

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 snugdaye@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.

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 Family and Dog Friendly Fantastic Outdoor Garden

Beer & Pub News

As is probably well known by now, Simon Clarke at the **Burnt Pig**, Ilkeston, has sold the business and the pub has been run by cheery manager, Ben since 1st June. The new owner is reportedly a local man who wants to keep a low profile and remain anonymous. The range of ales, ciders, cheeses, pies etc. is the same as it always has been.

The Five Lamps in Derby is to be taken over by the Brown Ales Pub Company who run both the Crown Inn, Beeston and the Final Whistle, Southwell. All three are owned by Everards and form part of their Project William group (as is the Brunswick, Derby). It is reported that there will be an "interregnum" period before the take over is completed.

"In The Sticks" was contacted by Joanne Keenan, the new Chairman for Mansfield and Ashfield CAMRA. She wrote: "after not having a branch for a few years we have a new committee voted in to kick start the Branch again and help celebrate our fantastic real ale pubs!".

The Railway Inn on Cowers Lane near Shottle

JULY 2022

has won the Rising Star category at the Marston's 2022 Pub of the Year Awards. The pub is run by Gareth and Llwyd Griffiths who took over barely three weeks before lockdown at the beginning of November 2020 and only re-opened fully in the summer of 2021.

Contributors: Big Al, The Jedi, 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

Offering a range of Real Ales, Traditional Ciders, Lagers, Spirits & Wines!

> Live Music --- Quiz Nights Family and dog friendly Real Ale, Real Cider, Real Fire, Real Pub

Beer Festival News

With the summer well under way (most of the time), the beer festival programme has filled out. Here are a few details about the local events.

In line with their policy of holding regular festivals throughout the summer, Angels (Belper) will be holding a Cider Festival from 30th June to 3rd July. At the time of writing, the final list has yet to be decided but expect a mixture of local ciders plus a selection from the south-west and Welsh borders.

The Brunswick, Derby will be holding a 180th Anniversary Beer Festival from 6th-10th July featuring 40 cask ales and 20 traditional ciders and perries. There will be a barbeque (weather permitting) on the Friday and Saturday from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm. On a historical note, the Discover Derby web-site writes: The inn was opened in 1842, intended for the use of railwaymen and second class passengers. It was originally called "The Brunswick Railway and Commercial Inn". It was the first purpose built railway inn and remained in the ownership of the railways for 105 years.

The **Steampacket** in Swanwick (part of the Pub People group based in Alfreton) will be

Free Copy

holding a beer and cider festival from 22nd-24th July offering 30 cask ales and 20 traditional ciders. Live music is scheduled from Rogue Embers (Fri, 8.30pm), Lyncroft (Sat, 4.00pm), Mid Life Crisis (Sat, 8.30pm) and Fitzy (Sun, 3.00pm).

The Smithfield, Derby will be hosting Smithfest from 28th-31st July. Over 40 cask ales are promised plus 10 ciders. There will also be a Keg Bar provided by Tom Said (yes, the Ripley micro-pub one) and a Burger Bar courtesy of Steve's Farmhouse Kitchen. Live music on all four days from Acoustic Anarchy, No Way Back, Cross Roads and Junction.

Sally. Jean & Steve welcome you to the...

ROYAL OAK

55 Green Lane, Ockbrook, DE72 3SE Tel: 01332 662378

Current Derby CAMRA Country Pub of the Year - 2022

CAMRA 50th Anniversary Gold Award Winner - East Midlands

Bass + 3 Constantly Changing Guest Ales Available Beer garden and separate children's play area

Lunches Served: Every Day from 12.00 Evening Meals: Mon to Sat

https://royaloakockbrook.com



RuRAD Snippets

The following short pieces describe recent visits to pubs in the local RuRAD area.

The Bird Hide, Attenborough

On 4th May I made my first visit to the Bird Hide micro-pub at Attenborough following a walk at the local nature reserve. It is a typical micro-pub located in a former shop with some outdoor seating and plenty of room to park right outside the door. I was surprised to find that it was table service only but found the cask ales to be of very good quality albeit a bit on the pricey side at between £3.80 & £4.40. I had Full Mash Wheat Ear and the house beer, Murmuration from Old Sawley, with 3 other ales from Welbeck Abbey (x2) and Lenton Lane. There was also Navigation Ostara's Curse (Gateau Imperial Stout, 11.6%) which was only sold in 125ml or 175ml measures. When I asked for some scratchings I was surprised to be offered a choice of 5 different flavours and the salt & vinegar were very good. Would visit again when next in the area. Chris P Duck.

