



RuRAD

"In the Sticks"

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

In the Sticks

FEBRUARY 2022

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 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 beer-centric publications.

The Burnt Pig
Ale House
Erewash Valley CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021
Also mini-kegs, pork pies, cheeses
black puddings, pork scratchings etc.
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Beer & Pub News

Rowell's Drinking Emporium in Long Eaton opened its doors on 15th December and was packed to the rafters when Big Al called in. G-Rhod has also visited several times and said that it seems to be a popular addition to the Long Eaton pub scene. This is a very spacious, deep venue with parquet flooring and a lot of original shelving from the former store. There is plenty of seating - an assortment of wooden tables and chairs which look like someone has been to a house clearance sale. Ale is dispensed from gravity-fed stillage in a small room adjacent to the bar (no hand-pumps) with beer from **Castle Rock**, **Dancing Duck**, **Blue Monkey**, **Oakham**, **Muirhouse** and **Timothy Taylor** all having been reported.

And while we're in Long Eaton, **York Chambers** is now running a loyalty scheme: "Buy 8 get 1 free!". Also the **Corner Room** is offering CAMRA discount for card holders.

On Saturday 8th Jan, Trigger headed to the new micro-pub, the **Hoptimist**, in Spondon village, run by Derek & Tracey Chambers. They have turned this former hardware store into a cozy and spacious pub and there is a

covered extension to the rear which will work in the warmer weather. **Blue Monkey Infinity** and **BG Sips**, **Shiny 4 Wood**, **Littlelover The Panther** oatmeal stout plus ales from **Black Hole**, **Buxton** and **Tiny Rebel** have all been spotted. Prices are reported to be on the high side with £4.00 being paid for a pint of **BG Sips**. There are regular buses to Spondon from Derby and Ilkeston and together with its central location on Sitwell Street and selection of cask ales on offer, it is likely to do well.

There is a changing of the guard at the **Thorn Tree** in Waingroves as Mandy and Dave Pidcock left the pub at the end of January. They are well known in the Ripley area having kept the Tip Inn at Loscoe for a few years and the Beehive prior to that. They have also worked at the Red Lion and Corner Pin, both in Clay Cross. After having worked in the licensing trade for the past 28 years, Mandy said that it was finally time to "retire". All the staff at RuRAD Towers would like to thank them for their support of "In The Sticks" and wish them well for the future. The new licensees are pub regulars Debbie and Janek and we wish them all the best in their new roles.

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

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Fantastic Outdoor Garden

It seems that there is a new brewery in town with **Bartleby's** ales being seen in the Flowerpot and the Brunswick. This vegan-friendly brewery started life in Lancaster in 2012, moved to Brighton and finally relocated to Campbell Street, Belper in 2019. It's taken a while to get the brewery established in its new home (not helped by the pandemic) but they are now selling to the trade. They also hope to open the brewery space up as a tap room.

The work to expand the **Angry Bee** in Heanor

which was reported in the December issue of "In The Sticks" has been postponed due to "logistics" but the intention is that the refurbishment will still go ahead.

SMITHFIELD

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

**Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year
2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021**

**East Midlands Pub of the Year
2019**

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Stouts/Porters served all year round
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Fantastic Beer Garden right next to
the river

The **What's Your Poison** micro-pub in Alfreton closed its doors in mid-January (the last report on Untappd was on 5th Jan). The **Amber Hotel**, Oakerthorpe has also closed and there are doubts that it will open again due to its location.

The North Staffordshire Rail Partnership has published a Rails To Trails leaflet which describes short walks starting from stations along the line between Derby and Crewe and down to Penkrigde. The leaflet can be picked up at Derby (and probably other stations along the route) and on-line (no pun intended). There's no reason why this couldn't also be called Rails to Ales.

Contributors: Big Al, Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, G-Rhod, Snug Dave, The Jedi, Trigger

Beer Festival News (none of it good)

The usual Chesterfield CAMRA beer festival at the Winding Wheel theatre has been cancelled this year due to blah, blah, blah... so instead there is a promotion of beer and entertainment at pubs across three areas of Chesterfield: Whittington Moor, Chesterfield town centre and the Brampton Mile on Fri 4th & Sat 5th February.

The CAMRA Great British Beer Festival Winter 2022, which was due to take place in Birmingham from 9th to 12th February, has been cancelled due to staff shortage concerns. Ideas for an alternative celebration are expected to be announced in due course.

Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA have

announced that the beer festival to be held in March has been postponed (not cancelled). In a statement which was published on Facebook, Festival Chairman, Stewart Gibson had this to say: "With the current level of uncertainty the decision has been made now to avoid leaving suppliers in the lurch nearer the event. The issue is with the Town Hall who have capped the attendance at a level to make the festival non-viable. By allowing only 300 in the building at one time, which includes staff, we would be making a loss before we'd opened the doors. To put that in perspective we get more than that on the Thursday night and our peak attendance can be over 900!"

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

Spotlight on...

"In The Sticks" contacted Andy Mcauley (Marlpool Brewery & Ale House) with regard to penning an article for the newsletter back in 2020 but... well, we all know what happened next. As a testament to what Andy and his team have been doing since opening the Ale House in 2012, it has been included in 7 of the last 8 CAMRA GBGs. Taking advantage of the enforced layoff, Andy wrote to say that "during the lockdowns we smartened the backyard up a bit and created more under cover outdoor space which proved very popular in the warmer months". Current opening hours are: Fri (2.00 pm-10.00 pm), Sat (12.00-9.00 pm), Sun (12.00-7.00 pm).

And so we shine the RuRAD Spotlight on the...

Marlpool Brewery & Ale House

In autumn 2009 I sat looking at the derelict out buildings at 5 Breach Road and thought they would be ideal for a micro-brewery. Fortunately my brother Chris still lived at our childhood home and after a brief discussion, we decided to repair the buildings and buy some brewery vessels. We then had to start jumping through hoops - a lot of hoops - planning, environmental issues and brewery registration being the main ones. Anyway, it's now summer 2010 and our 2 barrel plant is supplied and installed by Dave Tizard, and I must say he did a fine job. The kit was the one Dave had used at the Wheel* at Holbrook and he was happy to spend time with me until I was familiar with it.

The first beer produced was *Scratty Ratty* followed by *Otters Pocket*, all animal themed

as we are friends of Brinsley Animal Rescue. They have a bull who is blind so when I brewed a traditional mild we called it Blind Boris [insert witty aside here. Ed]. More recently I've brewed *Jack Daw* (stout), *Frank* (red ale), *Pigs Ear* (pale), and *Maisy Moo* (IPA) all now regularly available in the Ale House. A 2 barrel plant is not big enough to make a living if you are just selling to the trade so we needed an outlet selling direct to the public. Fortunately we had an empty shop attached to the property and after more jumping through hoops - change of use, premises licence etc, we set to work renovating the old shop. We knocked through to the back room, installed a log burner, a toilet, bought a 150 year old methodist pulpit for the bar, filled the walls with original brewery artefacts and made the brewery yard a pleasant place to sit.

When the Ale House was born (January 2012) we had 3 hand-pulls and a real cider. We now serve 6 ales, 3 Marlpool and 3 guests, usually from smaller breweries, a selection of wines and real cider (we don't sell so-called fruit cider). We have always done our own thing, we don't follow trends, and we concentrate very much on cask ale. We have loyal customers, good ale and now have great staff, Karen and Rachel, reliable, pleasant and honest, what more could you want? The Ale House provides an outlet for most of our beer - we do sell a bit to trade if we have any spare but as I don't want to brew more than once a week this is a rarity. None of this would be possible without the help and backing from Chris and my wife Francesca - she has always backed me 100% and takes care of all the paperwork which is so important. **Andy Mcauley.**

*This was the Funfair Brewing kit when Dave Tizard upgraded to 5BBL.



The Dew Drop Inn Ilkeston Junction

Traditional, unspoilt,
Victorian Pub in the CAMRA
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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

Out & About

In this month's issue, trips to the Wirral, Shrewsbury and Kent to delight and inspire you.

The Wirral, 17th October: Part 1

On arrival in **New Brighton**, we were too early to book into the Travelodge accommodation so took a pleasant Sunday afternoon stroll on the Merseyside promenade towards

Birkenhead. After about a mile we went uphill to try the **Pilot Boat** but this had declined from an ale perspective since my last visit a few years back. My **Lancaster Blonde** was no better than average but was preferred to **Doom Bar**, and the staff were more interested in serving lunches. Very close by is the 250 year old **GBG Magazine**, with low beamed ceilings and several small rooms. The staff here were much friendlier and promptly replaced then withdrew the **Mayflower Enigma** which had failed to clear due to being end of the barrel. **Douglas Valley** from the same Wigan brewery was fairly average but the other ales sampled - **Brimstige Trapper's Hat & Sandpiper Light Ale** and **Lancaster Red** - were all very good. We were able to sit outside in the unseasonal sunshine and enjoyed the pleasant beer garden with some locals and views over the river to Liverpool. Inside I noted that the **Sandpiper** inexplicably had an image of a Curlew on the pump clip and heard that the pub had been unable to obtain any Bass which is their staple beer.

