



# RURAD

## "In the Sticks"

LEADMILL BREWERY  
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BREWERY  
Producers of Traditional  
Hand Crafted Real Ales

## In the Sticks

## JANUARY 2024

## Free Copy

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/magazines](http://www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/magazines)) along with digital copies of other local beer-centric publications.



### MARKET TAVERN

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5 REAL ALES  
6 REAL CIDERS  
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 @MarketTavernSouthNormanton

encouraging start. Following a similar blueprint to the **Jolly Sailor**, the **Navigation** has an imaginative cask ale line up rotating around the iconic and ever present **Bass**. Again, similar to the **Sailor**, the food offering at the **Navigation** includes carefully sourced pork pies and scotch eggs as well as the very popular stone baked pizzas, soups and cobs. There is also a plan to provide sharing platters, cheese boards and Ploughman's platters.

"The current opening hours are as follows although this is work in progress whilst the landlords assess the business and respond to their customers needs..."

Monday: closed, Tuesday & Wednesday: 12.00-10:30pm, Thursday-Saturday: 12.00-11.00pm, Sunday: 12.00-8.00pm

## SMITHFIELD

Meadow Road, Derby, DE1 2BH Tel: 01332 986601

**Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018 - 2022**

**East Midlands Pub of the Year 2019**

Tickers Paradise, 9 ever changing ales from across the UK, including 2 Stouts/Porters served all year round

Pork Pies & Fresh Cobs available daily

Fantastic Beer Garden right next to the river

The new micro-pub, **Dead Man's Tankard** in Heanor, opened on 25th November. It's a cosy space with one main room plus a little extra space to the rear. It has comfortable bench seating and I was made very welcome by the barman. There are 4 cask ales on the bar plus 4 keg taps (that I could see). On the day I visited the choice was **Red Dog Ales Snowball Run**, **Maggie Best**, **Black Hole Milky Way** (Honey & Banana Pale Wheat Beer) and **Dancing Duck Dark Drake**. Prices ranged from £3.70 to £3.90 depending on gravity. **Snug Dave**.

PS. Charisma Bypass and Bald Eagle also called in soon after opening and found the following beers on offer: **Castle Rock Screech Owl**, **Fullers London Pride**, **Blue Monkey Guerrilla** and **Greene King Golden Hen**, all beers being priced at £3.70.

I called into the recently re-opened **Fox & Hounds** in Coxbench, which I have been

meaning to do for some time, and was pleasantly surprised with what I found on the bar. Three impressive hand pumped beers were on show: **Tiny Rebel Sleigh Puft**, **St Austell Secret Santa** (4.3%) and my choice, **Kirkstall Pale Ale** (4.0%) with **Chris Moose** the next beer to come on. Glad I called in. **Charisma Bypass**\*.

\*Did any readers hear that the Oxford University Press have announced that their Word of the Year 2023 is "Rizz". The official definition is "style, charm or attractiveness" or "the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner". Oh yes, and it's derived from the word "Charisma". Just saying.

**Pete and Tracey welcome you to**

## THE RAILWAY

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Serving 8 Cask Ales, 6 Craft Beers and Real Cider

Star Bars Cask Ale Finalist 2019

Quiz Night every Wednesday

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Food served until 8.00 pm

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Fantastic Outdoor Garden

The **Little Chester Ale House** finally re-opened on the 12th December and was serving mainly **Leatherbritches** ales, just as does the **Bank Of Beers** in Melbourne. The room feels a bit bigger than before as more bench seating has been fitted giving the place a more open feel. Beers were priced at £3.75 on my visit. It's good to have it back again. **Snug Dave**.

And a little bit extra from Sooty...

