

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

The Old Black Swan in Crich finally reopened its doors on Thursday 8th December. The Tram Inspector called in soon after opening on the 8th and reported that the pub quickly filled up - a tribute to the hard work that Corey & Sally and their team had put into getting the place re-opened.

The starting line-up was Dancing Duck Ay Up, Thornbridge Crackendale, St Austell Tribute, Hopback Entire Stout and TT Landlord with prices ranging from £3.60 (Ay Up) to £4.50 (Crackendale & Landlord). The latest opening hours as given on the Facebook page are...

Mon & Tue: Closed Wed & Thur: 2:30-10:30 Fri & Sat: 12:00-11:00 Sun: 12:00-7:00

And talking of Facebook (for those who are signed up to it), there is a new page for the Old Black Swan which is: www.facebook.com/theoldblackswan.

While still in Crich, the Cliff is open every day and the Comrades Club now does more interesting beers than their previous Greene

JANUARY 2023

King line up. Tram Inspector.

Further to the report on the **Pointing Dogs** in Matlock in last month's issue, the Tram Inspector wanted to add that the pub has a small riverside terrace which is pleasant and, perhaps more important for us older generation, generally quiet.

James Burkett, owner of **Neepsend** brewery in Sheffield has recently sold off two of his three pubs to a pub company.

These are the **Sheaf View** (Heeley) and the **Blake Hotel** (Upperthorpe), both top pubs with great beers and long may that continue in these uncertain times. The **Wellington** (1 Henry Street, Kelham Island) will remain as the **Neepsend** brewery taphouse with a great array of changing ales and a superb choice of malt whiskies plus freshly-made cobs. A must visit classic pub in the Sheffield area. **The Didler**.

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

Jamie Still, Bar Manager and Cellarman at the Brunswick Inn, Derby submitted a depressing list of 62 breweries to "In The Sticks" that have closed (or are about to close) in 2022. And, as he cheerfully pointed out, it's not yet the end of the year! Many of the names will be familiar to readers and include Box Steam, Burton Town, Dark Star, Hop & Stagger, Skinners, Slaters, Three Sods, Twisted Wheel and Wild Beer Co.

The latest of the closures may well be **Burton Town Brewery** which has announced that it will be closing on 23rd December citing increased costs and a drop in demand.

The statement from Twisted Wheel on their web-site probably represents the typical reasons for the closures...

"Having made it to 2022 we had big ambitions

Free Copy

to grow the company, however the negative impact of COVID restrictions coupled with the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis has made the business unviable. With sales falling, general consumer confidence low, and further increases in raw material costs projected for 2023, we felt it best to close the business at this time"

The fate of the Dark Star brewery tells a slightly different tale. The brewery was established in 1994 in Brighton but eventually moved to its Partridge Green site in West Sussex in 2010. The brewery was sold to Fullers in 2018 apparently with promises made to invest and expand the brand but only a year later Fullers was sold to Japanese drinks giant Asahi. And now, Asahi is to close the Partridge Green brewery citing "significant challenges in the current economic and operating environment" and is moving production to its Meantime Brewery in Greenwich.

CAMRA announced in November that the four finalists in the National POTY competition for 2022 are the **Station House** (Durham), the **Horse & Jockey** (Stapleford), the **King's Head** (Norwich) and the **Tamworth Tap** (Tamworth). The winner will be announced in January 2023.

Contributors: the Didler, Jamie Still, Snug Dave, Tram Inspector



41 HIGH STREET
SOUTH NORMANTON
DERBYSHIRE DE55 2BP
5 REAL ALES
6 REAL CIDERS
OPEN ALL DAY TUES – SUN
07709 762448



@Market Tavern South Normanton

In The Papers

The Derbyshire Times (2nd December) reported that a company going under the name of Caffeine and Machine (Knockerdown) Limited submitted a planning application to the Derbyshire Dales District Council to convert the Knockerdown Inn "...to a mixed use [venue] comprising coffee house, bar,

restaurant, function venue with ancillary retail use". As can be imagined, there were many objections from a variety of local groups and the application was refused on 14th December. Whether the applicants will appeal or resubmit the application is not known.