The Milking Parlour, near Calke Abbey

I made an initial visit to the Tollgate Brewery's Milking Parlour tap-room which is situated along with the brewery on a farm adjacent to Calke Park. The 5 cask ales were Ashby Pale, Red Star IPA, Chok Porter, Duffield Amber and Belmorado. All were very good and there were also 5 keg lines and a range of at least 10 more different ales available in bottles or cans. There is plenty of indoor space and outdoor courtyard seating plus an on-site pizza oven in a separate building serving freshly made pizzas ordered from the bar, again very good. Chris P Duck.

Shiny Tap, Little Eaton

I went in the **Shiny Tap** at Little Eaton for the first time in ages and found 3 of the 4 hand-pulls operational so as usual had **Shiny** 4 Wood as a standard bitter. This was good but I decided to be adventurous and tried a couple of lower strength key keg beers to follow. Both were sour beers, firstly **Yonder** Raspberry Gose then **Arbor** Disco Berliner; the latter is served with either strawberry or grapefruit syrup, which I thought was rather odd but the latter combination was surprisingly quite good. **Chris P Duck**.

The Swan, Milton

I called at the Swan in Milton for the first time since pre-lockdown and found what looks to be a thriving village pub. The "new" landlord, Oliver ("Olly") will be celebrating his first full year in charge in August. Bass is always on but there were three more ales on the bar on my visit from Brunswick (Triple Hop), Burton Bridge and Church End (Goats Milk). They held a small beer festival over the Platinum Jubilee week-end with offerings from Black Country Ales, Slaters, Backyard, SALT, Castle Rock, Titanic, Burton Bridge and Thornbridge - not bad at all for a village pub. Half of the pub is laid out as a restaurant and the menu looks imaginative and the reviews very favourable. They have had Greek Mezze nights and July will be featuring a Tapas menu. Snug Dave.

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

Out & About

"In The Sticks" contributors having been getting out and about as ever, some travelling further than others....

Beer in Norway (save up first)

In the second half of February, we did a (1st time ever) Fred Olsen no-fly cruise along the Norwegian coast "In search of the Northern Lights". Apart from the faff of Covid paperwork and pre-boarding chaos in Liverpool, it proved a brilliant trip - lots of Aurora Borealis (4 nights running), wildlife spotting (orcas & umpteen whales), great onboard food & specialist lectures and good museums at ports-of call and a train ride into Sweden from Narvik along an amazing ironore route part of which was along the shore of the Rombaksfjord. We even managed to track down some local beer on a couple of the shore excursions although timings were admittedly restricted by the ship's itinerary and docking times.

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

In Tromso, the excellent Olhallen bar is located on Storgata opposite the Mack Brewery, with a chalkboard behind the counter featuring no less than 50 on-tap kegs – a stunning range. We bought a paddle of $5 \times$ 170ml glasses, costing almost £30. Yes, the prices in Norway are eye-watering but, quote "you're on holiday, don't think about the cost". Plus a polar bear to hug & take selfies with! In Trondheim we found two bars - first the Trondheim Micro-brewery tap-room on Prinsensgate with 5 of their own beers on offer. We enjoyed a swift 500 ml (equivalent to 0.88% of a pint) at £6.62 before moving on to the much more interesting Habitat bar on Olav Tryggvasons Gate. This is part owned by Monkey Brewery and our cask and keg spend was a shade under £20 for 3×500 ml. The back wall featured a giant poster of Habitat founder, Terence Conran - would you need to be British of a certain age to recognise him?

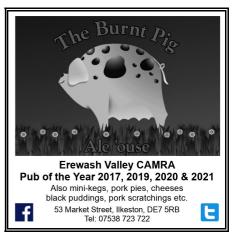
Note that on board the ship, Fred Olsen Borealis, the only bottled beers available were Adnams Ghost Ship and Shepherd Neame Spitfire, priced at not-unreasonable £4.10 (no cans) - which did disappoint us given the plethora of UK real ales and the fact that FO is UK-based (headquarters in Ipswich). Come on FO support UK real ale brewers and provide some variety! Aron37.