Tracy and all the staff welcome you
to the

OLD OAK INN

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East Midlands Pub of the Year 2016

Serving a wide selection of beers
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LEADMILL plus Guests Beers

RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

Later in the evening I made a first visit to the **GBG Bow-Legged Beagle** which had not been opened until after my previous stay. In this classic micro-pub with old-fashioned awnings to the front, we sat outside on the street whilst sampling **Ossett Yorkshire Blonde** & **Voodoo** chocolate orange stout, **Peerless Knee-Buckler IPA** and **Liverpool Brewing Bierhead**. All were top class and offered by enthusiastic bar staff. Apparently this is part of a small chain of micro-pubs of the same name, as is the case with the adjacent Homebrew Tap which was not open when we wanted to visit. The latter appeared to be mostly a keg bar with just a couple of active hand-pulls visible. We used the convenient JDW **Master Mariner** for a couple of breakfasts with guest beers noted as **Coach House Blueberry Classic Bitter** & **Combine Harvester** and **Wye Valley** (Dorothy Goodbody's) **Autumn Glory**, the former being quite good one evening. Already large, it is in the process of extending into the derelict building next door and offers good views of the Mersey and Fort Perch Rock. We did consider using the GK Hungry Horse Seahorse for breakfast but it did not open until 10.00am. Needless to say, we did not drink

there. Also nearby the former GBG Queens Royal disappointingly lies empty awaiting possible demolition, unless concerned locals can save it.

The next day, following some walking in unpleasantly wet conditions, we called at **Stanley's Cask**, another former GBG pub. It's a bit art deco in a well-lit single room with very high windows and decorative plaster ceiling and served an excellent **Ossett White Rat** with a supporting cast of **Robinsons Trooper**, **Landlord** & **WV Butty Bach** being perhaps not the most impressive. Whilst in New Brighton we used two restaurants adjacent to the hotel - Ella, a Turkish where I had never seen so much meat on a plate, washed down with a bottle of Efes. The Portofino Italian was good for pizza with Peroni the best drink option. The only other pub visited here was the **James Atherton**, which had been temporarily and controversially renamed with insults to Boris and other colleagues but best not described in this article! It was pleasant with an open plan interior but hardly anyone in - the ales were **Ossett White Rat** and 2 from **Hawkshead**. To be continued... **Chris P Duck**.

PS: In late November after a walking trip to Rother Valley Country Park, I realised that a micro-pub was open in nearby **Killamarsh** which is just inside the northern Derbyshire county boundary. The **Guzzle** is situated on a main street with a comfortable rustic well-lit interior featuring imitation gas lamps from the area's mining heritage and has some table seating outside for suitable weather. Well frequented by locals, it had a very interesting cask ale selection comprising **Stod Fold Gold**, **Blue Bee Hillsfoot Best Bitter**, **Nomadic Strider**, **Stancill Black Gold** and **Chantry Iron & Steel** bitter. **Chris P Duck**.

BEEHIVE

151 Peasehill, Ripley
Tel: 07510 431414

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

Darts, Dominoes and Skittles
on weekly

Quiz night Fridays plus card bingo

Everyone welcome

Shrewsbury, 22 Nov, 2021

On a cool (edging towards cold) but bright, cloud-free day, I caught the train from Derby to Shrewsbury with a change in Birmingham. The pubs I might have visited upon arrival didn't open until later (or at all on a Monday) so I headed for the **Salopian Bar***. The main bar has a Social Club feel about it and there is a large covered area at the back which is laid out for diners rather than drinkers. It's also "paved" with

astroturf and looks bigger than it is thanks to the clever use of mirrors. **Salopian** beers on the bar were **Oracle** and **Lemon Dream** with the guests being **Thornbridge Market Porter**, **Castle Rock Harvest Pale** and **Oakham Citra**. I dropped my bag at the (Wetherspoons) Shrewsbury Hotel and went on to the Montgomery's Tower - another Wetherspoons so I didn't linger. And then to the **Armoury** facing the river. This has been in the GBG but not since 2007 even though there are 7 cask ales on the bar. But it's a restaurant really and fairly up-market. I had a half of the "house" beer (3.5%) brewed by **St Austell**, for which I paid £2.10. Followed by the **Tudor Black Rock** (5.6%) which had a bit more oomph about it for only a modest increase in price!