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

Out & About

December seems to have been a quiet month for news which leaves more space for readers' beer trips. Thanks go to all our contributors as usual.

Trans-Pennine Rail Ale Trail 15th June 2022

Having parked the car at the overnight accommodation, we walked about a mile to Huddersfield station to get the 11.25 train for the 18 minute journey to Stalybridge. Unfortunately for us the train was overloaded with mainly young people allegedly making their way to an Ed Sheeran concert in Manchester. We were glad to disembark at Stalybridge just before noon and made our way on pedestrianised streets to the GBG Bridge Beers, which is the taproom for Bridge Brewery with a bottle shop selling their own and other beers. All cask ales are served straight from the barrels stillaged behind the bar. The landlord/brewer was very welcoming and we had a good chat about all things beery and also had a look at his atmospheric upstairs room which contains some antique furniture. The rotating cask ales from Bridge Brewery included Citra, Mumbai and Dark Matters on this occasion - all were sampled and were in very good order.

An excellent start but we needed to keep moving and we nipped into the GBG Society Rooms to get some lunch. It had a pleasant beer garden but inside was very JDW predictable so not sure what sort of society would use those rooms. The food was prompt and OK plus the ale selection was better than many 'Spoons outlets. Other than the usuals, Vale Wychert, Acorn Raspberry Porter, Marston's Old Empire, Moorhouse's Blonde Witch and 2 from Phoenix completed their offering. Back to the station and into the GBG Station Buffet Bar which dates from 1885 and is a splendid example of an unspoilt Victorian station room with innumerable beer and railway paintings, plaques, etc. adorning

the walls with original seating and tables in a very long narrow room. There were 8 cask ales available from small local breweries such a s Serious and Nomadic, a collaborative between Riverhead and Beerhouses, a couple from Ossett and North Riding plus TT Boltmaker. Difficult to choose here and I forgot to record what I had but it was good, so with a friendly welcome and terrific surroundings what's not to like?

We realised that we were on the wrong platform for the return train but just made it with seconds to spare for an 8 minute journey to Greenfield. A downhill walk took us to the GBG Wellington Inn for a choice of Millstone Tiger Rut, Wainwright and Salopian Lemon Dream although there were several more hand-pulls available for key times. A very well kept community local with decent beer and the landlord was keen to chat over the bar. Back up the hill to the only non GBG pub of the day, the Railway Inn. With few people in, it was disappointing that they could not bother to update the beer board and the prices were the highest all day. The ale selection was OK with Lancaster Blonde, Millstone Tiger Rut, Wye Valley HPA and Acorn Barnsley Gold & Gorlovka Imperial Stout. Average beer quality but may be better at week-ends.



Another 8 minutes on the train to Marsden where we targeted the GBG Riverhead Brewery Tap. A superb corner brew-pub with access across a cobbled road to tables by the river. The Riverhead ales are brewed on site and on this occasion included Happy Valley. Butterley, Redbrook, Sherbert Lemon and March Haigh, the latter being my best drink of the day. The premises are owned by Ossett and 3 of their ales were on, along with a guest from Small World. A most pleasant place with enthusiastic staff, great beer and plenty of atmosphere inside and out. Our penultimate train leg was only about 4 minutes to Slaithwaite, where fortunately I had learnt the correct pronunciation before arriving (as seen on the Slawit Chippy). After taking a brief look at the Shoulder of Mutton, we noted mainly national beers so concentrated our remaining time on the GBG Commercial. This was another tremendous hospitable pub where we enjoyed the company of several local drinkers. They stock nearly all ales from local brewers with the close by Empire Brewery supplying Moonraker Mild and Commerciale at a remarkable £2-50 a pint. The latter is so popular it is on 2 hand-pulls. Other local breweries featured were Salamander, Goose Eye, North Riding and Revolutions and also a guest from Brentwood in Essex. All beer tried was excellent, notably the Commerciale and Revolutions Swoon (which I virtually always choose).

