

# "RuRAD "In the Sticks"

LEADMILL BREWERY and BOTTLE BROOK BREWERY

Producers of Traditional Hand Crafted Real Ales

## In the Sticks

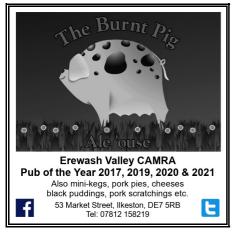
Welcome to the latest issue of "In the Sticks" the newsletter of RuRAD, Rural Real Ale Drinkers. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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.

### Mea Culpa

The editor would like to apologise for getting the year wrong in last month's (September) issue. The person responsible has been given a stiff dressing-gown and sent to bed with no supper. Oh no, that's me, isn't it? Damn!



### Beer & Pub News

The Canal Inn, Bullbridge opened for business on the 1st September after a long period of closure and a lot of refurbishment. I called in one lunchtime and it has a very "new" feel about it. The pub now includes its own micro-brewery (14 Lock) and I sampled The Bear Pit which was fine. The Tram Inspector also visited when the pub first opened and there were two 14 Lock beers on (The Brickyard and The Boater's Code) plus Sharps Doom Bar and Atlantic. There are also several keg and lager taps on the bar. Snug Dave.

On Monday September 19th, the day of the Queen's funeral, I visited the **Five Lamps** for their pre-opening night. This was after it had been closed for several weeks for refurbishment. I was interested to see what

## OKTOBER 2022

Dave Brown and his sons James and Oliver had done with their new venture, hoping they would match what had been done at the **Crown Inn** (Beeston) and the **Final Whistle** (Southwell), which are two cracking pubs.

The pub had a fresh clean look about it, with the smell of paint still in the air. The wooden panelling had been revarnished and all the seats had been reupholstered, the carpet had been removed to expose a nice wooden floor, while the bar area had a traditional London look about it, with the top of the bar exposed to house all the glasses above.

There was a choice of 11 real ales, and a selection of several keg beers. I would have liked to see more stronger beers on as there seemed to be rather a lot of session ales in evidence, but I suppose it's down to personnel preference. The pub was well attended for saying the opening was not common knowledge, and future plans include having a band on the last Thursday of every month. Good luck to Dave, James and Oliver with their new venture. Charisma Bypass.

It has been reported to "In The Sticks" that long-term landlord, Ian Darlington is leaving (has left?) the Cross Keys in Ockbrook and moving to the Jolly Sailor in Hemington.

## 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

Steve Copestake informed "In The Sticks" that the Chip & Pin in Melbourne has been acquired by Leatherbritches. A Twitter post by the former owners, Matt & Diane, gives a few more details:

"We wanted to let you know that we have sold The Chip & Pin and that the last day of trading under our ownership will be Sunday 28th August. The new owners, who are the team behind Leatherbritches Brewery, want to take some time to refurbish the pub and

## Free Copy

make some alterations, so it will be closed from Monday 29th August for a few weeks."

Steve also reported that guest beers at the Boot, Repton have included Mallinsons, North Riding, Vocation, Neepsend and Bristol Beer Factory alongside the usual range of Boot ales (Clodhopper, IPA, Bitter etc.).



It is sad to report that the **Old Black Swan** in Crich closed its doors on 28th August. The Facebook post on 29th August stated: "Due to events beyond our control The Black Swan is now closed for the foreseeable future." A much longer post was later issued which can be found on their Facebook page, dated the 5th September.

Big Al informed "In The Sticks" that the York Chambers micro-pub in Long Eaton closed its doors after 7 years. Whether it will re-open under new management is unclear.

It also appears that **The Hole In The Wall** on Regent Street, also in Long Eaton, closed on 15th September. A Facebook rumour is that the pub will be turned into apartments.

Charisma Bypass has heard that the Knockerdown Inn close to Carsington Reservoir is closed and boarded up. There's very little information on t-interpipes and noone from Ashbourne CAMRA has visited since January 2019. A visitor posting on the Restaurant Guru web-site said that he found it closed, perhaps permanently, at the end of August

Contributors: Big Al, Charisma Bypass, John-Eric, Rodders, Snug Dave, Steve Copestake, Tram Inspector

#### Beer Festival News

As has become traditional, there are plenty

of beer festivals to visit during the month of October (I blame the Germans, me). Here are some details of the more local events.

