams Ghost Ship on the bar. They organised a Real Ale Night on 8th December with prices pegged at £3.00 a pint and hope

JANUARY 2022

to repeat this event in the future. Snug Dave

The **Lockkeepers Rest** in Sawley, kept by Paul & Katie Mason, will be closed for the whole of January and will re-open on the 4th February (2.00 to 10.00). **Trigger**.



The former Rowells haberdashery shop in Long Eaton finally opened it's doors as the Rowells Drinking Emporium on Wednesday 15th December. First impressions will be reported in the next issue of "In The Sticks".

On a recent visit to York Chambers in Long Eaton, G-Rhod found the number of cask ales on offer back up to pre-lockdown numbers: Stancill Barnsley Bitter (3.6%), Blue Monkey Primate (4.0%), Goffs Black Knight (5.3%), Goffs White Knight (4.7%), Goffs Cheltenham Gold (4.5%), Church End Brewers Droop (3.6%), Flagstaff Cilla (4.3%) plus Stancill Pilsner Lager (5.0%) and at least 6 ciders. Most ales were priced at £3.40 with a premium being charged for those with an ABV of 5.0% and over. They are currently open from 12.00 every day (closed on Mondays).

He also visited the **Copper Cogs** café bar which usually has two beers on hand-pump, one of which was **Adnams Ghost Ship** (4.5%, £3.65). Also that the **Bird Hide** micro-pub, at the top of Attenborough Lane is offering up to 10 ever-changing beers, listed on their Facebook page.

And in case it's not widely known, Castle Rock no longer take CAMRA vouchers or offer a discount to CAMRA members but are now running their own scheme. **G-Rhod**.

The Amber Valley Cider POTY has been

Free Copy

awarded to the **Beehive** (Ripley) with the **Dead Poets** (Holbrook) and **Angels** micro-pub (Belper) in 2nd and 3rd place. Congratulations go out to all concerned.

Contributors: Charisma Bypass, G-Rhod, Snug Dave, Trigger

Beer Festival News

20th to 23rd January 2022, Dark Side of the Room (part 1) is a dark & delicious beer festival with beers ranging from 4.9% flavoured porters to a 12.0% imperial stout and lots in between. To be held at **Angels** micro-pub in Belper.

This is advance notice of the Loughborough & Leicestershire CAMRA 45th beer festival to be held from 3rd to 5th March at the Polish Club, Loughborough LE11 3DB. More than 60 real ales, ciders and craft beers are promised.

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

In The Press

According to an article which appeared in the Derby Telegraph on 2nd December, the Old Bell Inn on Sadlergate, Derby is up for sale. Paul Hurst has owned the property since 2012 and has been responsible for the extensive refurbishment that the property has undergone. The asking price is in the region of £1.5m and the sale is being handled by Christie & Co.

It was reported in the Derby Telegraph on 15th November that plans are afoot by owners Heineken Star Pubs & Bars to re-open the Corner Pin, Chellaston and the Dog & Moon on Sadlergate. The latter will become a craft beer bar and revert to its former name of the Shakespeare. The Corner Pin is also to be renamed the Chellaston Arms. Mind you, on

23rd May 2019, the Derby Telegraph reported that the Corner Pin was to be taken over by Derby Brewing and renamed the Cruck & Barrel. It was also reported that the Corner Pin was "well-loved" but clearly not so much by Derby Brewing.

These and other stories can be found on the "In The Papers" page of the RuRAD web-site (www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad).



Out & About

A slightly short month for news and beer festivals which allows more space for travellers tales. I hope you enjoy reading them. To start, the second part of a visit to Norwich