A superb ending to the trip, with us then taking another 6 minute train back to Huddersfield which is in itself a great cask ale venue but on this occasion was a step too far unfortunately. We did manage an evening meal at the Amaro Italian Restaurant and a few pool games in an uninspiring "No Real Ale" pub on the long uphill walk back to our pub based accommodation. This was the NRA Ivy Green but we were spared any less than moderate keg beer because it had already closed by 9.30pm. Chris P Duck.



Camden, Kentish Town & Euston August 2022

On the second Friday in August, myself, Barry and Ken met up at St Pancras and then took the short walk to catch our bus towards Camden. After alighting in Camden and admiring the vibrant, multicultural High Street, we had our breakfast at the JDW Ice Wharf. I was the only one to partake in an early morning snifter, consuming a pint of Pale Ale by East London Brewing which was adequate.

After a look round the picturesque Camden Lock and Market we caught a bus uphill to the GBG Southampton Arms. Seven different breweries adorned the bar here so no shortage of choice. Sputnik from North Brewing and Nano Cask from Moor Beer Co. were our selections and in very good order. Barry and Ken received a refund of 85p from the friendly barman due to the till data not being updated prior to opening. A brief bus ride and a short amble soon brought us to another GBG regular, the Pineapple. A proper boozer tucked away from the nearby busy Highgate Road. The beers from Adnams, Milestone and Potbelly were in excellent condition and a CAMRA discount was offered from the two delightful young ladies serving us. The pub was busy with people having their lunches but it was well worth the visit for the breweriana, and the Double Diamond as well as Ind Coope stained windows.

We then took a steady 15 minute walk through Kentish Town to our next hostelry Tapping The Admiral. After nudging past the ignorant pair of stool sitting bar hoggers, we were greeted by hand pulls dispensing offerings from Hammerton, Adnams, XT and Cellar Head. However, we opted for Twickenham El Dorado and Portobello VPA with the former being my favourite ale of the day. Returning to Camden we visited the Camden Road Arms. This pub is owned by Brewdog with several of their craft ales on keg. Thankfully a couple of casks from Siren Craft were available albeit both hazy and vegan but, nevertheless fine on a very hot day.

We decided to head back towards Euston and firstly called into the Doric Arch, a decent enough Fuller's owned house situated at the bus station before a short walk to the best pub in the area, the Euston Tap! Venturing onwards to the back streets of the Euston Road we visited the Resting Hare and Mabels Tavern, two very average pubs selling average ales. Finally, we ended up at the Skinners Arms before our train home. What used to be a diamond hidden amongst the back streets, in my opinion, has now become the cubic zirconia of the area. Offerings were from Greene King, St Austell and Timothy Taylor. All I can say was that the Landlord was truly awful, which was a very disappointing end to a very good day! Big Al.



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 spacks

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

Scarborough, 18th August 2022

A cheap bus trip to Scarborough was a good option and I started by taking a coastal walk from South Bay to North Bay where I climbed up to the GBG North Riding Brew Pub. This had been smartened up internally since my last visit nearly 3 years ago but some letters had fallen off the external signage. The bar held North Riding Loral & Mosaic Pale from the Brewery and Peasholm Pale & Idaho 7 from the Brew Pub, plus Snainton Strider, a collaboration between North Riding Brewery & Nomadic. The latter was especially good with the others also well received as expected. The guest ale was Brew York Tiramoosu Tonkoko Imperial Milk Stout,

which at 7.5% was unsurprisingly not tried in my first pub.

The Old Fruit left for an event on the nearby Peasholm Park and on my way back into town I took a look at the Cricket Ground which is sometimes used by Yorkshire CCC. After finding the Alma Inn closed I then found the Craft Bar which was a new bar across from the railway station, opened since my last visit, where the landlady was most welcoming. In addition to the 4 cask ales it also has 10 kegs plus plenty of bottles and cans. My Marble Hindmarsh (3.7%) and Brass Castle Paved Paradise (5.3%) were both excellent and this place is well worth a visit.

