

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 <u>snugdave@outlook.com</u>.

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/magazines) along with digital copies of other local beercentric publications.



Beer & Pub News

According to a report in the Derby Telegraph (3rd September), the **Fox & Hounds** in Coxbench is due to re-open around early October. Former landlady Tracie Tunnicliffe and her partner John left the pub in July due to health issues, after ten years in charge. The new tenant, Leo Hill, already owns Arthur's restaurant and the Scuffle pizzeria, both in Belper.

The Little Chester Ale House on Chester Green, Derby has been sold to the Mad Brewer Pub Co. who run the Bank Of Beers micro-pub in Melbourne. The Mad Brewer company is run by Matt and Alex Allingham, sons of Edward who is the owner and original brewer at Leatherbritches. On 31st August, Matt posted the following (edited) message to the Chester Green Residents Association Facebook page...

"Hi Guys, Matt here from Leatherbritches brewery. I just wanted to say hello and express our excitement to have taken over the Little Chester Ale House. We will certainly try our best to keep what Darren [Hartshorn] achieved in this lovely community pub! Leatherbritches



OCTOBER 2023

Brewery is going to be showcased here and the **Little Chester's** main supplier for real ale and craft products. We look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks". Matt Allingham.

After some refurbishment, the pub is expected to re-open in mid to late October.

Gary Smith, the new landlord of the **Tupton Tap** located between Chesterfield and Clay Cross, got in touch to say that he had not long taken over and wanted to let everyone know what plans he has for the pub. This is now a Pub People pub and offers 6 rotating real ales plus 2 ciders. A photo in the Derbyshire Times (15th September) showed ales from Pheasantry, Blue Monkey, Peak Ales and Oakham. A new menu featuring "traditional British food and nibbles" has been launched and they are hoping to have regular live music on. Charisma Bypass.

The **Bull's Head** in Denby which has been closed for much of this year has re-opened. This is a Heineken Star Pubs & Bars pub but has been put in the hands of W.J.S. Group to find the managers to run it. When I visited the pub I found 2 real ales on the bar: TT Landlord which is going to be on permanently, and a guest which on this occasion was **Theakston** Best Bitter. Food is also available. Charisma Bypass.



The **Cliff Inn**, Crich has changed its opening hours for the autumn and winter. Mon-Wed: 5.00 pm, Thur-Sun: 12.00 noon. Food is served from Wednesday to Sunday but times vary so check with Facebook or the pub itself.

Steve Cresswell has revealed that the former Honeypot "micro-pub" behind the **Beehive** on Peasehill, Ripley which has been undergoing reconstruction in recent months, is set to reopen as the **Groover's Arms** "in the not too LEADMILL BREWERY and BOTTLE BROOK BREWERY Producers of Traditional Hand Crafted Real Ales

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distant future". Your editor was given a sneak preview of the new premises and it's looking good. There are two main rooms, one of which will be used as overflow from the bar or given over to functions (free to hire) - plus The Groover vinyl sessions no doubt. Steve is especially proud of the "state of the art" cellar (above ground, it should be said) and he is expecting to offer 9 cask ales - 3 regular and 6 guests - 17 keg lines and 10 ciders. A beer festival every session (his words).

The **Talbot Inn**, Ripley was put up for auction on 28th September with a guide price of £180k. More details can be found on the SDL Property Auctions web-site (www.sdlauctions.co.uk).

Late breaking news! The Good Beer Guide 2024 has been released and the Amber Valley pubs remain unchanged from 2023 apart from t h e Holly Bush in Makeney has been reinstated (as was confidently predicted by "In The Sticks" a year ago). The price for inclusion has been paid by the King William, down the road, which has been dropped. Only 10 pubs allowed - them's the rules!



Amber Valley Pubs Officer, Chris Perry, has asked "In The Sticks" to include the following request...

"If anyone has any details regarding potential re-opening of the following Belper pubs, please send an email to Amber Valley CAMRA at datacoordinator@ambervalley.camra.org.uk.