**Leatherbritches** are now flying the flag for this pub after they gave it a thorough refurbishment which is of a high standard. Four real ales are available mostly from the **Leatherbritches** range but guest beers can be expected. **Ashbourne Ale** (4.0%) and **Bounder** (3.8%) are permanent plus, on my visit, **Porter** (5.0%) and **Scary Hairy** (5.9%) were available. A passion fruit cider and dry cider from **Seacider** are also on the pumps. Ale prices are good value for money. **Sooty**.

On Sunday 17th December I headed to the new micro-pub on Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, called the **Hoppy Place**

## Beer & Pub News

The **Navigation** pub in Shardlow re-opened on 7th December after having been boarded up for some weeks. The new licensees are Ian Darlington and Andy Potts who run the **Jolly Sailor** in Hemington and are backed by a shadowy Third Man who is providing the finance. I'm thinking Orson Welles... Tum-ti-tum-ti-tum Ti-tum... OK, maybe not.

Both Ian and Andy have "previous", Ian at the **Cross Keys** in Ockbrook and Andy at the **Plough** in Diseworth. Andy sent in the following statement to "In The Sticks"...

"The **Navigation** was open for business on the 7th December, 2023 after being closed since October 2022. The freehold was purchased from Punch Taverns in October by a local investor who approached Andy and Ian (current landlords of the **Jolly Sailor**, Hemington) to run the **Navigation** after being impressed with the progress of the **Jolly Sailor** under their stewardship.

"After a four week turnaround and renovation which included new flooring, new carpets, investment in new furnishings and a complete cellar install, the **Navigation** has had an

(formerly Chaplins coffee lounge). It opened its doors on 15th December, a little later than expected due to last minute delays, and I was greeted at the bar by Adam. The opening hours are forecast to be Tuesday to Sunday, 2.00 till 10.00, closed on Mondays. It's big-ish inside with warm and comfortable surroundings. Beers on that evening were from **Little (Taj & Just Nipping Out)**, **Titanic Plum Porter** and **Bass** on permanently, selling at £4.20 a pint. Also a selection of lagers and keg beers. Chaddesden needs a micro-pub as many pubs have gone, so thumbs up to Adam and the best of luck. **Trigger**.

## Angels Micro Pub

29 Market Place  
Belper DE56 1FZ  
Serving eight or more  
real ales from the barrel and a  
similar number of ciders & perries

Derbyshire South CAMRA POTY  
Winner 2023  
Amber Valley CAMRA Cider POTY  
Winner 2020  
Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail  
Winner 2019

A Belper Beer Census (modelled on Derby CAMRA's annual one) went ahead on 24th November. 23 people took part visiting 31 pubs and clubs (one was temporarily closed for a function and 5 were serving no real ale). 42 different breweries were represented and 66 real ales were on offer. The top four available beers were: **Pedigree** (7 pubs), **Dancing Duck Ay Up** (5 pubs), **Bass** (4 pubs) and **TT Landlord** (4 pubs). There was a wide range of beer types available from small breweries located in places as diverse as Birmingham, Lincolnshire, Wales and Yorkshire, as well as the familiar local breweries. The pubs serving the most real ales were **Angels Micro Pub**, the **Holly Bush** (Makeney) and the **Railway** with 8 real ales available, closely followed by **Arkwrights** with 7. **Aron37**.

Amber Valley CAMRA have compiled a shortlist of 8 pubs for POTY 2024 for which judging is currently underway (ends 31st January). The contenders are **Angels Micro Pub** (Belper), **Dead Poets** (Holbrook), **Groovers Arms** (Ripley), **Holly Bush** (Makeney), **Old Oak Inn** (Horsley Woodhouse), **Railway** (Belper), **Talbot** (Ripley) and **White Hart** (Bargate). Result TBA at the Amber Valley Branch AGM at the end of March. **Aron37**.

Local CAMRA Branch Meetings are as follows:

Mansfield & Ashfield  
11th Jan. **Railway Inn**, Mansfield  
8th Feb. **Forest Lodge**, Edwinstowe.

Amber Valley  
25th Jan. **Groovers Arms**, Peasehill

All meetings are 8.00 pm start.