This year's annual **Royal** Oak (Ockbrook) beer festival takes place on the 7th-9th October and features 20+ beers from Northamptonshire. Rodders, who appeared to have sampled every beer on offer over the three days of last year's event, reported that it was "a good festival with some new beers for me and some I'd not had for quite a while".



The Nottingham Robin Hood Beer and Cider Festival returns to the same venue as last year, Trent Bridge cricket ground, on 12th-15th October. As usual, there will be squillions of ales to choose from plus KeyKeg, cider, gin, food and live music. Tickets are priced at £12.00 (Wed & Thur) and £22.00 (Fri & Sat). Attendees should note that the festival is cashless. Apollo wrote of last year's festival: "This is a world class event at a world class venue and I hope to be around for it next year, though I might have to get into training for it".

7th Annual Wirksworth Beer Festival (15th October, 12.00-11.00). As last year, this will be held at the Rock Face behind the Lime Kiln pub on Cromford Road, Wirksworth. 20 real ales are promised from Wirksworth and Derbyshire breweries plus a selection of food and live music throughout the day. Confirmed acts are Frank, The Collide and Agent Utah.

Of last year's festival, Sooty wrote: "It was a well organised event with a marquee set up towards the back which housed 23 Derbyshire brewed ales from 12 different breweries. All beers were priced the same and the quality was good. The band playing attracted a good crowd and food was also available so with good weather to match, it was a very successful day."

The Mallard Ale'oween Beer Festival (27th-31st October) located on Worksop Railway Station, returns for the first time since 2019. The beer list (20 real ales) sees a mix of seasonal brews, one-offs and old favourites. The pub recently won North Notts CAMRA award for Summer Pub of the Season and is a previous winner of Nottinghamshire CAMRA Pub of the Year. Trains run hourly from Sheffield, Lincoln,

Nottingham and Mansfield.

Angels Micro-pub (Belper) are hosting another beer festival in October (27th-30th) featuring gluten-free ales. Steve Cresswell has admitted that it's been a tough task sourcing them but expect beers from Abbeydale, Brass Castle, Boss Brewing, Little and Vocation.

### In The Papers

The Derby Telegraph (1st September) reported that a planning application (ref: 22/01085/FUL) has been submitted to Derby City Council to demolish the former Duke Of Clarence pub on Mansfield Road, Derby and build 11 apartments and a micro-pub in its place. Two Derby City councillors (Alison Martin and Martin Repton) have objected to the plans.

The Derby Telegraph (12th September) reported that the **Pattenmakers Arms**, Duffield is set to re-open in November as a "brand-new restaurant run by an awardwinning local chef". Mind you a very similar story was run in February 2021.

The **Punchbowl** in West Hallam has closed (Derby Telegraph, 20th September). A sign outside reads "Sorry we are permanently closing doors on or before Friday, September 16. Matt and Jo.". The landlady, Jo, has posted a long message on Facebook dated 21st September, tagged with the emoji "feeling drained".



### RuRAD Snippet

### Bang in Belper

Bang! is the name of the newest micro-pub in Belper, which is housed in the site of the former Belper Tap. Having heard a lot of good things about it I thought I'd try it myself. After visiting a few times over the last couple of weeks a decent range of real ale could be found (four hand-pulls with regularly changing offerings from Blue Bee, Brass Castle, Pentrich, Totally Brewed and Belper Brewing Company so far), as well as a selection of keg craft beers and ciders. I opted for a Totally Brewed Slap in the Face (pale, 4.0%) and thought it was kept well and very nice. The other member of our party had a Blue Bee Triple Hop which was thoroughly enjoyed. There is also food available which has good variety with regular specials - we had the halloumilicious burger and the chicken gyoza bento bowl which were very tasty indeed! There were plenty of people in the pub which gave it a pleasant atmosphere. Overall it is a great addition to Belper's thriving pub scene and is well worth a visit. Dame Judi.



# The Dew Drop Inn Ilkeston Junction

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heritage pub guide
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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

#### Out & About

Trips this month to the West Country, Bedford and Tamworth.