"The **Old School House** has been closed for several months now and the **Riflemans Arms** has recently closed. In addition **Batemans Brewery** are allowing the **Cross Keys** to fall into disrepair amid a possible sale, which is not useful as this once good pub struggles to regain public appreciation since previous mismanagement decimated its reputation. Any other updates in Amber Valley would also be appreciated".

The next local CAMRA branch meetings, 8.00 pm start, are as follows...

Mansfield & Ashfield, 9th October, Market Tavern, South Normanton.

Amber Valley, 26th October, **Steampacket**, Swanwick.

Contributors: Bald Eagle, Charisma Bypass, the Groover, the Jedi, Snug Dave, Tram Inspector



Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail Winner 2019

Beer Festival News

Steve Cresswell and daughter Katy will be hosting another gluten-free beer festival at **Angels Micro-pub** on 5th-8th October featuring beers from the North East of England. Breweries represented include Allendale, Almasty, Jarrow and Three Brothers along with others from around the country. Steve also divulged that Angels Micro-pub came 2nd, after the Horse & Jockey, Stapleford, in the CAMRA East Midlands POTY competition.

The Grand Pavilion in Matlock Bath (opposite the Fishpond pub) is hosting its first beer festival on 6th & 7th October. 30+ ales and craft keg and 10+ artisan ciders are promised. There are 2 sessions on both days: 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm and 5.30 pm to 10.30 pm. Tickets are £5.00 for each session and can be bought in advance. Live music and food on offer to be announced closer to the festival (ie. Facebook). Campbell Street Brewing will be represented at the festival...

...and will also be holding their own beer festival, in conjunction with **Tyler's** and **Arkwrights** on Campbell Street, Belper, on 13th & 14th October. 30 beers and ciders will be on offer and breweries represented include **Stardust**, **Small World**, **Fell Brewery**, **Turning Point**, Atom, North Riding and Crich Brew Co.

The Nottingham Robin Hood Beer & Cider Festival will be held at the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground from 11th-14th October. Tickets are priced at £15 (Wed/Thur) and £25 [sharp intake of breath] (Fri/Sat). The ticket price is inclusive of nine tokens (three half pints of most beers/ciders) and a festival glass "which you are free to take home with you if you wish". CAMRA members (if I understand it correctly) can claim an additional three tokens.

The 8th Wirksworth Beer Festival will be held on 21st October (12.00 noon to 11.00 pm) at The Maltings next to St Mary's Church. I believe this was a former location for the festival which has been held at the Rock Face behind the **Lime Kiln** pub for the past two years. Of last year's festival, Chris P Duck had this to say...

"All of the beers tasted were of an impressively high standard with 11 local brewers represented including Aldwark, Black Hole, Bentley Brook, Collyfobble, Drone Valley, Leatherbritches and Shiny".

No details of the beer list or live music playing is available at the time of going to press. Proceeds from the festival will go to the Young Futures Fund, Wirksworth.

And finally, the **Mallard** on Worksop station will be holding their annual Ale'oween beer festival (2nd-6th November). Landlord Wayne Cadman informs "In The Sticks" that about a third of the beers will be from Kent breweries and will include a house beer from Kent Brewery, usually only found in a bar in Maidstone, plus a cask from Drop Project who usually only do keg and cans.



Real Ale, Real Cider, Real Fire Real Pub

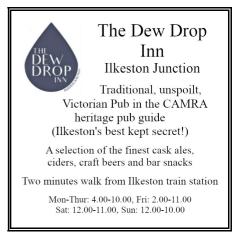
In The Papers

The Derby Telegraph (11th August) reported that Michael Shipman and Nigel Patton of **Bang The Elephant** brewery in Langley Mill have decided to give up their day jobs to concentrate full time on brewing. As part of their expansion plans, they will shortly be opening a micro-pub at 14 Low Pavement in Nottingham to be called the **Tusk & Raider**, together with their friend and **Emperor's Brewery** brewer, Damian Doherty. The plans have already been approved by Nottingham *City Council.*

The Derby Telegraph (3rd September) reported that Black Country Ales have taken over the New Inn in Tutbury and it is to be run by Lucy Sheffield (front of house) and Shaun Banton (cellarman). Lucy's career with Black Country Ales started at the Dog in Burton-on-Trent a couple of years ago, which is another pub which BCA took over and revitalised in 2015 and which has won Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA POTY three times in recent years.