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I checked into my (very nice) Wetherspoons room and then headed across the river to the **Anchor** which had only just opened. It's a one-roomed pub with exposed brickwork and wood panelling with tables and bench seating. I had a pint of **Hobsons Town Crier** which was in good condition (considering I was only the 2nd customer). The other two offerings were **Wye Valley Butty Bach** and **HPA** - commonly found in this area. I then took the 15 minute walk back to the **Woodman** which I would have visited when I arrived except that it only opened at 2.00 pm on a Monday. A two-roomed pub with a small bar and a larger, wood-panelled "lounge". Lots of bench seating and quarry-tiled flooring. They had 5 beers on from **Ossett**, **Wye Valley** (x2), **Salopian** and **Goose Eye** of which I tried **Salopian Hop Twister**. A friendly landlord, a very good atmosphere and a pub definitely worth visiting. Since the **Royal Oak** was next door and seemed to have plenty of hand-pumps on the bar, I called in for a swift half of **Black Country Ales** (who now run the pub) **Pig On The Wall**. Of the two, I'd recommend the **Woodman**.

The following day after a very good night's sleep, I headed out at about 10.00 and took a walk along a very pretty riverside path towards the **Cross Foxes** which fortunately opened its doors at 11.00. Still a bit early so I stopped at House Coffee for an excellent breakfast. As it turned out, the pub had opened at 10.00! A single-roomed pub serving 3 ales. A very cosy, proper pub with wood

panelling and lots of comfortable bench seating - and a warm welcome. I sampled the **Three Tuns XXX** and **Wood's Beauty** and both were excellent, the 3rd ale being **Bass**. And I listened to a character assassination of a (not present) customer! Very entertaining! Moving into the centre of Shrewsbury, I stopped at the **Nags Head** which is another pubby pub with another friendly barmaid. Ales on offer were **Three Tuns XXX**, **Wye Valley HPA**, **Salopian Shropshire Gold**, **TT Landlord** and, rather bizarrely, **Marton's 61 Deep!** I might have stopped for more than the one but someone put the TV on. It was a short walk then to the **Three Fishes** and into the old and very picturesque centre of Shrewsbury. A very old-fashioned pub in a half-timbered building. Three ales on: **Salopian Hop Twister** & **Oracle** plus **Purple Moose Glaslyn Ale** which is the one I had.

Due to roadworks, I had to retrace my steps which took me past a specialist whisky shop and I couldn't resist calling in. And was then engaged by the very garrulous owner for the next... well, I'm not sure how long it was! But I did get two tastings and ended up with a bottle of single malt I couldn't buy in my local ASDA. The next pub was the **Loggerheads** which is on the National Inventory list and so is an essential calling point in Shrewsbury. Sadly the beer list was very dull: **Hobgoblin**, **Wainwright** and **Bank's** (x2) and I'm not sure why I actually ordered a whole pint of **Thwaites** (ie. **Marston's Wainwright**). It was only £2.60 mind you (discounted on a Tuesday apparently). After a break back at the hotel, I head out to see what the **Abbey** is like but it's just a family-friendly restaurant which happens to sell a rather dull range of real ales. What self-respecting ale drinker would go there? Nice food though. For a final beer, I call back at the **Three Fishes** which is enlivened by the presence of some Sunderland fans visiting for the league match against Shrewsbury. The result was an honourable 1-1 draw. **Snug Dave**.

*It appears that the Salopian Bar is not connected to Salopian the brewery.

Sally, Jean & Steve
welcome you to the

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Kent In November

On the decidedly wintry morning of November 28th I met up with HH at a snowy Derby station for the 8.04 to St Pancras,

thankfully heading away from storm Arwen. We had a bit of time to kill at St Pancras and the plan was to get a breakfast at the 'spoons but it was rammed with footy supporters so we had to make do with something from a burger place round the corner. We got the 10.25 Ramsgate train which deposited us (slightly late due to a few signalling problems) in **Whitstable** at about 12.00. This turned out to be handy as it meant the **Handsome Sam** micro-pub was open so we made it our first port of call. Of the 4 beers on we went for **Musket Muzzleloader** and (The Brewery Of) **Angels & Demons ADH-Me**, both being in fine form. Next we called in the **Labour Club** just round the corner, which HH visited with Trigger a few years back, with a couple of beers on hand-pump. It is a members club but the barman let us stop for a swift half of **Adnams Southwold Bitter**, which was OK. Then it was on to the **GBG Ship Centurion** where we found 4 wickets on the go with **Goacher's Fine Light Ale** and the house beer, also by **Goacher's**, being sampled and in good order. Then it was back to the **JDW Peter Cushing**, which like many 'spoons had a lot of hand-pumps but only 5 beers on with **Inveralmond Ossian** being settled for. Then it was on to

