

# 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.

# 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 & Pub News

Andy Crawford from the Pub People company contacted "In The Sticks" to say that they have been obliged to pull out of the deal to take over the **Crafty Crow** in Nottingham, which was reported in last month's issue. No reason was given.

The Crown Inn, Beeston has a tap takeover every week-end, starting each Friday, on the Festival Bar - the large outside area with both covered and open seating. The intention is also to have food available provided by a variety of outside caterers. At the time of writing, the featured breweries have been Pentrich, Marble, Nene Valley and Abbeydale. The caterers have included The Travelling Taverna, Jiko Grill, The Filthy Vegan and Dosa Love. Details can be found on Facebook, Instagram and local flyers.

Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA POTY (Burton-on-Trent) 2022 is the Old Royal Oak which was only taken over by Fownes Brewing Co. in 2020. The Devonshire Arms and the Weighbridge came in 2nd and 3rd. Winner in the Country category is the Colvile Arms, Lullington, with the Brickmakers Arms,

### MAY 2022

Newton Solney, as runner-up.

Nottingham CAMRA POTY (Urban/City) 2022 is the Horse & Jockey, Stapleford with the runner up being the Byron's Rest, Hucknall. In the Village category, the top two are the Old Green Dragon, Oxton and the Round RobINN, East Leake. The overall winner is the Horse & Jockey.

On 2nd April, I called at the Horse & Jockey and found the usual 10 ales on the bar. A large, open space with the back room having TV screens for watching sport. The locals were enjoying watching Notts Forest beat Blackpool 1-4 while I was there. The visit wasn't made easier by the random cancellation of several i4 buses from Derby. I also went to the Millipede micro-pub round the corner from the JDW Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren where I found six ales from Acorn, Full Mash, Shipstones and Welbeck Abbey served from stillage. A comfortable, welcoming space for a beer. Snug Dave.

Angels micro-pub will be having a Thornbridge tap takeover on 5th May which is expected to include some less common beers from their range. And on 26th May, it is the pub's 6th birthday for which Steve Cresswell says they will be getting in some great Derbyshire beers. And to close off the birthday celebrations on Sunday (29th) the Groover will be doing a vinyl set.

The next Amber Valley CAMRA Branch Meeting will be on 5th May at the Victoria Inn, Alfreton, 8.00 pm start.

Contributors: Aron37, Snug Dave

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 Festival News

Although this is rather short notice, Steve at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook has been obliged to

### Free Copy

cancel the beer festival (29th Apr-2nd May) due to ill health (but he's now on the mend).

The annual Dead Poets Inn (Holbrook) sausage and cider (plus ale!) festival will be held on 18th-21st May. At least 20 different traditional ciders/perries will be available, plus a total of 14 beers, and a BBQ Friday/Saturday evenings with a variety of sausages (including vegan/gluten free). Also, if the weather permits, there will be acoustic outdoor music.

### **BEEHIVE**

151 Peasehill, Ripley Tel: 07510 431414

Selection of 4 real ales plus a wide range of ciders and perries, many sourced from the apple farms where they are made

#### **CAMRA Cider POTY 2022**

Darts, Dominoes & Skittles on weekly Quiz night Fridays plus card Bingo

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

Note: the Honeypot bar is currently closed for refurbishment

Following the success of two dark beer festivals, Steve and Katy Cresswell will have a fruity & spiced beer festival on 2nd to 5th June at the **Angels micro-pub**. There is expected to be around 13 of these unusual beers with flavours including honey, Earl Grey, Peach Melba, Lemon Dream, ginger and elderflower.

CAMRA are hosting two beer festivals not too far apart in Lincoln (The Drill) and Newark (Riverside Park) on the same weekend (26th-28th May). Tickets will only be sold on the door, not in advance. Payment is by card only at Newark and is preferred at Lincoln.

This is advance notice of the 11th Amber Valley Beer Festival to be held from 30th June to 2nd July at the Belper Rugby Club. Volunteers are still required for set up, knock down, and bar work etc. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact Nigel Heathcote (07834 732050) or Lynne Tomlinson (07764 250734) or by e-mail to staffing@ambervalley.camra.org.uk.