Norwich, Sept 2021: Day 2

The following day, after a good night's sleep, we decided to walk into Norwich, keeping as close to the River Wensum as we could. The plan was to explore the pubs on the north side of the city but it's a bit before opening time so we detour into the Cathedral where we get a chance to see Dippy the Diplodocus "On Tour". On the dot of 12.00, we went to the Wig & Pen to start our tour. As a legacy of the Covid restrictions and because it was a sunny (if somewhat windy) day, they were only serving outside and payment had to be by card! We were told the list of beers which were (I think) two from Woodforde's (Gold & Wherry), Panther Black Panther and Hare Today from Star Gazer-Norfolk Brewhouse which (I believe) we were told is brewed for the pub. The staff were friendly enough but it was too chilly to linger outside so after one pint we moved on to the Ribs Of Beef a couple of hundred metres away. We were made very welcome and had a selection of 7 cask ales to choose from: Adnams, Ampersand, Gorgeous, Oakham, Wolf, Thornbridge and Woodforde's. Pricing was based on ABV ranging from £3.20 for Wolf Golden Jackal (3.7%) to £4.50 for Jaipur (5.9%).

We then moved on to the Artichoke which was something of a disappointment. There were 3 ales on the bar (although a fourth had just gone) from Hammerton, Nene Valley and Golden Valley (who own the pub). The building itself is architecturally interesting

but the parquet flooring and wooden tables and chairs gave it the feel of a 6th form Common Room, Also, they were still operating a system of table service, masked staff and card payments only. The Duke Of Wellington, which is where we called at next, was much more to our taste - another of those cornerplot pubs set in a residential area. Plus a friendly welcome and 12 cask ales to choose from: Wolf (x3), Oakham (x3), Newby Wyke, Mad Squirrel, Green Jack, Titanic, Mr Winter's and Howling Hops. It's a big open pub with booths around the perimeter plus a rather beautiful courtyard/garden at the rear. Nice toilets too! So we stopped for two drinks which we were probably going to pay for later!

Only a short walk away was the Rosebery (formerly the Duke Of Rosebery) which is a fine, "stylishly refurbished" (WhatPub) Victorian pub with a choice of 5 beers from Mr Winter's, Wild Card, Moon Gazer, Lacons and Three Blind Mice. The barman was very chatty and keen to make us welcome. Checking Facebook later, it seems that the current licensees only took over in August 2020 and they then had to close only a few months later until July this year. Another five minute walk brought us to the (Fat Cat) Brewery Tap which, as expected, offered an extensive range of cask ales (14), kegs and ciders. Although no longer owned by the Fat Cat Brewery Group, it still has close ties with them and features many of their ales. It's a large airy space with a lot of outdoor seating as well. Like other pubs we visited in the city, they were still using perspex screens on the bar and payment was by card only.

Meadow Road, Derby, DE1 2BH Tel: 01332 986601 Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021 South Derbyshire Pub of the Year 2019 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

The last two pubs of the day were the **Leopard** and the **Plasterers Arms**. The first was very Covid secure (masks & table service) but friendly and welcoming as all the pubs in Norwich have been. There were 4 ales on the board from **Lacons**, **Almasty**, **Triple Point** and **Mr Winter's** and were served in rather unusual glasses although we only had a swift half. It looks as if both of these pubs had taken advantage of the lockdown to refurbish the interiors with wooden flooring and modern paint colours to the fore. The Plasterers Arms also had 4 ales on offer from

Moon Gazer, Howling Hops, Gorgeous and Mr Winter's. By this time, it was starting to get dark and neither of us could face the walk or even the bus back to the hotel. So a taxi was called - very efficient I must say and we were quickly whisked back to our lodgings for another delicious carvery dinner. Snug Dave.

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

Melbourne Re-Visited

On Tuesday 12th October I used the Arriva bus from Derby to get back to Melbourne following my recent brief visit. We alighted at Kings Newton by the former Pack Horse pub and walked along to the Hardinge Arms just before the advertised 12.00 opening time. A sign outside stated 12.00 opening for food so we hung around for a few minutes before enquiring via a reluctant to speak kitchen staff member who said he thought it opened around 4.00pm. Why pub managers cannot communicate correct opening times for their own premises is hard to understand as pubs struggle to regain custom. Very unimpressed with this, so we walked about 20 minutes into Melbourne and into the Spirit Vaults. The same three regular Morgan Brew Masters ales as on my previous visit were all well received, the barman was keen to chat and we duly returned later on for the 5.1% Liv's Best which generously gives all proceeds from the sales to a worthy local charitable

