



RURAD "In the Sticks"

LEADMILL BREWERY
and BOTTLE BROOK
BREWERY
Producers of Traditional
Hand Crafted Real Ales

In the Sticks

APRIL 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.

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 beer-centric publications.

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 & 2024
Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail
Winner 2019

Beer & Pub News

The **Alter Ego Brewery Tap** - Unit B2, Salcombe Road, Alfreton, DE55 7RG and only a short walk from Alfreton train station - is now open every Saturday from 2.00 pm until the end of November. Matt and his team are planning to brew some tap room exclusives which will be announced on Facebook. There will also be a shuttle bus from the **Tip Inn**, Loscoe on the last Saturday of each month.

Alter Ego beers have also been getting national recognition - this post from Facebook dated 14th March...

"We haven't shouted about our recent award cause we haven't had the certificate yet but a few weeks ago **Incognito** got silver for East Midlands Champion Beer of Britain in the IPA category and we've just found out that our 5th birthday collaboration with Wraggys Beer Review Channel (**Wraggnifeye**, chocolate and walnut milk stout) was the #1 milk stout in 2023 on Untappd."

The former **Pointing Dogs** pub on Dale Road, Matlock which unexpectedly closed just before Christmas has been taken on by the people behind the **Remarkable Hare** pub

further along Dale Road. The pub is being rebranded as a Sports Bar featuring Tex Mex style food and pizzas. The pub will be called **Rabona Sports Bar and Cantina** and opened its doors on 15th March. **Riberman**.

And this report about the same venue: On 23rd March when I was in Matlock to watch Matlock Town get thrashed by Whitby, I visited the bar and the emphasis seems to be on loud music and games machines such as basketball alley and a punchbag machine. One real ale was available, **Thornbridge Green Mountain**, a hazy pale which was not to my taste but probably kept OK. I can't imagine fans of real ale revisiting the place. **Hes**.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of Dale Road, the **Titanic Brewery** operated Cafe Bar, **Bod**, which always offers around 3-4 of their own beers, usually **Plum Porter**, **Iceberg** and **Steerage**, has added a couple of rotating guest beers including on my last visit, beer from the local **Bentley Brook Brewing Company**. **Riberman**.



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 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

The Darley Abbey Cider company has ceased trading as of 31st March with all the usual economic reasons cited. The following statement was released on 6th March...

"After much soul-searching, we have taken the difficult decision to close our cider business on 31st March this year. This decision has not been easy, but has been accelerated by a deteriorating trading environment and rising costs, which a business of our size cannot continue to absorb. From the very first day it has been an absolute blast!! We've been able to meet and get to know so many generous contributors from across Derbyshire and beyond. We've also worked with some amazing people within the food and drinks sector and been supported by our loyal

stockists and customers. Without everyone's support we would not have been able to make our wonderful cider for so long."

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

Richard Soar (father of Tom) has reported to "In The Sticks" that they are looking to sell the **Campbell Street Brewery** in Belper...

"The reason for the sale is that although we could make the brewery pay, without the tap rooms and events, there would be no profit. The local council are unwilling to discuss how we can move forward without major expense and there is no guarantee of us being able to use the site. The beer festival in April will be going ahead because we've made a commitment to **Arkwrights** and the Morris dancers."



The **Rifleman's Arms** in Belper which has been closed since August last year, is to be taken over by Martin Roper who runs the **Devonshire** just across the road (plus the **Exeter Arms** and **Silk Mill** in Derby). A date for re-opening is yet to be announced.

It has been reported to "In The Sticks" that the **Bell** in Smalley is up for sale. There is a listing by business agents Ernest Wilson, based in Leeds, for a "Pub, Restaurant and Guest House in Ilkeston" with an asking price of £120K. The description is also repeated on Rightmove and they narrow it down to Smalley. But nowhere is the name of the pub mentioned although it's clearly the **Bell** from the photos. Why so mysterious I wonder?

