



# RURAD

## "In the Sticks"

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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](mailto:snugdave@outlook.com).

For current & previous issues log on to [www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad](http://www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad). You can also find copies of the newsletter on the Loughborough CAMRA web-site ([www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/newsletters](http://www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/newsletters)) along with digital copies of other local beer-centric 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

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## Beer & Pub News

HH called in at the **Hasland Hops** micro-pub (Hasland, just outside Chesterfield) and found **Neepsend Blonde**, **Thornbridge Jaipur** and **Chatsworth Gold** on offer plus craft/keg beers and a wide range of gins etc. Check Facebook for the current range. The opening hours have recently changed to: Wed-Thur, 4.00-10.00, Fri & Sat, 2.00-11.00, Sun, 3.00-8.00. Tuesday opening will be restored in the summer months.

HH also reports that the **Three Horse Shoes**, Ripley accepts CAMRA 50p vouchers.

**Kelham Island Brewery** in Sheffield has been saved thanks to a group put together by the Tramlines Festival co-founder, James O'Hara. The following is lifted from the **Kelham Island Brewery** web-site...

"The brewery's rescue is a collaboration between Tramlines co-founder and Sheffield venue owner James O'Hara, his brother and financial analyst Tom O'Hara, Simon Webster and Jim Harrison of renowned Thornbridge Brewery, Peter Donohoe, founder of Sheffield based creative studio Peter and Paul and Ben Rymer marketing manager from

## NOVEMBER 2022

beer festival organisers, *We Are Beer*."

Jim Harrison said that the original founder of **Kelham Island Brewery**, the late Dave Wickett, was also involved in opening **Thornbridge** brewery and without his input there would be no **Thornbridge**. The group decided that they couldn't let the brewery die, especially the iconic **Pale Rider**, Champion Beer of Britain in 2004. This beer was back on the bar at the **Fat Cat** pub, Sheffield and was included in the cask ale list for the Steel City 46 beer festival at the Kelham Island Museum.

**Skinner's Brewery** in Cornwall closed suddenly at the end of September and has gone into administration. The following is part of a **Skinner's Brewery** Facebook post dated 30th September...

"Steve Skinner sole owner of *Skinner's brewery* is deeply saddened to announce that as of the week commencing Monday 3rd October, *Skinner's Brewery* will enter into administration. Our strong hope is that a buyer can be found, and that the brewery in some form will continue to be part of life in Cornwall for many years to come."

**Grasshopper** brewery in Langley Mill, whose head brewer Beau O'Dowd was tragically killed in a motor accident in September 2021, is now part of the **Backyard Brewhouse** group, based in the West Midlands. The first beer to be brewed again at the Nottingham site was **Cricket** (4.8%) with **Nymph** (4.2%) to follow in November. **The Didler**.

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

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<https://royaloakockbrook.com>



I was sorry to hear that the two brothers running the **Railway Tavern** in Langley Mill are leaving on the 27th November. They have done a splendid job since taking it on with a great refurbishment of the pub and top

quality ales served in spotless surroundings and it's been much appreciated. It is hoped that a new tenant can be found, but it is also rumoured that it could be turned into flats, God forbid. Best wishes for a job well done.  
**The Didler.**

April and the team welcome you to the

**THORN TREE INN**

21 Chesterfield Road, Belper  
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Winner of the Amber Valley  
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Family and dog friendly

Real Ale, Real Cider, Real Fire  
Real Pub

Peter Wright of the **Bent Barrel** brewery based in the **Crooked Cask**, Heanor reported that they have started to brew 1 firkin at a time and have made a pale called **Mad Welshman**, a stout named **Billy Banter** and an IPA named **Go With The Flo**. The names are based around the local loyal drinkers. Expect to find them in the **Crooked Cask** (beers & locals?).

Following unconfirmed reports about pubs being closed in the Brassington area, I decided to take a run up there on 8th October to take a look. The **Nags Head**, Hulland Ward was boarded up with a Heineken Star Pubs & Bars For Lease sign on display. I called at the **Red Lion** in Hognaston for no other reason than I was passing and hadn't been in for years, and found **Pedigree**, **Wincle Weller** and **Welbeck Abbey Seven Sisters** on the bar. A lovely old fashioned pub with food available and it was quite busy with walkers when I was visiting. The **Miners Arms**, Brassington is definitely open and had **TT Landlord** & **Pedigree** on the bar. This is an Admiral Taverns pub and the current tenant, Trevor (surname not given) has been in place since December 2021. It appears to be open every day. I also called at **Ye Olde Gate Inn** and found **Pedigree**, **Wainwright** & **Aldwark Baabarian** on the bar. Plus a lively crowd and a full car park so this pub looks to be doing OK. And finally, I visited the **Miners Arms** in Carsington which was open and busy. **TT Landlord**, **Furnace Fun Sponge** and