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

From here it's a 5 minute walk to the GBG Stumble Inn with the 6 cask ales being 3 from Ossett and 1 each from Brass Castle, Portobello and Thornbridge. I found the beer fairly routine here as I sat outside, joined by fellow coach travellers, and offering views of dilapidated buildings across the road - a return visit can be somewhat disappointing. Another walk took me to the GBG Valley Bar where we were again able to sit outside in the pleasant garden of this rather large and tall building. A more interesting ale selection for me here with Scarborough Stout & 7 Deadly Sins, North Yorkshire Pale, Roosters Highway 51 and one from Three Brothers which I could not discern from the pump clip. It has a certain elegant feel about it like an old style club and is well worth visiting. Almost next door at Cellars we were running out of time as usual, consequently I made no notes but recall drinking a decent Daleside Monkey Wrench with 2 other hand-pulls in operation. There were 3 other pubs in the GBG 2022 but no time to visit them on this trip. Chris P Duck.

Highland Fling #9, 22-26 Sept 2022 Railways, Beer 'n' Footy, Day 1

After a pint in the **Brunswick**, I got the last train from Derby to Crewe to try out the new-ish sleeper stock to Inverness. Once into Crewe, I just had time to pop down to the **Borough Arms**. They've not brewed here for some time but not to worry, there's still some guest beers to choose from. Back at the station and the train is on time - it's just before midnight and you have to get the right portion for Inverness and not Fort William or

Aberdeen. For the enthusiast: freight engine 66724 is on the front with 73971 ex-Gatwick Express tucked in behind for heating/lights etc. And off we go...

We are early into Inverness so it's round to the JDW Kings Highway for breakfast. Then to the bus station for the 2+ hour journey to Fort William. It's a very scenic journey and takes us for some way alongside Loch Ness no sightings of Nessie though! Time to chill out in FW for a while but no time for a beer as I'm then on the 12.12 train up to Mallaig, a journey of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. I've done this journey before but it's still brilliant scenery with lochs etc. Most noteworthy is the Glenfinnan Viaduct about half way to Mallaig on a left hand curve made out of all concrete (and as famously featured in the film, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets). We're into Mallaig on time and I noticed the Kettle... er, I mean, Steam Engine ticking over for the return to Fort William. I had a chat with the guard and was lucky to get a return seat on this Black 5. Around 800+ were built [842, 44658-45499, 18 preserved. Wikipedia]. Time for a pint, well 2 halves, at the GBG Steam Inn just around the corner - Skye Gold (4.2%) and Skye Red (4.3%) at, ouch, £5.50. We set off on time back to FW looking forward (again) to the scenery and of course the viaduct!

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

On time into FW and plenty of time for a few swallys. All the pubs are on the High Street and I start right at the top for my 'Spoons fix at the **Great Glen**. Two halves, both from **Orkney Brewery** - Highland Life (3.7%) and Northern Light (4.0%).

Just a few yards away I find the **Black Isle Bar**, just like their pub in Inverness. Keg mostly with just 3 proper sticks of which I chose *Silent Spring* (4.5%). I didn't linger for too long but made my way back down to the GBG **Grog & Gruel**. This pub has always been the pick for me. Five sticks of which I tried 3: **Williams** Heather Ale (5.0%), **Cairngorm** Trade Winds and **Cairngorm** Stag. PS. if you find yourself up here not only for the beer, I recommend a super meal in the restaurant upstairs. Give it a try!

OK, it's back down to the bus station for the 2+ hours back to Inverness. Both bus and train station are adjacent. Just before the bus I thought I could just fit in a swifty at

Nevis Sports pub next to the stations but found it shut. No-one knew when it would be open again, Disappointing! I found myself back in Inverness on time with a few old faithfuls to visit. First up was the Corriegarth where I found 3 ales on offer and the Fyne Ales Jarl was in great nick. It was a 5 minute stroll to the Castle Tavern - Cairngorm Sheepshaggers Gold (4.5%) from a choice of 3 beers) - and then on to the Number 27, a favourite pub of mine on previous visits. An oblong room with eating at the top part. I was disappointed to find that all 3 ales available were from Cairngorm (they seem to be everywhere) and none from Windswept. Anyway, 2 halves were sampled - Nessie's Monster Mash (4.1%) and Black Gold.