### West Country Tour Part 1, August

On the morning of Friday August 5th, I met up with Charisma at Derby train station where we joined HH on the 7.04 St Pancras train. On arrival we made our way to Paddington station where our plans to board an earlier train were scuppered as it wasn't a "super off-peak" so we had to wait half an hour or so for the 10.35 to Exeter. We were a little bit late to arrive but that just meant we didn't have to wait very long for the train to Newton St Cyres, which is a request stop. and the GBG Beer Engine, a hop, skip and a jump from the train station. 5 Beer Engine Brewery beers were on the bar and between us I think we tried them all but then we did have an hour to kill. My first one, Piston Bitter, never touched the sides and the second, Pullmans Progress, went down likewise and I finished on Sleeper Heavy..... at a more leisurely pace.

Back in Exeter we had time for a quick half in the Great Western before continuing on the train to Teignmouth where our first port of call was the GBG Blue Anchor which had a good selection of six beers and a couple of ciders on the wickets - Teignmouth Deckhand was favoured by me and was in good order. Then, as it was on the way back to the station, we called in the JDW Jolie Brise where we eventually got served - this is one of those 'Spoons where the bar staff seem unable to use the whole length of the bar, so we could have done without HH bamboozling them further by asking if he could use a voucher for 2 halves!

Thankfully we got back to the station in time for our train to Newton Abbot where we headed out to the GBG Teign Cellars but HH dragged us kicking and screaming into Ye Olde Cider Bar where of the proliferation of

ciders available I went for Thatchers Black Rat. At the aforementioned Teign Cellars the single hand-pump dispensed a beer that was so un-noteworthy I didn't make a note of it and of such poor quality that we swiftly moved on to the JDW Richard Hopkin but it was one of those 'Spoons where you have to queue to get served so we decided to queue in a chip shop instead. Then it was on to the GBG Maltings Taphouse & Bottle Shop, which I'd visited many moons ago.... and was obviously expecting too much. 2 of the 3 sticks were in use and I settled for Bristol Beer Factory Joy of Sesh, which had to do as there were no Teignworthy brewery beers on (were it not for HH taking us in Ye Olde Cider Bar I think we could have stayed on the train!).

Then it was on to Totnes where we dropped off our bags in our digs, the GBG Bay Horse Inn, and got checked in before hitting the town. Firstly it was the GBG Watermans Arms where of the 2 beers on offer I made the executive decision to go for Hunters Old Charlie while the others were..... engaged. From there we moved on to the GBG Albert Inn, which is the tap house for Bridgetown Brewery. 3 of their beers were on and the Shark Island Stout was top notch. As we'd passed, we espied a couple of wickets in the Waterside Bistro dispensing Salcombe beers and I plumped for Island Street Porter, which was decent. Our penultimate port of call was the GBG Totnes Brewing Co, where I have never been before but was expecting too much, as there were 3 hand-pumps and only 1 of those was a Totnes beer, Citra, which in fairness was decent. Finally it was back to the GBG Bay Horse Inn, where due to several issues on the brewing front there were no beers from New Lion Brewery, much to HH's chagrin. There were 5 beers on but it had been a long day and I forgot to make a note of them. I did finish off with a Sandford Orchards Creedy Vintage before hitting the sack. Rodders.



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### Boiling In Bedford

In 30+°C on a Thursday afternoon, with consequent delays on the rail network, ten well-intentioned but otherwise tetchy pensioners descended upon the town of Bedford to taste beers (and ciders). Tough executive decisions were needed, due to the

combination of the deadly rays, large group and our preference for cask options over kegonly bars.

The JDW Pilgrim's Progress was our rendezvous, but due to missed connections at Kettering the advance party were nearly gambrinous\* by the time the rest of us turned up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours late. The airy and cool large bar was welcome and first drinks barely touched the sides. We drank BrewDog Punk IPA, Mauldrons Silver Adder, Oakham Helter Skelter, Ruddles Best, Conwy Rampart, Greene King Abbot and Thatchers cider, so the 10 bob CAMRA discount amounted to £10 off altogether. Staff were keen and enquiring, having glimpsed our sharp pencils and scoring sheets.

Once our congregation was fully assembled and watered, we traversed the shopping centre towards the **Brewhouse & Kitchen**. We asked directions several times, receiving the reply "I don't speak English" in very good English. Best advice came from a homeless person on a street corner in a wheelchair.