Three-On-Sea, March 2022

On the morning of Saturday 26th of March I

met up with Charisma (approaching) and HH at Derby station for the 8.04 St. Pancras train. On arrival we discovered that all the underground lines that we could use were out of service so after getting some info from one of the attendants we got the underground to Liverpool Street station and once I'd got my bearings (as none of us could remember the bus numbers the attendant had mentioned) I decided we should walk (thank goodness for Google Maps) to Fenchurch Street station.... where we got our intended train to Southend-on-Sea.

We arrived at Southend East at around 11:30. which gave Charisma plenty of time to furtle around in a record shop before we got to the GBG Mawson's micro-pub ready for opening. There were five beers on hand-pump and we all tried different ones (I went for Georges Broadsword which was very nice) and we had a good old chat with the barman, who was very familiar with Derby and the surrounding area, while we were there. In hindsight it was worth a prolonged stay but we moved on and got the bus into the centre (not sure if it's a town or a city yet) and called in the JDW Last Post where alongside the usual suspects, there were five notable beers, one of which was Great Newsome Holderness Dark, which I plumped for. From there a short walk got us to the Old Trout, which was another "also try" and we found 3 of the 4 wickets in use -Wantsum Uprising and a house beer also from Wantsum were sampled and in fine form.



Another short walk got us to Westcliff-On-Sea where our first port of call was the GBG Cricketers. Amongst several dead pumps there were three beers on offer with Leigh-On-Sea Legra Pale being the only real option. so we all partook. It was on to the GBG Mile & A Third micro-pub which had numerous beers on tap (it just seems all the rage these days idiot proof beer!) and two on handpump. All of us went for Drop Project Choppy, which was a lovely stout but not really to Charisma's taste. Then it was a very fleeting visit to the GBG West Road Tap which had a brewery takeover from a brewery that had no real ale so we left before the door had closed. Why do places like these waste space in the (diminished) Good Beer Guide..... just a thought.

It was then a bit of a walk and a bus out to

the GBG Leigh-on-Sea Brewery Tap which would have taken some finding had we not followed a couple of chaps going in that direction. I would love to say that it was well worth finding, but it wasn't, with numerous beers on those infernal taps and 2 on handpump (one of which was a Nottingham beer not that there's anything wrong with Nottingham beers, but you don't travel all the way to a Leigh-On-Sea's brewery tap to drink it!). We begrudgingly settled for the Legra Pale, which, to add insult to injury, had been better in the Cricketers. Their customer service didn't even extend to ringing a taxi so HH did the necessaries and thankfully it turned up quite quickly which is more than can be said for the taxi of two other guys that were waiting and had been for half an hour. If you are considering visiting, I wouldn't bother. The driver dropped us down at Old Leigh sea front, which was absolutely rammed with people - obviously the sun had brought them out - and we called in the GBG Mayflower, which was equally busy, and found a good selection of six ales on hand-pump including Bishops Nick Heresy which was sampled by myself and in good nick.

After the rigmarole in London we decided to get an early train back and we retraced our steps from Fenchurch Street back to Liverpool Street and then on to St. Pancras and much too HH's disbelief, we managed to get the 6.02 train back to Derby. HH stayed on the train to Chesterfield whilst Charisma and I alighted in Derby and called for a quick one or two in the Alex before heading home. Rodders.



Manchester, 12th April

Catching the 8.36 am train at Langley Mill with a change at Alfreton got me into Manchester at 10.35 am. I made my way for a breakfast at Wilson's Social café on Oldham Street and then headed to the **Unicorn**, close by, and found it had really gone downhill with only 2 ales available - Bass and Wainwright, so Bass it was. It's now a karaoke pub in the evenings and also has large TV screens - what a shame. However, it still has its wonderful interior oak panelling and cosy rooms. I then made my way to the **Crown & Kettle**, an old pub of character where I sampled **Facer's** Abbey Blonde (4.0%, £4.00) but I thought it was only OK. It was then on to the **Smithfield**

for a Blackjack Brewing Darcey's Pale (3.5%, £4.00) which was in good order.