It's been a long day now so it's a stroll to the train station and only one stop to my digs in Nairn, the Bandstand (formerly the Braeval Hotel) which hosts the GBG Bandstand Bar just 5-10 minutes walk on the flat! Note: if you are thinking of coming up here, maybe you could choose Easter-ish or October when they have 2 festivals with around 150 beers, but not all on at one time. My host who organises the festivals made me very welcome. I had 5 beers to choose from: Fyne Ales Mixtape IPA (5.2%), Cairngorm Wild Cat (5.1%), Black Isle Organic Porter, Cromarty Raptor (5.5%) and Swannay Brewery (Orkney) Scapa Special. Great chats with the other guests and locals. Oops! it's turned midnight, time to hit the sack! HH.

Loughborough To Mountsorrel 23rd Sept, 2022

Using the Skylink bus from Derby we arrived in Loughborough just in time for noon opening time at the GBG White Hart. A decent drink of Charnwood Vixen was accompanied by a very large burger meal with the best chunky triple cooked chips ever. The warm weather enabled the use of the extensive rear beer garden. Next on to the GBG Organ Grinder which was convenient for the next bus, where I had a quick half of the excellent Blue Monkey Primate served by a knowledgeable barman.

The bus dropped us at Barrow upon Soar and first call was the GBG Soar Bridge Inn. Here the choice was of Everards Tiger or Smash -I chose the latter as it was new to me but it was not especially good and I was surprised that the pub was in the GBG. It looked like temporary but friendly management was in place here but at least the beer garden was good. After this we looked in at the Moorings but as it only had Vixen again or Wainwright we moved on, taking a longer but pleasant walk alongside the river to reach the Navigation. The ale was better here as we sampled Moorhouse's Pride Of Pendle and Salopian Shropshire Gold with Abbot not tried. It was so hot outside by the riverside here that it was necessary to sit in the shade in a most agreeable setting.

Another walk across fields took us into Mountsorrel and our first call was the GBG Sorrel Fox. The very friendly proprietor of this Charnwood micro-pub made us most welcome and was sporting a lack of hair due to a recent charity head shave. Apart from the regular Vixen & Salvation their Blue Fox & Old School were also available with the latter being superb. At the opposite end of the main road is the GBG Swan Inn, where it was good for a change to see a pub with plenty of customers at 6.00 pm on a Friday evening. Again we were able to sit outside and I selected Pennine Heartland and Grainstore Ten Fifty this time, both very good and with other options of JW Lees Barrel Thunder, Castle Rock Harvest Pale and Black Sheep [Best Bitter? Ed]. A good old pub with plenty of narrow corridors and good bar service.

Back on the bus again to Quorn where our leader for the day resides, so we joined him in the Royal Oak for our final drink. No different beers here but in another busy pub the Vixen was decent with Salvation and Landlord also on. Although the next bus was late we were fortunate that just as we were getting off the Skylink appeared behind us. It takes just over an hour to Derby and it feels like half of that time is spent within the vast complex of East Midlands Airport. Thanks to Dave for organising a great trip on a glorious day with Mountsorrel proving the best location for good ale. Chris P Duck.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

26th-29th Jan. BeerMuda Triangle Beer Festival. Various pubs in Newark including **Organ Grinder**, **Just Beer** & **The Flying Circus** 26th-29th Jan. The Mallard Beer Festival. Carlton Road, Worksop, S80 1PP. www.facebook.com/MallardPublicHouse

19th-21st Jan. Exeter Festival of Beer. The Corn Exchange, Market Street, Exeter EX1 1BW. 64+ cask ales, cider & wine 25th-28th Jan. 14th Colchester Winter Beer Festival. Colchester Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester CO1 1NF. 26th-28th Jan. Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival. George Watson Hall, Barton St, Tewkesbury, GL20 5PX 27th-28th Jan. Salisbury Winterfest. 29 Brown St, Salisbury SP1 2AS. 24 cask ales, 5 real 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.

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