We then moved close by to Stable Ales, which is a bottle shop but with 5 ales and a cider served on keg lines. Located in a craft village complex near Melbourne Hall, we received enthusiastic service with samples offered, and noted a wide range of bottled and canned ales and ciders from the UK and abroad. There were also an enormous number of different styles of glass in which to partake at not too expensive prices for these types of drinks. The beers we had were Porterhouse Bitter and Kernel Pale. Our next call was at Harpur's, owned by the group incorporating Boot Beers. The bar held Boot Clodhopper & Bitter plus Bass - we plumped for the Bitter which was unimpressive and probably past its best. Fairly uninspiring here on a midweek afternoon and is probably a different pub when the weekenders arrive. Across the road to the Melbourne Inn where,

with Bass again, TT Landlord & Boltmaker, we predictably went for the latter which was OK. Another routine pub for the weekend masses but a nice garden to the rear, albeit too cold for our visit.

Next a walk to the White Swan which we had earlier passed before opening time. I had visited the main room several years back and was not impressed then but on this visit we went in the small snug bar which may date from c1450 and found the landlord to be agreeable, as were the few locals present. Whilst he only stocks Landlord and Bass (again) we did find the Bass to be one of the best drinks of the day. Following our return to the Spirit Vaults the GBG Chip & Pin micro-pub had now opened and offered Rudgate Ruby Mild, Hook Norton Old Hooky and Old Sawley Little Jack. This always has table service as there is no bar and we had the latter ale which was pretty good but it will not be GBG next year as it has recently changed ownership. After leaving here we could not find the bus stop initially, then when we did, we discovered that the bus was diverted due to the closure of some streets for the funfair that was just starting. It was not clear where the diversion went so we walked back towards Derby, eventually finding the correct stop. With time to spare we went into the nearby Royal British Legion which was better than expected with a choice of London Pride, Abbot and Landlord. The ale quality was better than some we had experienced earlier so a decent end to our day out after a disappointing start. On returning to Derby we experienced the current pub attendance decline at first hand with two bar staff serving just one customer in the Tap. Chris P Duck.

BEEHIVE

151 Peasehill, Ripley Tel: 07510 431414

Selection of 3 real ales at the Beehive and 6 real ales at the Honey Pot as well as various ciders and perrys

Darts, Dominoes and Skittles on weekly

Quiz night Fridays plus card bingo

Everyone welcome

The Road Less Travelled

Having had this pub on my "must visit" list for some time, I finally travelled out to visit the Yew Tree in Cauldon (off the A523 between Ashbourne and Leek) on the last Saturday in October. This pub is justifiably renowned for its Old Curiosity Shop atmosphere as every room is crammed with antiques, collectables and bric-a-brac of all kinds. There are spaces that are so full that there isn't actually any room to sit. But it's quite spacious inside and the landlord made me very welcome. As did

the dog in a very barky sort of way (but fortunately not a bitey way). The pint of Burton Bridge Bitter I had was excellent, as was the pork pie. They also serve a limited range of meals and snacks depending on what's available locally, and host regular live music events in a large marquee in the grounds. And if you hear a scrabbling noise in the corner, it's probably Colin the tortoise making a bid for freedom.

I then travelled on to the Black Lion between Consall and Ipstones (even more in the middle of nowhere than the Yew Tree) which is a bit over 11 miles away - but less than 5 if you were a crow. The roads to it become ever narrower and more potholed until it's difficult to believe that there will be a pub at the end of it. What there is is a car park and you have to walk the extra 100 metres or so to the pub, crossing the Churnet River, Caldon Canal and the Churnet Valley Railway along the way. The pub is a red brick, two-roomed building which has a good reputation for food. There were four cask ales on the bar when I visited from Peakstones Rock, Box Steam and Consall Forge (x2). As mentioned, the Churnet Valley Railway passes the front door and if you are visiting on the week-end, you will see a steam-hauled train pass through - it sounds its whistle as it approaches so you can't miss it. The reason I "found" this pub is because I joined the Jedi on a trip between Froghall and Ipstones a few weeks back. Snug Dave.