**Thornbridge Hopton English Pale Ale** were on the bar and I tried a half of the latter. It cost me £2.40 for the half but another half must have ended up in the drip tray! A little training wouldn't go amiss would it? **Snug Dave.**

**Alter Ego** have recently started brewing at their new premises (Unit B2, Salcombe Road, Alfreton) and hosted a Tap Room Opening event on Friday 28th (3.00-8.00) and Saturday 29th (12.00-8.00) October. Matt and his team now plan to open the Tap Room on the last week-end of every month. The new brewery is a 5 minute walk from Alfreton train station.

The newly created **Belper Brewing Co.** had a Tap Room event at the brewery (20th Sept-2nd Oct) on Campbell Street, Belper (behind Arthur's restaurant). The next open house is planned for 2nd-4th December. Good luck to Tom Soar and his dad on their latest project. **Charisma Bypass.**

As readers may remember, "In The Sticks" was included in the CAMRA 50th Anniversary Golden Awards list for the East Midlands. The certificate was finally presented to Charisma Bypass by CAMRA National Executive member, Gillian Hough at the **Moulder's Arms** (aka the Thack) in Riddings. "In The Sticks" would like to thank Nora Harpur for expediting the event.

The **Didler** wrote to "In The Sticks" on 8th October to announce the passing of Mary, the landlady of the classic pub, the **Duke Of York** in Elton. She ran it for many years until having to step down due to ill health. Her nephew Anthony took over and has run it ever since. I'm hoping this wonderful unspoilt pub continues and I wish to send my condolences to Ant and his family. **The Didler.**

Contributors: Aron37, Charisma Bypass, HH, the **Didler**, the **Jedi**, Peter Wright & **Snug Dave**



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### A Correction

It was reported in the September issue of "In The Sticks" that the **Thorn Tree** in Ripley and the **Steampacket** in Swanwick no longer offered a CAMRA discount. This turned out not to be true. Andrew Crawford, Managing Director of the Pub People group contacted "In The Sticks" to set the record

straight. In his e-mail he also wrote...

*"We have had a strategy around CAMRA members discount on cask ales for over 20 years and as a company give over £25000 a year away in discounts to members. We do think it is an important element of supporting cask and the small brewers that we have often had long relationships with. Incidentally you may not be aware but we have a direct supply of over 100 local breweries into our pubs!"*

Apologies to Andrew Crawford and the landlords of the Thorn Tree and Steampacket for the error.



**BLACK BULLS HEAD**

2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate  
Belper, Derbyshire  
DE56 0SF

### Bus Matters

As may be widely known, Trent-Barton have dropped a number of their services in the Derby-Nottingham area including the 20, 21, Black Cat and Amberline buses. Other services have had their routes and timetables amended so be sure to check the latest timetables before travelling. New services [at least I think they're new. Ed.] numbered 31 to 34 have been introduced which are centred on Ilkeston and serve the surrounding area. However, the Notts & Derby 138 bus makes a meandering journey from Langley to Belper and Bald Eagle went to check it out...


I recently travelled on the re-routed 138 Langley to Belper bus service run by Notts & Derby. Here are some of the real ale pubs *en route*. Dropping off at Breach Road, Marlpool is the **Queens Head** and conveniently situated next door, the **Marlpool Ale House**. Into Heanor, you will find the **Crown**, **Angry Bee**, **Crooked Cask**, **Redemption Ale House**, **New Inn** and **Jolly Colliers**. Back on the bus and disembark at Denby Lane End, Loscoe for the **Eclipse** and **Tip Inn** micro-pub. Next stop is **Denby Lodge** in Denby Village. The bus goes round Kilburn housing estate onto Rykniel Road and up to Four Lane Ends where it turns right along Main Street, Horsley Woodhouse calling at the award winning **Old Oak Inn**. The bus turns right down Wood Lane (Woodside) where you will find the **Sitwell Arms** and then takes a right turn along Smalley Mill Road, passing Horsley Lodge Golf Course. Please note there are no stops at the last two so you have to do a hail and ride (ale and ride). Next stop is opposite