It was now time for me to head a few doors up to the Band on the Wall music venue and the main reason for my coming today - to attend the free lunchtime gig by the legendary blues man Victor Brox. An icon of mine since the 60s, he is now 82 years old and still a fantastic singer and musician - brilliant. From there it was only a short walk to the classic inventory pub, the Hare & Hounds where I enjoyed a pint of Joseph Holt Bitter (4.0%, £2.90) - a sensational drop, and so much so that I had to sample another pint (it won't be beaten today). There were plenty of folks putting bets on for today's Grand National race later and I could have supped in here all day, but I headed off to another classic pub, the Grey Horse, where I sampled a pint of Hydes Original (3.8%, £3.30) plus a half of 1863 (3.8%, £1.60) from the same brewery - both very good - in this small, cosy pub. I then just had time to visit the Circus Tavern, a few doors along - another classic inventory pub. There was only Tetley and Robinsons on so I had just a half of Tetley's Bitter (£2.20), but it was in top order and very much enjoyed in this tiny two-roomed gem of a pub.

It was then time to get the train back to Langley Mill with a quick call at the **Sheffield Tap** on Sheffield station for a half of **Rooster's** Nectar (5.2%, £2.35, very pricey). I ended the day with visits to the **Tap &** Growler in Eastwood for a half of Acorn Barnsley Bitter (3.8%, £1.50) which was excellent, and also the **Pick & Davy** for a half of **Castle Rock** Elsie Mo (4.7%, £1.70), another decent drop. A great day out. **The Didler**.

Bury, 29th April

Having not been for a few years, I took a bus trip to Bury with the idea of taking the Old Fruit to the GBG Trackside Bar on the East Lancs Railway Station but on arrival discovered that it was closed for a refurb. Change of plan so into the GBG Art Picture House which is a Wetherspoons conversion. A really superb building inside and out but has become a bit run down inside and needs sprucing up to realise the architectural splendour. The beer did not justify the GBG rating - I had Phoenix Double Gold which took ages to clear with Three B's Bee Blonde, Moorhouse's Pride Of Pendle and Adnams Ghost Ship the other options. Needing an alternative dining option we tried the nearby at the Automatic Café which was a smart modern café bar with a very enthusiastic welcome. The meal was excellent and the beer not at all bad too with 3 Brightside ales being Chuck American Brown Ale, Odin Blonde and Mancunian Hoppy Blonde. I had not been in before but would use it again. Just around the corner I noted that the Robert Peel is no longer run by Wetherspoons but did not go in. Instead we visited the Clarence where I had previously had good beer and it did not disappoint with Beartown Best Bitter and Kodiak, Deeply Vale White Wolf and Brightside Umbra Dark Mild. Surprisingly few people in this lovely restored corner dining pub and the barman informed me that the equipment from the former Silver Street Brewery is still in the cellar waiting for a suitable person to resume brewing.



I then set off alone and with plenty of spare time made a first visit to the GBG Broad Street Social which had opened since my last visit. This is the tap for Brewsmith brewery and I had several halves here, choosing from Brewsmith Cascade, Pale, APA and Oatmeal Stout, Vocation Bread & Butter and Roosters Baby-Faced Assassin. Very good beer with a good welcome in an industrial styled old shop with bare brick walls, wooden plank floor and continental style outside pavement tables. The Thirsty Fish is a micro-pub located in a shopping arcade close to the market and my bus pick up point so an obvious choice to go here last. There was a good selection of ales from Iron Pier, Poynton, Deeply Vale, Phoenix and Brewsmith so I managed a couple of quick halves whilst having some limited conversation with the proprietor who reminded me of the barman from the Benidorm TV programme - I almost expected Johnny Vegas to appear. Bury is still a reasonable venue for a beer day out, especially when the Trackside Bar is open again. Chris P Duck.

Hucknall, 8th May

"In The Sticks" was contacted recently by Andrew Ludlow, Nottingham CAMRA Secretary, to advertise a recently published ale trail around Hucknall which would be worth exploring. And finally on a Sunday in May I caught the tram from Toton Lane right to the end of the line in Hucknall to see what was on offer.

I started and ended my visit at the Station Hotel, the Lincoln Green pub close to the tram terminus (and railway station). This has two large airy rooms, one of which is given over to diners, plus a smaller "Games Room" which is perhaps too big to be called a Snug. The pub has a definite railway feel to it and features a lot of wood. There is also lots of outdoor seating. They had 8 Lincoln Green ales on the bar ranging in gravity from 3.8%

(Marion) to 6.0% (Crossbow) plus a single guest, Ringwood Razorback. The beers were in good condition but it's a shame that drinkers of halves are obliged to pay a 5p premium - there are many "In The Sticks" readers who prefer to try a range of ales rather than quantity and who strongly object to this practice.