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

Monday - Thursday: 4.00 - 10.00 Friday: 2.00 - 11.00 Saturday: 12.00 - 11.00 Sunday: 12.00 - 10.00

Keighley-Saltaire-Shipley, 6th Dec

I caught the packed out 9.36am train from Langley Mill to Leeds which got busier at each stop and I soon found out it was mostly football fans heading to Doncaster to watch Mansfield in the FA Cup! [Mansfield won 3-2]. From Leeds I soon got my connection to Keighley and arrived just as the heavens opened. My first stop was to be the Boltmakers Arms but a sign outside announced new December opening hours from today: 1.00pm instead of 12.00 (shock, horror) so a big setback to the day. I crossed the busy main road and headed for the Cricketers Arms which was open, only to find only 1 real ale on (it used to have 3 or 4),

this being Ossett Yorkshire Blonde (£3.40) which fortunately was in decent nick. Later, it was back to the Boltmakers for a pint of TT Golden Best (£3.50) only to find it to be slightly warm which I found was because of a broken cooler, so not the best of starts - but this is a cracking pub with a welcome roaring fine

Back to the station for my train to Saltaire, followed by a brisk walk up to the SALT Beer Factory tap, housed in a Grade II listed Edwardian tram shed. This was once owned by Ossett and still offered a good range of their beers plus guests, but I wanted to try a pint of SALT Best Bitter brewed here (£3.90) which was a nice drop - the home made pizzas looked fantastic as well. From here it was a short walk across the road to the Cap & Collar micro-pub and my first visit here, for a pint of Kirkstall Pale (£3.60) - great beer and run by a friendly American quy.

DAVE and MANDY invite you to the

THORN TREE INN

161 Church Street, Waingroves

Serving a changing selection of Real Ales, Ciders, Wines and soft drinks

Quiz Night every Wednesday Starts at 9.00 pm

Open mic night every other Thursday See Facebook for details

> Dominoes every Monday New players welcome

After a break for some lunch at Websters chippy (haddock & chips, £7.00), it was now pouring down but I only had a short walk to "Fanny's" for a half of Bosun's Blonde (£1.85), a lovely drink. This pub now has new owners and has had a major refurbishment since my last visit when it was known as Fanny's Ale & Cider House, but it still offers a great range of changing ales. Almost opposite is the Salt Cellar and here I sampled a half of The Salt Cellar Pioneer from The Oaks Brewing Co. (£1.75) which was in good order. Again, a nice range of changing ales but quiet for a Saturday.

I then carried on down Saltaire Road to Shipley and into a fairly new micro-pub, the Groove Pad where I settled for a half of Flagship Beer Parade (£1.85), a brilliant ale and my best of the day. I also got chatting to the very friendly barman, The pub had some great records playing and it was an enjoyable visit but again, it was fairly quiet. With time pressing on, I carried on and into another new micro-pub, Hullabaloo for a half of Brisol Beer Factory Notorious (£1,75) which was a good drop. A short walk then into the JDW Sir Norman Rae for a half of Goose Eye Chinook Blonde at only £1.00 - excellent condition with a friendly barman who gave me quick directions to my final pub, the Fox. This is a lovely friendly micro-pub with chatty locals and staff. I had halves each of Bingley Goldilocks (£1.80) and Brunswick (Engine Shed Project) Gem State (£1.90), both top ales. The train station is just topside and I got my train back to Leeds and then on home to Langley Mill. The Didler.