the **Coach and Horses**, Horsley and the route returns to Main Street where it turns left back into Kilburn and past the **Hunters Arms**. It continues down across the Toll Bar and takes a left turn up Killis Lane to Holbrook and the **Dead Poets Inn** from where a short walk will take you to the **Spotted Cow**. Back on the bus at Chapel Street and along Bargate Road to the multi award winning **White Hart** at Bargate. The bus then goes round Parks Estate into Belper with its numerous pubs and micros. The 138 runs every 2 hours (Monday to Saturday) on the odd hour from Langley till 5.00 pm and every 2 hours on the even hour back from Belper till 6.00 pm. There is no service on a Sunday. You should obviously check bus times and pub opening hours before travel. An all day Notts & Derby ticket will cost you £6 or £7 for a zigzag. That's 19 pubs plus the ones in Belper. **Bald Eagle.**

### Beer Festival News

Bernadette Lawley at the **Redemption Ale House** in Heanor will host an Advent Beer Festival on the 1st-4th December...



*"In these days of so much doom and gloom, we thought we'd hold an Advent beer festival at the start of December to cheer everyone up and to launch the festive season!! We will have 24 beers and sampling them will be even more exciting than opening a chocolate Advent calendar every day and it will certainly be much more fun roasting in front of our roaring log burner with a pint than sitting at home in a onesie with a hot water bottle and the heating turned off!"*



**Erewash Valley CAMRA**  
**Pub of the Year 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021**

Also mini-kegs, pork pies, cheeses  
black puddings, pork scratchings etc.

53 Market Street, Ilkeston, DE7 5RB  
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### RuRAD Snippets

#### Dew Drop Inn, Ilkeston

I try to call at the Dew Drop Inn, Ilkeston every 2 or 3 weeks and it seems to be going from strength to strength. Tony Fletcher has been in charge for 2½ years now of which the first 18 months or more were less than ideal. He tries to offer 8 cask ales over the week-ends which included (on my visit) **Abbeydale**, **Dancing Duck**, **Little Oakham** (x2), **Ossett Rat**, and **Thornbridge** with gravities ranging from 3.7% to 6.0% and with only one of the beers priced over £4.00. Plus excellent pasties, scotch eggs, pork pies and sausage rolls. **Snug Dave.**

## Angry Bee, Heanor

This is another pub which I don't visit often enough (so many pubs, so little time) but you will always be afforded a warm welcome from Mick and Johnno and there is very often a lively crowd of drinkers in. Five cask ales on the bar including usually a couple from **Leadmill**. There was also **Jaipur**, **Whim Hartington IPA** and a **Black Sheep** ale on offer on my visit. I've never had a bad pint here and yet, as far as I am aware, since it opened in 2016, it has never featured in the Good Beer Guide. What's that all about, eh?

### 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 The Papers

Colston Crawford wrote in the Derby Telegraph (15th September) that the intended closure of the National Brewery Centre (former Bass Museum) in Burton by Molson Coors is an act of "cultural vandalism". An attempt to close the site in 2008 was thwarted by a spirited public campaign but the Beerhunter fears that the current efforts to save the Centre may not prevail on this occasion.

The Derbyshire Times dated 4th October reported that the licensees (Kat & Katie) of the **Three Stags Heads** in Darley Dale will be leaving the pub due to an unsustainable rise in costs. A Facebook post dated 9th September stated that the "electric bill alone has gone from £600-£800 a month to £4000-£5000". They weren't very polite about their landlord either! As "In The Sticks" goes to press, the final leaving date hasn't been specified.

The Derby Telegraph (13th October) revealed that the **Blue Stoops** in Dronfield has been taken over by the "gastropub" Chilled Pubs Group who also run the **Joiner's Arms**, Quarndon and the **Bull's Head**, Repton. Whether they will continue to stock **True North** beers remains to be seen.

The Derby Telegraph reported that the **Strutt Arms** at Milford is temporarily shut (again), and is to have a major revamp (again). It has been acquired by brothers Harcharan and Sunny Chandhoke, who own the Lotus Indian Kitchen at the Mercian Marina near Willington. The plan is to turn the pub into an Indian gastro bar, which will be renamed the Elephant and Peacock, with the hotel side of the business retaining the Strutt Arms name.

## Out & About

Only space for a couple of stories this month and apologies to Rodders for splitting his West Country tour account into three parts!