Earlier in the same month (10th-12th June) is Belper Goes Green, to be held at the Belper Cricket Club for which Amber Valley CAMRA will be running a real ale marquee. More details about these two events will be published in the June issue of "In The Sticks"



#### Out & About

With the dark days of Covid and Lockdowns (hopefully) behind us and with Spring definitely in the air, the RuRAD team of out-and-abouters have been taking advantage of their new freedoms. So much so that there are more travellers tales than can be accommodated in this 4-page newsletter. However, all the submissions appear in the "Out & About" section of the RuRAD web-site (www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad). Many thanks as usual to all our contributors.

#### Alsager, 28th January

I had picked up previously a booklet entitled "Rails To Trails" from Derby Railway Station which features some short walks accessible by the Derby to Crewe train. I thought this could access a few pubs in places I have never visited. I had recently visited Stoke-on-Trent and decided to go a bit further and took the Old Fruit to Alsager. On leaving the station I soon found the Railway where the landlady was just opening the front door at noon. There's plenty of outdoor seating but not recommended for late January - inside there is plenty of railway memorabilia with an impressive 8 hand-pulls on the centrally situated bar. I chose Mobberley Solstice, a winter red ale, with the intention of returning for more after our walk. I was not likely to select Abbot, Bass or Wainwright with other more interesting choices saved for the later visit.

The walk was about 3 miles and brought us out on the Crewe Road where a couple of pubs are located. We were too early for 3.00 pm opening times at either so went into the Ey Up Duck café bar for the most impressive meal I have had for ages. It does not serve cask ale but has a good selection of kegs. I h a d Brewdog Dead Pony Club and the proprietor declined to charge me for it as there was a waiting time due to an issue in the kitchen. We finished the meal just in time for 3.00 pm opening at the Lodge which held another 8 hand pulled ales plus 6 kegs and 4 ciders, all displayed on a digital screen. I tried the increasingly popular TT Boltmaker

plus Millstone True Grit, both good with the more interesting other ales being Buxton SPA, Whim Hartington IPA and Young's London Original. It has had a smart internal refurbishment fairly recently and is a pleasant place to visit, albeit less atmospheric than the Railway.

We then walked through the town park and took a look at the Mere from the only vantage point, due to gardens backing on to it all the way around. The pub opposite is unsurprisingly titled the Mere Inn and is a Joules house with the familiar reconstructed wood panelling and stone floors that they seem to favour. The usual 3 standard ales were available plus their Penny Pincher which was new to me. We then realised that although we thought the train back was hourly there was a 2 hour gap coming up so we had longer than expected to wait. Consequently we walked out of the main town about half a mile to try the Linley, which turned out to be a Robinsons estate pub. Pretty basic with a retirement party taking place in the single room and 3 of Robinsons usual suspects to choose from. This passed a bit more time and after walking back we still had plenty of time to spend at the Railway again. I noted that the Coach House Innkeepers Special Reserve which I was going to have had been replaced by Beartown Kodiak which I tried along with Peakstones Rock Alton Abbey, Mobberley 1924 and Wincle Winter Warmer. All good ales in here and a very interesting pub too with a friendly welcome. I am looking at using this train route again and would have just under an hour at the Railway again with the option then of visiting Kidsgrove and/or Longton on the way back towards Derby. Chris P Duck.

Mr C P Duck has since continued his exploration of the line from Derby to Crewe and submitted a short article about the pubs in Longton and Blythe Bridge. The report was not favourable! He did mention the Gladstone Pottery Museum (where the Great Pottery Throw Down, screened on Channel 4, was filmed) which your editor visited a while back and can heartily recommend. And as it happens the GBG Congress Inn, is but a couple of hundred metres away. Snug Dave.



#### Beeston, 8th February

A group of 6 of us met at Derby station and

were joined by a 7th person on arrival at Beeston. Straight into the GBG Victoria Hotel off the station platform for an excellent ale selection as expected and a meal for some of the group. I had Charnwood By George and Rooster's Capability Brown, both of which were excellent with most of the other ales being local from Castle Rock, Full Mash, Magpie, Rudgate, Pheasantry and Navigation plus Bass. A great characterful pub with friendly staff. Moving on to the GBG Crown Inn we found another vast selection of 11 cask ales so again stayed for 2 drinks, my choices this time being North Riding US Session and Wild Beer Millionaire, the latter being a salted caramel milk stout. Again, very good beer and we sat in one of the several small rooms surrounding the bar area. Not quite so local with other featured breweries being Dancing Duck, Brewsters, Everards, Blue Monkey, Oakham, Shiny, Liquid Light, Brew York and Vocation.