Chesterfield, 2nd November

It was well prior to Covid times since I had visited Chesterfield so a journey into the partial unknown really. Getting off the train our first call was at the Pig & Pump, to my surprise one of just 3 GBG entries in the town. My likley Ruby Jane was a great first drink and the range included ales from Rat, Oakham, Abbeydale, Thornbridge, Peak Ales and Wychwood. A good all round pub with food offered and friendly bar service (thanks Kelly). Not far away at the former GBG Rutland Arms it was disappointing with only a moderate Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Black Sheep along with 3 empty sticks. This place has apparently had a recent chequered history and I would not recommend it for a beer trip again. After hearing an angry young woman shouting and swearing very loudly at someone on her mobile phone plus what looked a 3 way street fight about to occur, we sought refuge in the Market. It is largely an eatery but has a selection of 4 nationals, Kelham Island Easy Rider and a couple from Acorn on the bar. We then headed up the Brampton Road to reach the Junction which I cannot recall visiting previously. It is now a smart bar with an outside courtyard, featuring plenty of keg choices and 3 cask ales. The Stocks Old Horizontal (from Doncaster) was excellent with the new Ashover Alton and Bradfield Farmers Blonde also available so a bonus here really. We briefly looked in at the Spotted Frog but it only had a couple of predictable ales already seen earlier so we declined it here. Further out the Crafty Dog failed to open its doors as advertised so we took a chance on the nearby but unknown Anchor. Looks like an old Mansfield pub from outside but glad to say that it greatly exceeded expectations with good quality ales at a reduced price on Mondays & Tuesdays and a most friendly welcome. The 5 cask ales were an interesting selection of Empire Porter, Thornbridge Crackendale, Ashover Alton, an Abbeydale seasonal and regular ale Landlord. It was very popular even mid-afternoon and justifiably so.

With the clock ticking past 4.00pm we were then able to move back to the Tramway Tavern, a Brampton owned Project William house. Here in this comfortable mid-terrace pub there were 4 Brampton ales available but I went for Woodfordes Volt IPA because I had not had it before. The other guests were the Abbeydale special previously seen (Secrets Of The Subterranean) and Purity Gold. After this we left the Brampton Road area to reach the GBG Rose & Crown, also Brampton Brewery under the Everards Project William banner. The barman here was particularly good and I had Brampton 1302 which was again new to me with the alternatives being 2 more Brampton, Vocation Bread & Butter, Quantock QPA,

Exmoor Gold and Tiger. Another great pub with excellent beer and a covered outdoor seating area. It was starting to get dark now and we walked a while back to the GBG Chesterfield Alehouse which we had passed earlier prior to opening time. As expected an interesting beer list and plenty of micro-pub chat with locals. The Nailmaker Chocolate Safari Xtra stout was our best drink of the day with Neepsend Blonde, Two By Two Citra and Flying Gang Spanish Gold also available. The penultimate pub was the Chesterfield Arms which featured an impressive 11 cask ales, especially good for a Tuesday. Of the 8 guest ales I tried Cheviot Harbour Wall which was so-so with other guests coming from Magic Rock, Bad Seed, Everards, Shiny, Buxton, Oakham and Redwillow. Regular ales are Bass, Tiger and Landlord. A large open plan pub, I suspect that I would have had no problem finding a preferable beer within that range, given more time. Finally to the GBG Neptune Beer Emporium with another 8 cask ales on view. This is a traditional local on a back street where we were served by a most sociable barmaid who also knew her ales very well. I first tried Drone Valley Coal Aston Porter which was not really to my taste, followed by Leatherbritches Bespoke. Other ales here were Abbeydale Moonshine, Jolly Boys Jolly Blonde, Lincoln Green Lincoln Green Hopped, Neepsend Scotus, Black Hole Milky Way and Jaipur. A great way to finish in a top local award winning pub and we made our way back to the station surprisingly with no mishaps. Chris P Duck.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

20th-23rd Jan. Dark Side of the Room (part 1) Dark & Delicious Beer Festival. Angels micro-pub, Belper 9th-12th Feb. National Winter Ales Festival. New Bingley Hall, 1 Hockley Circus, Birmingham. 250+ ales, 50 ciders & perries

21st-22nd Jan. 32nd Exeter Festival of Winter Ales. Exeter Football Club, St James Park, Stadium Way. 70 ales 12 ciders 21st-23rd Jan. Soke Fest. The Cresset, North Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8DX. Details at www.sokefest.co.uk

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: The Baron, Big Foz, Charisma Bypass, Del Boy, HH, The Jedi, Konrad, and Sooty. Apologies if I've missed anyone. Thanks also to our advertisers without whom this newsletter would not get published.