### West Country Tour Part 2, August

Saturday morning, after a hearty breakfast, a ferret through a box of pump clips for HH and a tinkle on the ivories for me (at least the cleaner was impressed) we headed off for a walk round the town so Charisma could peruse the charity shops and record stalls on the market. We then got the train to Plymouth and had a walk out to the GBG JDW **Mannamead** simply because it would be open. Alongside the usual stuff there were 4 guest beers and **Salcombe Gold** was favoured. Next it was on to the GBG **Fortescue Hotel** where the GK sign didn't inspire much hope but how wrong we were. There was a great selection of 8 ales on hand-pump and the lovely Claire, who had such an enthusiasm for real ales we thought she was the landlady, but she was the barmaid! If only all barmaids had such ardour for their job, the world would be a better place! She made us most welcome and came and chatted with us when we mentioned the situation at **New Lion Brewery**. She also recommended a brewery tap for us to try, but unfortunately it was in the wrong direction. It really was a shame that we couldn't spend more time there and talk to someone as like-minded as us but we had a lot to go at - Oh, and by the way the **South Hams Sherman** was top notch.

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 from BOTTLE BROOK and LEADMILL plus Guests Beers

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After leaving a few copies of the newsletter with her we moved on to the GBG **Fawn Private Members Club** (the GBG **Providence** didn't open till 5.00 pm) where we were made very welcome and again had a good chat with the chap behind the bar. Of the 2 ales on hand-pump we all went for **Bays Topsail**, which was in good nick. Continuing down to the dock we called in the GBG **Bread & Roses** to find a couple of sticks in use with **Tanners Box o' Frogs** being preferred. Plymouth's oldest pub, the **Minerva Inn**, dating from 1540 was next on the list where of the 3 beers available, **Summerskills Westward Ho** was partaken. Cracking old pub and decent ales t' boot. With 7 pedestrian ales on offer at the GBG **Globe**, it was something of a come down - so much so that I opted for **Thatchers Cheddar Valley** before we moved on to a chip shop for some much needed sustenance,

relatively seagull-free!

A short walk got us to the GBG **Fisherman's Arms**, which is on a little back street. A nice little pub with 3 cask ales on offer and I just had to have the **Teignworthy Gun Dog**. Our penultimate stop (which is listed in the GBG as **Pub On The Hoe**) has undergone a name change and is now the **Gipsy Moth** and had 3 beers to go at and the **Summerskills Devon Dew** was a nice drop as we sat in the doorway making the most of the breeze. Then we had a stroll down Armada Way (we saw Drake's statue from a distance), to the GBG **Brass Monkey**, which is about as 'Spoons as you can get without being 'Spoons. There were 4 beers of note and **Hunters Bluebeards Revenge** was sampled as we caught up with the football scores. To be continued... Rodders.

### SMITHFIELD

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## North Sheffield, 19th August

From the train at Sheffield we bought tickets at the adjacent tram station to get north to the Hillsborough area. Having had complaints about not accrediting my companions, I shall name them: Pothole Ady, Mythical John (trip leader) and Showbiz Steve, until they come up with better names. Off the tram, we called at the **Hillsborough Tap** which had only one hand-pull in use - **Bradfield Farmers Blonde**. It was a reasonable starting drink as we watched the beginning of the end for England in the Test Match [against South Africa] on numerous TV screens.

A short walk then to the **Northern Monkey**, a micro-pub with wooden plank floor and bare brick walls featuring a range of monkey themed cartoon pictures. It offered a choice of **Abbeydale Serenity** or **Speculation**, both of which were decent. On to the nearby **Pangolin**, another micro-pub with 2 cask ales and a range of craft bottles and cans. The cask ales were both from the southeast, interesting and good, being **Drop Project Sparkler** and **Fallen Angel Daniel Tradcliffe**. Very good here with an enthusiastic proprietor but we moved further out to the **Brass Monkey** where the one cask ale, **Loxley Revill** was sent back as undrinkable. We did have some craft keg which was more expensive and not particularly good.

Back on the tram towards the city centre we

got off at Langsett and climbed a very steep hill to reach the **Blind Monkey** which contrary to times on the wall sign was yet to open. The "Monkeys" were getting progressively worse but much better was to follow at the **GBG Blake Hotel**. In this classic Victorian corner pub, it retained many features from bygone years and had a good welcome at the bar despite us arriving early for 3.00 pm opening time. I initially had a **Briggs Signature Metal** which I discovered comes from **Mallinsons** - this was top notch as was the following **Atom Principia**. Other ales were **Neepsend Blonde**, **Leatherbritches Bohemia** and **Mallinsons Sabro**. We then took the steep downhill route to reach its fellow Sheaf Inns pub the **GBG Wellington**. With **Blonde**, **Dema**, **Steropes** & **Enkidu** from **Neepsend** and **Red Willow Shameless** on the bar it was a difficult decision but I settled for a **Settle Eric IPA** which was excellent. Entering a small side room I found none other than The Didler in