the **GBG Twelve Taps**, where we found 12 beers on believe it or not, all from wall mounted taps, which I'm not a big fan of, but never mind. We both went for **Fierce Beer People Like Buns** and HH got the expensive round again at £6! Then we headed back to the station but I realised I'd left my bag in the pub so had to jog back to get it then jog to the train station where I arrived on the platform just as our train was pulling in... decidedly knackered... me, not the train.

Faversham was our next stop and we called in the **GBG Elephant** just up from the station to find 5 beers on the go with **Hop Fuzz Fallout** and **Exeter Darkness** (The Prince of Ales) being favoured. HH got the barmaid (who he took a fancy to because she looked like Sally Nugent off BBC Breakfast) to order us a taxi to take us out to the **GBG Shipwright Arms**, which is remote to say the least. He also negotiated a return price and for the driver to wait for us while we had a swift half. The smell of the open fires hit us as we entered and we found 5 ales on gravity with **Goacher's Crown Imperial Stout** and **Kent Prohibition** being preferred. A real gem of a pub well worth seeking out and worth a long stay, but what can you do. Our friendly

neighbourhood taxi driver dropped us back in the town centre where we called in the **GBG Bear**, a **Shepherd Neame** (surprise, surprise) pub with **Whitstable Bay Pale** and **Master Brew** on offer and in good order. Then it was on to the **GBG Furlongs Ale House**, a micro-pub which had 4 or 5 real ales on - I'm not sure because it was quite busy and we were Shepherded (no pun intended) to the heated seating area at the back of the pub. I can't remember what HH had but I went for **Gadds' Black Pearl**, a 6.2% oyster stout, which was awesome.

From there we headed back to the train station and on to **Sittingbourne** where a short walk got us to the **GBG Papermill** micro-pub where of the 3 ales on offer we both went for **Goacher's Goachers Gremlins** before moving on to (once we'd walked past it) the **GBG Donna's Ale House**, another micro-pub, where there were 4 beers on hand-pump with **Constellation Indus** and **Rother Valley Level Best** both being in good order. There was yet another **GBG** micro-pub on our list, **Yellow Stocks**, but we decided to leave it for a later date, calling it a day and heading back to the train station. **Rodders**.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

- 14th Jan-28th Feb. The Five Branches Winter Ale Trail 2022, Amber Valley, Ashbourne, Derby, Erewash & Mansfield
- 4th-5th Feb. Chesterfield Walkabout Beer Festival. Brampton, Town Centre & Whittington Moor. See Sheffield CAMRA website
- 3rd-5th Mar. 45th Loughborough Beer Festival. Polish Club, True Lovers Walk off William St, Loughborough. 60+ ales
- 3rd-5th Mar. Magna Real Ale & Music Festival. Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham. 200+ ales
- 3rd-6th Mar. The 2nd 189 Micro-pub Annual Beer Festival. 189 Blenheim Drive, Allestree, Derby. 18 cask ales
- 3rd-6th Mar. Burton Ale Trail around 11 pubs. www.facebook.com/groups/burtonaletrail
- 4th-5th Mar. Sheffield Indie Beer Festival. Abbeydale Picture House, 387 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield


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- 10th-12th Feb. Liverpool Beer Festival. Lutyens Crypt, Metropolitan Cathedral, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool. 200+ ales
 - 11th-12th Feb. 12th Elysian Beer Festival. The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire. 75 ales, 20 ciders
 - 18th-20th Feb. All Pints East Craft Beer Festival. Salt Market Society, Fish Key, North Shields. www.saltmarketsocial.co.uk
 - 3rd-5th Mar. Chappel Winter Ales Festival. East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel. 60+ winter ales
 - 3rd-5th Mar. 34th Wigan Beer Festival. Robin Park Sports Hall, Loire Drive, Wigan. 70+ ales
 - 4th-5th Mar. Rugby Beer Festival. Arnold House, Elsee Road, Rugby. 30+ ales, cider

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, The Jedi, HH, Konrad, and Sooty. Apologies if I've missed anyone. Thanks also to our advertisers without whom this newsletter would not get published.



BLACK BULLS HEAD

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