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

Next stop was the Hop Pole which is a fairly basic town boozer on the main road with 5 cask ales on but it is a hard act to follow the previous 2 pubs, so in the circumstances 2 from Charnwood, 2 from Dancing Duck and one from Nottingham was not a bad offering. My choice here was Charnwood Vixen which was a reasonable drink. We then moved on, passing the Totally Tapped which was not open on a Tuesday, to the Commercial Inn which is a large pub resembling an old Hardy Hansons place - indeed it is owned now by Greene King but leased to the One Union pub group. Whilst set up as an eatery it did have a decent selection of ales with my choice here being Castle Rock Preservation Ale with others from Morland (GK), Shipstone's (x2), Dancing Duck Abduction and Titanic Plum Porter. There is potential for more cask ale with 3 empty sticks and I thought it was better than normal for this type of pub.

On to the **Malt Shovel** which I believe is also One Union and again not a bad drinkers pub with a reasonably interesting ale selection of Kazumura and Pale Ale from Hollow Stone, Shipstone's Original and Young's London Original. By now the Pottle was due to be open (which fortunately it was) and we found 5 cask ales on offer in this friendly micro-pub, all coming from different breweries to those we had encountered so far. These were

Ossett Polaris, Citra and Dorado from Hop Kettle, Twisted Wheel Technicolour Beat, Muirhouse Tick Tock Boom and Mission Creep Bend Sinister so some unusual stuff here which went down well. We still had the GBG Star to visit and duly found it to be rather busy with people leaving work. Again a predominance of local ales to the fore with those represented coming from Lenton Lane, Totally Brewed, Lincoln Green, Stancill, Little Critters, Oakham, Dancing Duck and Marston's. As far as I recall the beer was decent but I have to admit to not recording what I drank in the last 3 pubs. What is of note is that 35 different breweries were represented and not a bad beer had in the 6 pubs visited, which is very impressive. Chris P Duck.



# 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

#### Wayfaring in the Peak

On the fine morning of February 26th, armed with the miracle of modern technology that is the Derbyshire Wayfarer, I met up with HH at Derby station for the 10.33 Matlock train. We got there just after 11.00 and had half an hour to kill so we walked to Twenty Ten but it was closed, so we moved on to the Remarkable Hare, which wasn't. Of the 5 beers on offer we both went for Buxton Gatekeeper (which was very nice) before returning to the train station for the Transpeak bus to Bakewell.

On arrival we called in the Rutland Arms Hotel to find 2 Thornbridge beers on handpump with Lord Marples being preferred. I don't know what HH was more disgruntled about, the fact that it was card payment only or that it cost £4.80! We then moved across the road to the GBG Joiners Arms micro-pub to find 5 real ales on the bar and, having plenty of time until the next bus, we both had a couple - Aldwark Artisan Nostrum and Bradfield Yorkshire Farmer for me.

Then it was back on to the Transpeak for the 40-minute ride to **Buxton** where we got off at the market place and visited the GBG **Ale Stop**. Four beers were on the wickets and neither of us could resist the **Wincle** Imperial Russian Stout at 8.0%, though we renamed it Imperial Ukrainian Stout, and it was splendid. The GBG Cheshire Cheese was next which had 5 Titanic beers on (2 of which went while we were waiting to be served) and a couple of

guest beers. Captain Smiths was favoured. Then we walked down to the GBG Buxton Tap House where there were, unsurprisingly, 4 Buxton beers on the engines and the same 4 beers were on in the GBG Cellar Bar - we took turns in having Right To Roam and Mild. Finally it was on to Redwillow, which is in a former bank and has some very nice features. Of the 4 beers on offer we both went for Redwillow Smokeless.

I checked the train times only to find our train to Whaley Bridge was 10 minutes late, which really threw a Spaniard in the works. Rather than have another half we walked to the train station to find our train waiting on the platform still up as being 10-minutes late? And a few minutes after we'd got on it, the board changed to "on time" and it left bang on time - good job we didn't have that extra half! This meant we were back on Schedule and had time for a fleeting visit to the GBG Whaley Nook micro-pub, once we'd found it ... Google Maps has it on the wrong street! With 4 beers to choose from I went for Big Stone Kinder Stout, which was very nice, but as I said, it was a fleeting visit because we had to get the bus to New Mills.