residence and he duly revealed my identity in front of his associates. Another superb Victorian pub again with a friendly welcome and moving on we found the same again at the **GBG Barrack Tavern**. The licensees have been here for 20 years and we had plenty of good conversation with them. Whilst John had **Pennine Blackcurrant Porter**, the other 3 of us went for **Bradfield Barrack Bitter**, the latter was so good that we all had it next round and I found it to be by far the best **Bradfield** beer I had ever had. Other ales here were **Castle Rock Harvest Pale** & **Screech Owl** and **Ashover Zappa**.

The next tram stop was nearer the city centre and we walked to the **Dorothy Pax**, which is a bar named after a boat, under the old railway arches with a large and popular outside seating area on the cobbles adjacent to the canal at Victoria Quays. On a particularly hot and sunny Friday teatime, we

chose to avoid the outdoor crowd and sat inside. I selected **Bristol Beer Factory Independence** here with other ales being 3 from **Abbeylea** and **Shiny Rocky**. Our final call was at **theSocial**, a small bar in a modern plaza with an adjacent wildflower area. It is only open at weekends and had a very interesting selection of local ales - **Doncaster Same Chit Different Hop**, **Grizzly Grains Bjorn** and **Hophurst Porteresque** & **Amarillo+Chinook Milkshake IPA**. There is also a micro-brewery associated with the business model called **brewSocial**, not on the bar on this occasion but I was requested to mention it. The brewery employs and trains disadvantaged people and enthusiastic bar licensee Juliet is looking forward to serving their first brew in the near future. A very pleasant ending to our day tour of different parts of the city and thanks to Mythical John for introducing us to some new pubs and areas. **Chris P Duck**.

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

16th-19th Nov. The Dead Poets Beer Festival. Chapel Street, Holbrook  
 17th-19th Nov. West Bridgford Hockey Club Beer Festival. Loughborough Road, West Bridgford. 10+ ales, cider  
 1st-4th Dec. Redemption Ale House Advent Beer Festival. 3 Ray Street, Heanor. 24 real ales

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  
 9th-13th Nov. Old Windmill Beer Festival. 22-23 Spon Street, Coventry. 24 ales, 20 ciders  
 10th-12th Nov. Central Manchester Beer & Cider Festival. 53two, Arch 19, Watson Street, Manchester  
 11th-12th Nov. 29th Alloa Real Ale & Cider Festival. Alloa Town Hall, Mars Hill, Alloa  
 10th-13th Nov. Darlington Snooker Club Beer Festival. 1 Corporation Street, Darlington. 30 ales  
 10th-13th Nov. Wirral Winter Beer Festival. Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. 80+ ales, 50 craft beers & cider  
 11th-13th Nov. Towcester Mill Brewery Mini Beer Festival. Chantry Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire  
 11th-13th Nov. Bury Beer Festival. The Met, Market Street, Bury  
 11th-13th Nov. Beccles Beer Festival. Beccles Public Hall, Smallgate, Beccles. [www.facebook.com/becclesbeerfestival](http://www.facebook.com/becclesbeerfestival)  
 17th-19th Nov. Gainsborough Beer Festival. Gainsborough Old Hall, Parnell Street, Gainsborough  
 17th-20th Nov. Bristol Beer Festival. City Hall, College Green, Bristol. 90 ales, 30 ciders  
 17th-20th Nov. White Horse Old Ales Festival. 17 Parsons Green, London  
 18th-19th Nov. Cheltenham Craft Beer Festival. St Philip & St James Church, 60 Grafton Road, Cheltenham  
 18th-19th Nov. Tameside Beer Festival. Stalybridge Civic Hall, Trinity Street, Stalybridge  
 24th-26th Nov. Dudley Winter Ales Festival. Dudley Town Hall, St James Road, Dudley. 60+ ales, craft, cider/wine  
 25th-26th Nov. Otley Beer Festival. Otley Cricket Club, Cross Green, Pool Road, Otley  
 29th Nov-3rd Dec. 37th Pigs Ear Beer Festival. The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, Hackney, London. 175 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](mailto: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.

Barrie & Sarah would like to welcome you to the...



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**Amber Valley CAMRA Cider POTY Winner 2020**

**Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail Winner 2019**



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 Sat: 12.00-11.00, Sun: 12.00-10.00

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