I then called at the **Plough & Harrow** which is a large multi-roomed pub with a good sized outdoor seating area - but also a TV showing sport in every room. Since of the 4 handpumps, only one was in use and that was TT Landlord, I didn't stop. Instead I went on to the **Baker & Bear** which is a good-sized micro-pub with lots of wood and bare brick. I was the only customer. There were four ales on, two from **Stancill** plus *Harvest Pale* and *Plum Porter*. The first pint had to go back as

undrinkable! You would have to ask yourself why this wasn't checked beforehand? I replaced it with a pint of the Stancill Barnsley Bitter but I should have had a half as I left most of it. Not a successful visit.

I moved on to the **Beer Shack** which is another micro-pub but I was made welcome and there were plenty of customers in. Five ales on from **Flagship** (x2), **Nelson**, **Beartown** and **Brass Castle**. It also stocks an extensive range of craft beers in cans and bottles. Not too far away is the **Hideout** which had three ales on offer (**Welbeck Abbey** Skylight, **Blue Monkey** BG Sips and one from **Dancing Duck**. It's described as a "city bar" and comprises two rooms - a street-level main bar and a downstairs room of similar size with bench seating and a heater. They also serve pizzas.

Then I moved on to Byron's Rest, another

micro-pub and recent Nottingham POTY runner-up. There were five ales on the bar, two from Black Iris, BG Sips, Dancing Duck Duzzy & Plum Porter. A main narrow deep room, somewhat dark, with a brighter small side room by the entrance. Lots of literary themed decoration and an old-fashioned feel.

I returned to the Station Hotel for a final beer and then managed to time my arrival at the station to catch one of the few trains running on a Sunday into Nottingham which saved part of the long tram journey back to Toton Lane. Despite the experience at the Baker & Bear, I had a good day out. JDW also have a presence in Hucknall for those who are fans (I'm not) but I think it would be fair to say that the two busiest pubs I saw were the JDW Pilgrim Oak and the Plough & Harrow. Snug Dave.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

30th June-2nd July. 11th Amber Valley Beer Festival. Belper Rugby Club, Derby Road, Belper. 90 ales, cider/perry 30th June-2nd July. Bromsgrove Beer Festival. Bromsgrove Rugby Club, Finstall Road, Bromsgrove. 144 ales, 5 craft, cider 30th June-3rd July. Angels Micro-Pub Cider Festival. Market Place, Belper.

6th-10th July. Brunswick 180th Anniversary Beer Festival. 1 Railway Terrace, Derby. 50+ ales, 20 real ciders 15th-17th July. Wortley Beer Festival. Wortley Mens Institute, Reading Room Lane, Wortley Village, Sheffield 22nd-24th July. The Steampacket Beer and Cider Festival. Derby Road, Swanwick, DE65 1AB. 30 ales, 20 ciders 22nd-24th July. Market Bosworth Beer Festival. Goods Shed, Station Road, Market Bosworth. 60 ales, 25 ciders 28th-31st July. Smithfest Beer Festival. Meadow Road, Derby. 40+ ales, 10+ ciders 28th-31st July. Hucknall Beer Festival. The John Godber Centre, Hucknall, Nottingham. 50+ ales

6th-10th July. Old Windmill Beer Festival. 22-23 Spon Street, Coventry

7th-9th July. 45th Wolverhampton Beer Festival. Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton 8th-9th July. Beer on the Wye Beer Festival. Marque@Hereford Rowing Club. 300+ beers, cider/perry 8th-9th July. 9th Maidenhead Beer and Cider Festival. NMCC Sports Bar, Summerleaze Park, Maidenhead, SL6 8SP 14th-16th July. Ealing Beer Festival. Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing. 200+ ales, cider/perry, wine, foreign 15th-17th July. Cotswold Beer Festival. Postlip Hall, Cheltenham, GL54 5AQ

15th-17th July. Epping Ongar Beer Festival. North Weald Station, Station Rd, North Weald Bassett, Epping. 75 ales, cider 28th-30th July. 37th Egham Beer Festival. United Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham, Surrey. 60 ales 29th-30th July. Leighton Buzzard Beerfest. The Scout Hut, 48 Grovebury Road, Leighton Buzzard 29th-30th July. 12th Guildford Beer Festival. Guildford Cricket Club, Woodbridge Road, Guildford. 100 ales cider/perry 2nd-6th Aug. GBBF, Olympia Exhibition Centre, Olympia Way, Hammersmith Road, London. 1000+ 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.



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



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