Contributors: **Aron37**, **Charisma Bypass** (aka **Rizz**), **Snug Dave**, the **Jedi**, **Sooty**, **Trigger**, **Tweedle-Dee**

## Beer Festivals

Various news outlets have reported the announcement, made in a CAMRA Press Release on 11th December, that the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) for 2024 has been cancelled as the usual venue, the Olympia Exhibition Centre in West Kensington, was not available on the dates required (usually August). The GBBF (Winter) is scheduled to go ahead from 15th to 17th February at Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent and tickets are now on sale priced from £10 to £15 depending on the day and the session.

The **BeerMuda Triangle Beer Festival** returns to Newark on **25th-28th January** with the four pubs taking part being **Flying Circus**, **Fox & Crown**, **Just Beer** and **Organ Grinder**. Chris P Duck found himself in Newark during last year's festival and the account of his day out and what he found is included in the **Out & About** section.

This is an early heads-up for the **Hucknall Beer and Cider Festival** which will take place at the John Godber Centre, Hucknall from **10th-12th February** (with a \*special advance ticket preview\* on the 9th). More details to follow.

There is also a **Dark Ales Festival** to put in your memory banks on the **22nd-26th February**. It will be held over 2 venues - **Angels Micro Pub**, Belper and the **Groovers Arms**, Peashill, Ripley (formerly the Honeypot). More details (hopefully) in the February edition.

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

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

**Derby CAMRA  
Country Pub of the Year - 2022**

CAMRA 50th Anniversary  
Gold Award Winner - East Midlands

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 <https://royaloakockbrook.com> 

## RuRAD Snippets

### Dew Drop, Hathern

While on our travels to Loughborough, Bald Eagle and I decided to stop off at Hathern where there are 2 pubs that seemed interesting. The first was the **Anchor Inn**, which had 2 Everards beers on the bar so we decided to give this a miss and move on to the nearby **Dew Drop**, which proved to be a good decision. The pub had been in need of a new landlord for some time and a local chap in the village has taken up the challenge - from what

we saw he was doing an excellent job. There were 4 real ales on the bar, 2 permanent and 2 rotating, and were in excellent condition. **Bass** and **Wye Valley HPA** were regular, and the **Blue Monkey Infinity** and **Beermats Chestmats Roasting** were the rotating beers on our visit. Well worth getting off the bus for. **Charisma Bypass**.



**The Dew Drop  
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Ilkeston Junction  
Traditional, unspoilt,  
Victorian Pub in the CAMRA  
heritage pub guide  
(Ilkeston's best kept secret!)

A selection of the finest cask ales,  
ciders, craft beers and bar snacks

Two minutes walk from Ilkeston train station

Mon-Thur: 4.00-10.00, Fri: 2.00-11.00  
Sat: 12.00-11.00, Sun: 12.00-10.00

## Nelson Arms, Middleton

More accurately Middleton-by-Wirksworth according to Chris P Duck who is a regular visitor. This atmospheric pub with its idiosyncratic decor and collection of unusual pictures and artefacts generally offers four real ales which always includes **Pedigree** and almost always one or two from **Leadmill**. This is what CPD had to say in a report submitted in 2023...

I always find that the **Nelson Arms** at Middleton-by-Wirksworth has very good beer, at least as good as some GBG entries, and my **Leadmill Wild Rover** was excellent. They usually hold at least one **Leadmill** ale and on this occasion **Fluffer** was a second option with **Pedigree** and **Dancing Duck Ay Up** also available. Still my choice for the best ales in the Wirksworth area.

## In The Papers

Various news outlets including the Sun and the Daily Echo have reported the impending closure of the **Ringwood** brewery on the Hampshire/Dorset border between Salisbury and Bournemouth.