Out & About

Chris P Duck describes his pub experiences in Weymouth (although the tale has been edited down) and Stirchley, just outside Birmingham. Your editor only went as far as Tutbury.



Weymouth, 13th-19th May, 2023

Before arriving at Weymouth and after a hilly walk to see the Cerne Abbas giant, we sat outside the GBG Royal Oak where I had St Austell Sovereign which was a moderate drink, disappointing for a GBG pub with only Proper Job as an alternative. Close by is the Giant, renamed from the Red Lion, which is still etched on the windows. I had Cerne Abbas Legless Jester and Fine Tuned Pitch Perfect, both from local micros and better than the previous GBG pub. Once settled into our holiday let in Weymouth and after a meal, we visited the nearest pub, this being the Park. Not expecting great beer I was not too disappointed with the average offering of Directors and Doom Bar. A nice enough locals pub but we did not visit again.

Next day after a lot of walking we arrived at the **Red Lion** which is near the quayside in Hope Square and opposite the former Devenish Brewery. There was live music in the outside courtyard and I had a decent Dorset Jurassic with Landlord, St Austell Tribute and a Lifeboat Ale (which raises money for the RNLI) also available. We also visited the Ship Inn which is a large Hall & Woodhouse pub eatery - of the three **Badger** ales available I found the **Badger** Best to be reasonable. On the walk back to HQ we went into the GBG Dolphin which is operated by Hopback. In here the barmaid was very personable and the landlord with his 1980s braces had a bit of chat too. I had their *Fuggle Stone* and Entire Stout, both being very good with Summer Lightning & Crop Circle also on. This was deemed to be our favourite pub and was visited on two further occasions.

After another walk next day we tried the **Boot Inn** which is one of the oldest town pubs with stained and etched glass windows and a sloping beamed ceiling. It was good that cask ales were all £2.70 on Mondays but the **Ringwood** Forty Niner & Razorback were nothing special. Later on after eating at home we visited the nearby **Waterloo**, which was welcoming and had some entertaining patrons but the **Ringwood** Boondoggle was not great. Nearer to the town centre was the **Tides Inn** but after our visit I think I preferred the tide out. There was very loud music and customers, with one "lady" attempting to demonstrate pole dancing albeit unsuccessfully. My beer was not much better with the sole cask offering being **Tolchards** Devon Coast.



Food served until 8.00 pm Family and Dog Friendly Fantastic Outdoor Garden

On Monday we undertook a very ambitious long walk around the coastline of Portland, taking in the Bill en route. Later we visited the Corner House at Easton which was a very friendly locals pub. The Butcombe Original was very good with *Tribute* also available. Back to the car, then to the Little Ship which is at the bottom of the hill at the start of the Chesil Beach Causeway. Here we had a decent priced meal and I sampled Sharps Sea Fury which was not as good as I had hoped but surely still better than Doom Bar. After returning to the flat we walked back into the main town and the GBG Globe Inn where the Dartmoor Jail Ale was excellent. We also called at the nearby JDW Swan which was covered in scaffolding but unfortunately this did not prevent us from getting in. A very poor ale selection with Nethergate Hop Weaver OK and Dorset Chesil (Pilsner) unappealing, these being the only guest ales.

Our next evening found us needing a meal and we foolishly used the Anchor which was a noisy bar with TV sport. The food was OK but I declined the three national cask ales because I thought they would not be very good plus I could select something else for just £1 so in this case I admit to drinking Amstel which was inevitably not enjoyed. A sharp exit took us over the river bridge to the GBG Kings Arms which was a very nice old pub with a friendly barman. My Dartmoor Jail Ale was OK with just Brains Rev James different to those already seen as an alternative. We then walked to the GBG Belvedere which had been full of people on the previous evening for quiz and open mic events. The four ales were Exmoor Upside Brown Cotleigh Nutcracker Butcombe Original & Monarch of which I had the first two, both being reasonable but not special.