The GBG Beer Shed micro-pub had 4 sticks on the go and I went for Bridge Beers Citra and Vocation Currant Affairs before heading to the station for the train back to Sheffield. We had a half of Tapped Brew Co Station Porter in the Sheffield Tap whilst chatting to a couple of fellow RuRADians and then it was on to the St Pancras train. HH bailed out at Chesterfield so on return to Derby I had a swift half of Fat Cat Milk Stout in the Brunswick before heading home. A good day out and all for £13.40... bargain. Rodders.

## SMITHFIELD

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

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018 - 2022

East Midlands Pub of the Year 2019

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

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

#### Wigan, March 2022

When we had tried to reach Chorley, Lancs in 2019 for beer tasting during a national train strike, some got marooned in Wigan, and recommended it as a future venue. So in March 2022 nine prefects from the Last Drinking Skool came in trains from all directions to taste some real ale in a handful of Wigan pubs on a Thursday afternoon. With a direct train taking just under 2 hours, even Chemical Brother, a token Londoner, made the trip.

We met at the Anvil where Ossett White Rat (4.0%) was a popular choice and scored well. Other beers consumed were [Marston's] Wainwright (4.1%) and Wigan Brewhouse California (3.8%). We also score pubs, using adapted CAMRA criteria, and here they let us eat our own sausage rolls and pasties, which was welcome, and we stayed for a couple of drinks while waiting for our local pal Axeman to cometh. Next stop was the Tap 'n' Barrel, where we sat in the back music room with vinyl and shellac discs on the wall along with e-guitars. The pleasant young bar lady served u s Hawkshead Windermere Pale (3.5%), Elland Globe Trotter (3.7%) and Small World Long Moor Pale (3.9%), the latter being most enjoyed. At the Raven, with its crowded artefacts, Grade II listing and coal fires, we drank Wily Fox Dublin' Up stout (4.5%), Wainwright (4.1%) and Moorhouse's Ice Witch (4.3%), with the Irish-style stout going down best. Other hand-pumps were for Phoenix Wobbly Bob, Ossett White Rat and Tetley's Tetley Original Cask.



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5 REAL ALES
6 REAL CIDERS
OPEN ALL DAY TUES – SUN
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@Market Tavern South Normanton

Marched in, about turn, marched straight out again of a couple of establishments with no real ale, despite doing copious but not copious enough, amounts of research. On a Thursday afternoon, we can often take over a pub side room without impacting the quiet enjoyment of locals, and this was also the case at the Swan and Railway, where we admired the large stained glass artwork over the bar (large swan, small railway engine) and seven hand-pumps. We ordered Bass (4.4%), Wigan Brewhouse Hop Dancer (4.2%) and Bank Top Dark Mild (4.0%). The once familiar and ubiquitous taste of Bass was welcomed by most but not all. Our final destination in the town was Wigan Central, a "large micro" under the arches by Wigan North West station (there's also Wigan Wallgate station nearby). A vast array of craft beer from kegs and cans, plus enough casks to keep us interested before departing for our various trains. I recorded the drinking of Shiny Affinity (4.6%), Peerless Knee-Buckler IPA (5.2%), Revolutions Swoon (4.5%), Revolutions Frank (4.0%) and Howard Town Milltown Dark Mild (3.5%).

Much ale was ordered over the day by our small crowd but not one pint had to be returned and replaced. Wigan charmed us, and proved a good destination for our narrow interests. We would have liked to have sampled at John Bull Chop House, and two micro-pubs, Doc's Alehouse and Real Crafty, and pay homage at the George Formby Jnr statue, but some long train journeys beckoned. Perhaps we might return another year to complete the job. Ginger Baker (accompanied by Cyclo, MacBeer, Rosbif, The Reverend Green, Axeman, Chemical Brother, An Ian#3 et al).

#### An Afternoon in Reading

On a very breezy April Fool's Day, myself and Tippers made the train journey to **Reading** via St Pancras, the Tube and Paddington. Arriving at our destination, not long after midday, we met up with our fellow Erewash colleague Barry and his son-in-law Phil with whom he had staying all week.