**Ringwood Brewery** was established in 1978 and **Old Thumper** (5.6%, reduced to 5.1% in 2013) was voted CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 1988. At its height, the brewery was producing 42,000 barrels of beer a year. **Marston's** bought the brewery in 2007 and then merged with **Carlsberg UK** in 2020 to form **Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company** (CMBC). CMBC have now announced that **Ringwood Brewery** and shop will shut on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The brewery was put up for sale in June 2023 but a spokesman for the company is reported as saying...

"Over the past six months, despite our best efforts, we were unable to secure a credible offer which met our bidding threshold, and had to conclude there was no viable path forward for Ringwood".

Anthony Swift, who was leading a consortium of private investors looking to keep the business open, begs to differ, and claims that the sales process was simply "abandoned" and **Carlsberg Marston's** had not engaged seriously with his group.

CMBC also closed down the **Wychwood Brewery** in Witney, Oxfordshire in November 2023 and moved production of its ales to other sites. Similarly, the cask variant of **Ringwood Old Thumper** will be brewed at the Marston's brewery in Burton-on-Trent, while cask production of **Razorback**, **Fortyniner** and **Boondoggle** will move to **Banks's** in Wolverhampton.

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**

The Derby Telegraph (14th December) reported that planning permission has been granted to convert a convenience store to a micro-pub in the town of Killamarsh to the south-east of Sheffield. Despite the usual objections from some residents (noise and potential for anti-social behaviour), planning permission was approved providing certain conditions are fulfilled.

The Daily Telegraph recently reported a story in which the **Northern Monk** brewery based in Leeds agreed to discontinue a canned beer called **Rocket Lolly** following a complaint from the mother of a four-year-old boy. The can featured a triple-coloured ice lolly in the shape of a rocket (which I seem to remember was called Zoom back in the day. Ed.), and apparently, the boy wanted to taste it and wasn't allowed to. Well, it was 4.7% ABV, what did he expect? The boy then had a bit of a meltdown - look, I'm only telling you what was in the story. Anyway, Portman Group upheld the complaint and **Northern Monk** agreed to discontinue the beer. They also agreed to discontinue a hot cross bun-themed 5.0% pale ale called **Wasted** after it was also criticised for appealing to under-18s. The things people get worked up about, eh?

## Out & About

First of all, the CPD article about his Newarks visit which coincided with this year's BeerMuda Triangle event. Then follows an account of a day trip to Bristol.

### Southwell & Newark, 27th Jan. 2023

Another bus outing saw the Old Fruit and myself arrive just before 11.00 to find that

the **Crown** (Marston's) did not open until 3.00 pm, so we went across the road into the **Saracens Head** (GK) which is quite posh. The beer did not seem very exciting and with no staff present at the bar we gave this a miss. The only other pub nearby is the **Admiral Rodney**, a Stonegate pub where we were offered a very poor welcome by the barman, although the lady who appeared later was more personable. I selected **Landlord** ahead of **Doom Bar** with another stick empty but the beer was worse than average quality.

I was really only marking time until the noon opening of the **GBG Final Whistle** and duly entered at this time in the company of a couple off the bus that I had met on the Beverley trip, known as Spot and The Hat. Here I chatted with the female bar manager who lives in Belper and found that we had much in common beer and pub-wise. My **Buxton Grinlow Pale** and **Salopian Golden Thread** were both very good but then we had to leave for the bus. The 8 other ales here came from **Brewsters**, **North Riding**, **Kelham Island** and **Vocation** with a 2nd **Salopian** plus **Bass**, **Oakham Citra** and **Tiger**.



**BLACK BULLS HEAD**


2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate  
Belper, Derbyshire  
DE56 0SF

Arriving into Newark a few minutes later, the Old Fruit & I went in the **Ram** where we were informed that it was table service only. I recall having some interesting **Newark Brewery** ales here a few years back but they have disappeared to be replaced by **Oakham Citra**, **Doom Bar** and one from **Navigation**. Consequently we made a sharp exit and off to the **GBG Prince Rupert** just round the corner. It's a very old pub dating back to 1452 and has a maze of small rooms over 2 floors. There are 5 ales available - regular **Rev James** and **Oakham Citra** with the 3 guest ales being **Abbeydale Wish List**, **TT Boltmaker** and my choice **Totally Brewed Crazy Like A Fox** which was not particularly good but a fantastic building nevertheless.