The friendly barman informed us that he would be cooking the following evening so we duly revisited for a good guality and value meal, whilst also indulging in the Original. Next stop was the Doghouse Micro Pub which is arguably the best place for ale quality in town. I sampled Piddle April Showers, Cerne Abbas Harlequin and the excellent Palmers Tally Ho, which strangely was the only Palmers ale I found in Weymouth all week. Moving on to the JDW William Henry, I found that the ale selection was only marginally better than the other 'Spoons with Nethergate Hop Weaver again plus Oakham Citra and Milestone Little John. It was disappointing that neither 'Spoons offered many different ales.

In conclusion I would say that Weymouth has a plethora of pubs but with arguably less than ten with good and interesting ales. To be fair there were plenty that I did not visit which may have been nice pubs but probably offered only national ales. **Chris P Duck**.



Stirchley, 31st Aug, 2023

At Derby Station I met tour leader Mythical John along with Pothole Ady, Showbiz Steve and a surprise and welcome return for Tall Neil for the first time in over 2 years. We caught the Birmingham train at 12.31 and after a beer break at the Craddocks Good Intent, returned to New Street for the Redditch train. We disembarked at Bourneville station for the short walk to the Stirchley area.

Our first call was the 100 years old British **Oak** with its fine fireplace and wood panelling in the rear bar. It is a very large imperious pub with a very long front bar. The cask ales we sampled were good with Birmingham Brewing Bitter and Wye Valley HPA with TT Landlord not tried. Just across the road junction was the GBG Wildcat Tap on Pershore Road which was opening an hour late at 3.00 pm. We saw the barman scrambling around inside and he opened the door just as we were about to give up. It had a minimalist décor with industrial style lighting and in addition to a large selection of keg ales also had two on cask with options for more. We all had Beowulf Wulf and Black Lodge Elusive Dream which both went down well.

A five minute walk took us to an industrial

estate, with the first building being the GBG **Birmingham Brewing Co** where we visited their Taproom. The first round we all had *Fruity Brummie* with the other two cask ales being Stout Brummie and an experimental single hopped ale scientifically named YQH1320. From a large range of kegs, I was tempted by the Sour Brummie - I quite like sour beers which I find better on keg than cask. Plenty of space here with lots of table seating and we were joined by John's former workmate Ian who lives locally and had cycled to join us.

Back to the original road and almost next to the Wildcat is the Cork & Cage - no cask ale but 12 keg beers. There were a few beers from the local Glasshouse Brewery of which I found Takeo (5.0%) to be very good but some others were extremely strong at over 11% and sensibly declined by our group. Another brewery next, Attic Brew which has a bar and large seating area within the brewery. The sole cask ale was Petals Pale but I did not much care for it so had a keg beer (name not recorded). Yet another place on the Pershore Road is the **Stir Stores**, this being a sort of café bar meeting place. There were a couple of keg beers on tap of which I had Birmingham Brummie Kiwi but did not note the other.

At this point Ian left us to cycle home while the rest of us took a long walk in the rain to the Cotteridge area and another micro-pub. the GBG Red Beer'd. I took a picture of the beer board for later reference but could not recall whether any were on cask, although I think not. I had a half of keg Full Circle Repeater (4.2%) at a comparatively reasonable £4.80 a pint. This was probably one pub too many and we were all fairly satiated by now so it was fortunately only a short walk to Kings Norton station for the train back to Derby. This had been an impressive trip with the first 6 places all in close proximity and after the initial traditional pub we took in 2 brewery taps, 2 micro-pubs and 2 café bars which involved drinking more keg ales than usual. Chris P Duck.



Tutbury, 10th Sept. 2023

On a mild day in September, I ventured out to Tutbury and after a visit to the antiques/collectors centre on the High Street, called at the **Hourglass**, a new micropub a little way along the same street. The pub comprises a single, reasonably sized room with space for 7 tables, perhaps 40 drinkers at a push. Wooden flooring and modern muted colours - paint and wallpaper. Plus a sizeable outdoor seating area with some cover. There were 4 hand-pumps on the bar, 3 in use, offering Dancing Duck Abduction, Nene Valley Release The Chimps and Bass. I had the latter on recommendation and it was in excellent condition.