I'd assumed **Brewhouse & Kitchen** was a small place, but the brewpub has a big roomy bar area and we stayed for two and tasted *Icon Pilsner*, Legend Lager, Invarsity, Chief Goober Stout, Castle Lane APA, Tasmanian Tom, and Intrepid (5.0%) (all **B&K** brews and bought with 10% CAMRA discount). The shiny copper brewing vessels are a feature of the bar area, with a board listing the brewer's weekly schedule. Our records show we have drunk **B&K** beers once before on a Lichfield pub crawl four years ago.

The Castle was our next port of call. Some of us had once been keen on collecting stamps from the "Young's Round" of 50 odd tied houses in the 80s when the venerable Ram brewery in Wandsworth brewed Original. Special and Ramrod, and were keen to taste the modern manifestation of Special from the local Eagle brewery. The Castle had a small garden in semi-shade, and a landlady happy to tell us about the difference between Charlie Wells Origin and Young's London Original, the technical details of which went over my head. Also on the bar were Courage Directors, Adnams Southwold Bitter and Ghost Ship. Westons Old Rosie cider and, ahem, Guinness

After some dispute about compass bearings, we headed towards the renowned Wellington Arms, to be nearer the station. Again cool and not packed, we took the register only to find we had somehow slipped our tail with only five of us making it thus far, including both kitty holders so no panic. The rest apparently arrived after we had slowly finished our pints and I presume they imposed an emergency budget. This is becoming more common and likely to recur, but no harm done. We enjoyed drinks of Dragon Slayer (4.5%), Shefford Bitter (3.8%) (both Banks & Taylor), Oakham Citra and Guinness. Concerned (correctly) that we were prone to more delays on the ways home, we headed for the station to disperse in all directions, with some fluid top-ups taken at the Parcel Yard just outside Leicester station. A fine day out and recommended, with all beers in good nick, full measures and none returned, and we would have been happy to spend longer in any of the four pubs visited. Ginger Baker.

\*full of beer. After the mythical Flemish King Gambrinus, reputed inventor of beer.

# 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

### Tamworth, 27th Aug

Earlier in the year, I received an e-mail from Adrian Smith, co-owner of the King's Ditch, who wrote to tell me that Tamworth had a good selection of real ale outlets and was well worth a visit. My plans to visit were twice delayed by rail strikes but I eventually made the trip on a Saturday - mid-week visits are fraught due to late (or non) pub opening hours.

It's a short walk from the train station to the GBG King's Ditch so a good place to start and plan the visit (if it hadn't been planned already). A small room, although there is extra seating upstairs. It was quite busy soon after 12.00 and I was greeted by the friendly local crowd (rather than just being stared at). There were 4 gravity fed ales on the board from Muirhouse, Hartshorns, Green Duck and Loch Lomond, Also 15 draught ciders and the pub has been a multiple winner of local and regional Cider POTY and a finalist in the national competition. Just down the road is the GBG Sir Robert Peel, which was recognised in the CAMRA 50th Anniversary Golden Awards. Quite a dark bar area with 4 ales on offer from Little Critters, Mallinsons and Salopian (x2). Hundreds of pump clips decorating the ceiling and walls reflect the changing beer list. At the rear, rather unexpectedly, is a peaceful garden, backing on to the St Editha's parish church graveyard and overlooked by mature trees. A refuge from the death metal playing on the juke box.

Not too far away is the GBG Tamworth Tap, recent winner of the CAMRA West Midlands POTY. A proper, old-fashioned boozer decorated with pump clips, pub memorabilia and strung with hops. To the rear is a garden area called the Hop Yard with open and covered areas and adjacent to the remains of Tamworth Castle. And upstairs is extra seating in a rather elegant "Edwardian" room.

There were 9 beers on offer from 9 different breweries but none from the Tamworth brewery for reasons that weren't explained. Also 18 ciders. The one problem the pub faces is the serving area is quite small so queues can quickly develop at busy times. Just across the way is the Joules Market Vaults which is typical of their pubsbeautifully decorated but (as usual) offering only their own ales. If you like them, fine, if not, well... I had one from the Beer Club series which I had not had before but didn't record the number - probably #1006 or

#1007. It is a long deep pub with an unexpected garden with open and covered areas to the rear. Very friendly and I had a good chat with the landlady who had to break off to greet and say farewell to her customers. She said she would like some guest beers but Joules are a bit resistant.