Our first point of call was the Retreat, a free-house on the outskirts of the city

centre, A traditional boozer where a cracking Harvey's Sussex Best was supped. Other offerings were from Castle Rock. Woodforde's, Young's a n d Theakston. Moving on to the Alehouse next which was a bit cramped to say the least. I had a blinding pint of Cosmic Dancer from Sherfield Village, whilst other brews were from XT, Brentwood and Wantsum. Other ales were available, but due to the three "not so wise or sociable men" hogging the bar stools, we could not see the other pump clips. Dogs in a manger sprang to mind! Great ale? Yes! Clientele? Total dullards!

The next stop was the Allied Arms, a pleasant city centre pub with beers from Loddon, Salopian and St Austell on the bar, but I opted for a good pint of Orbiter from Dark Star. After a brisk walk, we soon ended up at the Nags Head. I counted 11 ales on hand-pull from breweries such as Big Hand, Oakham, Triple Point but I opted for Simple Stout by Three Blind Mice and Count The

Miles by Pentrich. A big choice of cask in a very lively pub. Our last call in Reading City Centre itself was the Greyfriar, a heaving pub with a good choice of ales. My poison was Hocus Pocus by Loddon which was brilliant, though other brews from Elusive, Marble and Pentrich (again!!) were on offer.

The final pub of the day was on the other side of the River Thames in Caversham. The Fox and Hounds, which had just won a regional SIBA award, also played host to Lennon & McCartney performing as the Nerk Twins in 1960. An excellent array of ales from Salopian, Burning Sky, Kelham Island, Twisted Wheel and South Oxfordshire adorned the bar. However, I imbibed a classy pint of Ena milk stout by Thornbridge and easily my best pint of the day. After a long day visiting the aforementioned pubs, all GBG entrants, myself and Tippers said our goodbyes and then made our way to Reading station for the journey back to Erewash via London. Big Al.

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

18th-21st May. The Dead Poets Cider & Sausage Festival. Chapel Street, Holbrook, Derbyshire. 20+ ciders/perries, 14 ales 19th-21st May. Rail Ale Festival. Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 350+ ales 25th-29th May. The Furnace Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. 20 real ales, 12 craft, cider & perry 2nd-4th June. Holly Bush Jubilee Beer & Cider Festival. Holly Bush Lane, Makeney, Derbyshire 2nd-5th June. Jubilee Bank Holiday Beer Festival. The Silk Mill, Full Street. Derby 10th-12th June. Belper Goes Green Beer Festival. Belper Meadows Cricket Club, The Triangle, Belper

6th-7th May. Macclesfield Craft Beer & Gin Festival. Macclesfield Rugby Club, Prior Lane, Macclesfield 6th-7th May. Coventry Beer Festival. Coventry Rugby Club, Butts Road, Coventry. 70+ ales, craft, cider 12th-14th May. Clitheroe Beer Festival. St Michael & St Johns Assembly Room, Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs. 60 ales 13th-14th May. Shirley Beer & Cider Festival. Camp Hill Rugby Club, Haslucks Green Rd, Shirley, Solihull. 90 ales, 10 keg 30 ciders 20th-21st May. Castle Rock Yard Beer Festival. Queensbridge Road, Nottingham. 20 cask/40 keg, cider, gin 20th-21st May. Weighbridge Beer Festival. Alvechurch Marina, Scarfield Wharf, Alvechurch, Worcestershire 26th-28th May. Bent & Bongs Beer Bash. Atherton Roller Rink, Atherton, Manchester 26th-28th May. Lincoln Beer Festival. The Drill, Free School Lane, Lincoln. 100+ ales + cider/perry 26th-28th May. 25th Newark Beer Festival. Riverside Park, Newark 27th-29th May. 20th Ale & Steam Weekend. Gloucester & Warwickshire Railway, Winchcombe. 45 ales 2nd-5th June Platinum Jubilee Beer Festival. The Old Hall, Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ ales

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

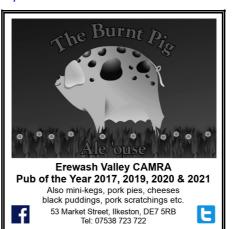
Well that's all for this issue folks. If you have any info or news which could be included in a future issue of "In the Sticks" please contact

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







Fantastic Outdoor Garden