I then moved on to the **Cask & Pottle** which is a typical, table service only, micro-pub with bench seats ranged round the edge of the room. 4 ales (Burton Bridge Bridge Bitter & Stairway To Heaven, Front Row Jackler and Heritage Brewing HPA) plus kegs etc. The 7 or so drinkers all seemed to know each other so conversation was lively but I can't say that they were particularly inclusive. The border terrier dog was friendly though.

I then walked the short distance to the New Inn, recently taken over by Black Country Ales. A huge open-plan room which was sadly sparsely populated on a Sunday afternoon – maybe because of the Rugby World Cup? Good and varied choice of 10 beers from Black Country Ales (x 4), Oakham, Fixed Wheel, MBH, Sharps, Felinfoel and Titanic. Prices ranged from £3.90 to £4.50, plus friendly service. Snug Dave.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

28th Sep-1st Oct. The Big Birmingham Beer Festival. Centenary Square, Birmingham 4th-8th Oct. The 36th Brunswick Beer Festival. Station Approach, Derby. 50 ales, 16 ciders/perries. Barbeque Fri & Sat 5th-8th Oct. Beer Under The Clock Beer Festival. Town Hall Yard, Retford. 16 ales, keg & food 5th-8th Oct. Angels Micro-pub Gluten Free Beer Festival. 26 Market Place, Belper 6th-7th Oct. The Grand Pavillion Beer Festival. Matlock Bath, Matlock. 30+ ales & craft, 10+ artisan ciders 11th-14th Oct. Nottingham Beer Festival. Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham. 750+ real ales, craft, 150 ciders 11th-22nd Oct. Wetherspoons Real Ale & Cider Festival. All Wetherspoon Pubs. www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk 13th-14th Oct. Campbell Street Autumn Beer Festival. Campbell Street, Belper (3 venues). 30+ beers & ciders 13th-15th Oct. 22nd Solihull Beer Festival. Green Lane, Ockbrook. 20+ North East Wales beers 13th-15th Oct. 22nd Solihull Beer Festival. Royal British Legion, Union Road, Solihull. 40 ales, 6 ciders 18th-21st Oct. 47th Sheffield Steel City Beer Festival. Kelham Island Museum, Alma Street, Sheffield. 200+ ales 21st Oct. 8th Wirksworth Beer Festival. The Maltings, Wirksworth. www.facebook.com/wirksworthbeerfest 25th-29th Oct. 12th Furnace Dark vs Light Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. Up to 12 dark, 12 light ales 26th-28th Oct. Holly Bush Beer Festival. Holly Bush Lane, Makeney, Derbyshire 2nd-6th Nov. The Mallard Ale'oween Beer Festival. The Mallard, Worksop Station. 20 beers

4th-7th Oct. 45th Bedford Beer Festival. Corn Exchange, St Pauls Square, Bedford. 80+ ales
4th-8th Oct. Billericay Brewery Autumn Beer Festival. 52 Chapel Street, Billericay, Essex. 20+ ales
5th-7th Oct. Eastbourne Beer Festival. Winter Garden, Compton Road, Eastbourne. 100+ ales, cider/perry
5th-7th Oct. Ayrshire Real Ale Festival. Troon Concert Hall, Troon. 140+ ales 25 cider/perry
6th-7th Oct. Ascot Racecourse Beer Festival. www.ascot.co.uk. 160+ ales, cider/perry
12th-14th Oct. 26th Warrington Beer Festival. Pyramid & Parr Hall, Palmyra Square, Warrington. 70 ales cider/perry
12th-15th Oct. Keighley & Worth Valley Beer & Music Festival. Beer & Music Festival - KWVR
19th-21st Oct. Grantham Beer Festival. St Wulframs Church, Grantham. 70+ ales, cider/perry
19th-21st Oct. Spa Valley Railway 12th Anniversary Beer Festival. Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 150 ales 30 ciders
23rd-28th Oct. 45th Norwich Beer Festival. St Andrews & Blackfriars Hall, Norwich. 200+ ales
26th-28th Oct. 24th Poole Beer Festival. St Aldhelms Hall, Branksome, Poole. 85+ ales
2nd-6th Nov. Darlington Snooker Club Beer Festival. 1 Corporation Street, Darlington. 30 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

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