It was then on to **Old Bank House** which is a beautiful old property with an attached garden. Small rooms and lots of button-backed leather sofas. Contrary to expectations, they had 5 ales from quite an

esoteric selection of breweries: North Riding, Left Handed Giant, Blue Bee, Salopian and Brew York. I had the Brew York Tonkoko stout (4.3%) which was excellent. I returned to the Tamworth Tap for a last beer (also from Brew York) before returning to the station and home (just before the Derby home game had finished). I had neither the time (nor the stamina) to visit all the pubs listed in the Tamworth Town Ale Trail and I also prefer to linger for a while in the ones I did visit. Plenty to see on the next visit. Snug Dave.

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

16th Sept-3rd Oct. Octoberfest @The Brewery Tap, Derwent Street, Derby
6th-9th Oct. Tom Said Beer Festival. Unit 2a Monk Road Industrial Estate, Alfreton
6th-10th Oct. The 35th Brunswick Beer Festival. Station Approach, Derby. 50 ales cider/perry
7th-9th Oct. Royal Oak Beer Festival. Green Lane, Ockbrook. 20+ Northamptonshire beers
12th-15th Oct. Nottingham Beer Festival. Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham. 650+ real ales, craft, cider
15th Oct. High Peak Beer Festival. Town Hall, Spring Bank, New Mills, Derbyshire
15th Oct. Wirksworth Beer Festival. The Rock Face, Lime Kiln, Cromford Road, Wirksworth. 20 real ales, cider, food & live music
19th-22nd Oct. 46th Sheffield Steel City Beer Festival. Kelham Island Museum, Alma Street, Sheffield. 200+ ales
20th-22nd Oct. 10th Samaritans Beer Festival. Royal British Legion, 44 Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester
20th-23rd Oct. George & Dragon Rocktober Fest. 117 Bridge Street, Belper. 20+ real ales & ciders. Live music
26th-30th Oct. 11th Furnace Dark vs Light Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. 12 dark, 12 light ales
27th-29th Oct. Holly Bush Inn Beer Festival. Makeney, Derbyshire. 25 real ales, live music, food trucks
27th-30th Oct. Angels Micro-pub Beer Festival. Worksop station, Worksop. 20 real ales

5th-8th Oct. 44th Bedford Beer Festival. Corn Exchange, St Pauls Square, Bedford. 80+ ales
6th-8th Oct. Solihull Beer Festival. Royal British Legion, Union Road, Solihull
7th-9th Oct. Spa Valley Railway 11th Anniversary Beer Festival. Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 150 ales, 30 ciders
12th-23rd Oct. Wetherspoon Real Ale Festival. All Wetherspoon Pubs. www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk. 30 ales
13th-15th Oct. Bolton Beer Festival. University of Bolton Stadium, Burnden Way, Horwich, Bolton
20th-21st Oct. 23rd Oxford Beer Festival. Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates Street, Oxford. 120 ales, 30 ciders
20th-22nd Oct. Grantham Beer Festival. St Wulframs Church, Grantham. 70+ ales, cider, perry
20th-22nd Oct. 34th Swindon Beer Festival. Steam Museum, Kemble Drive, Swindon. 100+ ales, cider/perry
24th-29th Oct. 44th Norwich Beer Festival. St Andrews & Blackfriars Hall, Norwich. 200+ ales
26th-29th Oct. Le Gothique Beer Festival. John Archer Way, Windmill Rd, Wandsworth, London. 100 cask ales
27th-29th Oct. 39th Fleetwood Beer & Cider Festival. Marine Hall, Esplanade, Fleetwood. 100+ ales, cider/perry
28th-29th Oct. 24th Worthing Beer Festival. The Room, Guidbourne Shopping Centre, Ann St, Worthing. 105 ales, 25 ciders
2nd-5th Nov. 38th Egham Beer Festival. United Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham, Surrey. 60 ales
3rd-5th Nov. Kidderminster Beer Festival. Town Hall, Vicar Street, Kidderminster. 40+ ales, 15 ciders

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



### Pete and Tracey welcome you to THE RAILWAY 25 King Street, Belper

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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 April and the team welcome you to the

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Winner of the Amber Valley CAMRA Winter Ale Trail 2019

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