I was in a rush so I left the Old Fruit there and at the end of the market place I found the **Fox & Crown**, a **Castle Rock** pub with better beer than the last pub. I had **Bang The Elephant Not One Of Your Five A Day** which was excellent with 5 ales from **Castle Rock** plus others from **North Riding**, **Abbeydale** and **Black Iris**. I also reconnected here with Spot and The Hat and whilst talking with a local we realised that it was BeerMuda

Triangle weekend with a plethora of ales in 3 other pubs yet to visit in about a 90 minute window.

I briefly looked in at the **Castle & Falcon** but it only had a solitary **Theakston** ale so we headed off round the corner to the **GBG Organ Grinder** which is, of course, operated by **Blue Monkey** and the first of the BeerMuda Triangle pubs. There must have been at least a dozen festival ales from many breweries on stillage of which we all had **Don Valley Trench Town Rock**. It was especially busy in here and with due reason but with time at a premium we had to move on and The Hat led us through an underground car park shortcut to the **GBG Flying Circus**. Here it was like a tap takeover by **Orkney** and **Wilde Child**, where I gulped down a rapid but excellent **Orkney Cliff Edge** before we all raced across the road to **GBG Just Beer**. The genial barman here had another great range of ales and I just had enough time for a couple from new breweries to me - **Bat Country** (Romsey, Hants) **Lionel's Lawn Mower** and **Shadow Bridge** (Barton on Humber) **Wizards Ruin**. It was a great pub's beer festival - just a shame we did not have more time and this town festival is definitely worth seeking out next year. **Chris P Duck**.



Tash & Andy welcome you to the

**Dead Poets Inn**

38 Chapel Street, Holbrook - (01332) 780301

Award Winning Ale & Cider House

8 traditional ales +  
up to 16 traditional ciders

Food served:  
Tue-Thur 12.00-14.00  
Fri-Sun, 12.00-16.00

### Bristol, 11th Nov, 2023

A day bus trip to Bristol enabled me to make an initial foray into some of the many good ale pubs. The bus drop-off was near the Christmas market and it was a 15 minute walk through a maze of streets to reach the first of my four target pubs on King Street for noon opening time. First call was at the 17th century **Famous Royal Navy Volunteer** which has at least 20 keg taps and on my visit, about 5 cask ales. My first drink, **Siren Craft Reviver**, was returned as it contained sediment and was willingly withdrawn and a replacement ale offered. The **Good Chemistry Time Lapse** was a reasonable alternative with other cask ales from **Bristol Beer Factory** (BBF) and **Electric Bear**.

Next door at the **Beer Emporium**, the bar is downstairs in a former rum cellar tunnel, accessed by either a lift or a staircase with an ornate carved handrail. Again a number of keg ales and just a couple of cask ales, both from the local **Twisted Oak** brewery - **Bitter**

and my choice *Ghost Town Milk Stout*. We chatted local history with barman Elijah who also voluntarily offered samples of the keg ales. I then went solo at the nearby GBG **Llandoger Trow**, a historic black and white timbered building, where I had my first taste of a **New Bristol** ale, this being *Bitter*. It was pretty good, especially as it was withdrawn shortly afterwards as end of barrel. I was served by enthusiastic staff with the other cask ales being from **BBF**, **Moor** and a couple from **Wye Valley**. My final call on this street was somewhat disappointing at the **King Street Brew House**. This has its own brewery, reminiscent of the Brewhouse & Kitchen establishments and seven of their cask ales were on the bar, I selected *Dinner Red Ale* but did not find it to be particularly good. The place was predominately a sports bar with many screens and hopefully some of their other ales may have been better but I rather doubt it. This was my only slight setback beer-wise with much better to follow.

A brisk walk past some unattractive flats brought me to the GBG **Golden Guinea** where the ultra-keen bar manager insisted on giving me tasters before I settled for **BBF Lookout** - other cask options were from **Arbor**, **Moor**

and **Vibrant Forest**. This appears to be a relict building from a previous era - an oasis within a modern development if you like - and had an eclectic mix of both furniture and clientele so I had a very enjoyable visit here. Another walk then, crossing the river bridge to reach the GBG **Portwall Tavern** which is an astonishing bright blue colour within a terraced row. Another great traditional pub where I enjoyed cask ales from **Electric Bear**, **Twisted Oak** and **Goff's**. There is a cluster of three more GBG pubs near here and the next was the tiny backstreet **Seven Stars** where the barman was not very welcoming. However the beer range and quality was decent with my choice here being **BBF Fortitude**, selected ahead of ales from **Tiny Rebel**, **Frome** or **Vocation** plus also the now regularly seen **Titanic Plum Porter**. A lovely old pub but would be better with more personality behind the bar.

Very close by is the **Cornubia** which is a tall square-shaped Georgian building behind a brick walled garden, again the only local remnant amongst modern buildings. Here I was tempted by **Hammerton Crunch**, a peanut butter milk stout, with other options being from an interesting range of breweries - **Downlands**, **Only With Love**, **Howling Hops**

and **Drop Project**. Spoilt only by the disinterested bar staff it was otherwise great here and better in summer in the beer garden. The last in this group of GBG pubs was the **Kings Head** which has a National Inventory pub interior, not that I had much time to do it justice. It's yet another classic old pub and the attentive barman made it a pleasure to visit. My **Grey Trees Afghan Pale** was my best drink of the day with **Fyne Ales** *Avalanche* the other guest and two ales from **Good Chemistry** who operate this great pub. With time running out I headed back towards the bus pick-up point and entered the **Left Handed Giant Brewpub** but soon exited as it was too busy for me to wait to get served. It is in a very large building on different levels but I have to admit that I preferred the small intimate old pubs to jostling with dozens of people in an overcrowded place. I just had time to try the nearby **Bridge Inn**, instantly identified by the giant mural of Jimi Hendrix on the corner. My quick selection of **Good Chemistry Silk Road** was OK and other ales were **Quantock QPA**, **Small World Autumn Bank** and a couple from **Moor**, so not a bad ending to an excellent tour with plenty more good pubs to do on a future occasion.  
Chris P Duck.

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

25th-28th Jan. BeerMuda Triangle Beer Festival. **Just Beer**, **Flying Circus**, **Fox & Crown** and **Organ Grinder** in Newark

26th-27th Jan. Chesterfield Beer Festival. Winding Wheel, Chesterfield. Ale, cider/perry, craft beer, gin & wine

15th-17th Feb. GBBF Winter Beer Festival. Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent

18th-20th Jan. 34th Exeter Festival of Winter Ales. Exeter Football Club, St James Park, Stadium Way. 65 ales, 12 ciders

31st Jan-3rd Feb. 15th Colchester Winter Beer Festival. Colchester Arts Centre, Church St, Colchester

2nd-3rd Feb. 35th Dorchester Beerex. Corn Exchange, High St West, Dorchester. 80 ales

2nd-3rd Feb. 14th Elysian Beer Festival. The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, Cambs. 75 ales, 20 ciders

15th-17th Feb. Liverpool Beer Festival. Lutyens Crypt, Metropolitan Cathedral, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool

16th-17th Feb. Bath Beer Festival. Widcombe Social Club, Widcombe Hall, Bath. 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](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 - too many to mention but they know who they are.

Thanks also to our advertisers without whom this newsletter would not get published.



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Winner of the Amber Valley  
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