There seems to be a new brewery in town although they don't seem to have brewed any beers yet. **Beestonia Brewing** is based near the Ilkeston rugby ground with the registered office being in Long Eaton.

The new licensees of the **Peacock**, Derby are Tony & Debs (no surname given). Tony

formerly ran the Crown Inn on Nottingham Road, Spondon although that pub was demolished about 10 years ago. Apparently, they have a 2 year lease with an option to extend. They serve a house beer - **Peacock Pale Ale** - brewed by **Shiny** plus **Bass** and a guest which was recently **Whim Flower Power**.

Tash & Andy welcome you to the
Dead Poets Inn
 38 Chapel Street, Holbrook - (01332) 780301
**** Amber Valley CAMRA POTY 2024 ****
 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

For those readers who don't know, the winners of the Derby POTY and Cider POTY 2024 competitions are as follows:

City: **Smithfield**, Derby
 Suburban: **Pot Hole**, Allestree
 Country: **Shiny Brewery Tap**, Little Eaton
 Cider POTY: **Brunswick Inn**, Derby

Nottingham CAMRA reported the results of their POTY 2024 competition on 17th March which are as follows:

Urban category:

1st: **Horse & Jockey**, Stapleford
 2nd: **Byron's Rest**, Hucknall
 3rd: **Robin Hood and Little John**, Arnold.

Village category:

1st: **Round RobINN**, East Leake
 2nd: **Old Green Dragon**, Oxton
 3rd: **Chestnut**, Radcliffe on Trent

The overall winner is the **Horse & Jockey**. Many thanks to Andy Sales for sending the press release to "In The Sticks".

There are other organisations which give awards to different sectors of the hospitality industry, and the Peak District, Derbyshire and Derby Tourism Awards 2024 were distributed at an awards ceremony hosted by the Museum of Making in Derby on 7th March. Winners in their Pub of the Year category were...

Gold: **Prince of Wales**, Baslow
 Silver: **Blind Bull**, Little Hucklow
 Bronze: **George**, Hathersage

The Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Final Friday @5 gathering will be on 26th April in Mansfield and will be starting at **Stella Taps**, moving onto **Stag & Pheasant** and then **Widow Frost**.

The next Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Branch Meeting will be on 4th April at the **Black Market Venue**, Warsop, starting at 8.00 pm.

Contributors: Andy Sales, Charisma Bypass, Hes, Jamie Still, the Jedi, Riberman, Snug Dave, Tram Inspector, Tweedle Dee

Beer Festivals

As reported in the March issue of "In The Sticks", details of the **Loughborough Pub Trails** for 2024 have been announced which will take place on 11th-21st April and 19th-29th September. The trails will run for 10 days across 2 weekends, to make it easier to visit all the pubs and the brewery which are as follows: **Charnwood Brewery**, **Cask Bah Rocks** (under new ownership), **Moonface Brewery and Tap**, **Needle & Pin**, **Organ Grinder**, **Swan In The Rushes**, **Three Nuns**, **Wheeltapper** and **White Hart**.

A leaflet has been printed giving brief details about each pub, opening times and a map, which can be found in each of the venues or on the Loughborough Pub Trail Facebook page. So much ale-drinking fun and badges too!

The **Campbell Street St George's Day Beer Festival**, a joint venture between Campbell Street Brewing, Arkwright's Bar & Tylers, will take place from 18th to 22nd April. Entertainment on Saturday 20th April will be provided by the Black Pig Border Morris, Towd Man Border Morris and Mortimers Morris and by Seasick Dale in the evening from 7.30 pm.

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

Belper Historic Pub Walks

As he did in 2023, Ian Hill from the Strutt's North Mill in Belper is leading guided walks around the Historic Pubs of Belper which will take place on the following Sundays from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm: 26th May, 9th June, 28th July, 18th August and 15th December. The cost is £7.50 per person and all proceeds will go to Belper North Mill Trust and Age UK Derbyshire. For more details and to sign up to take part in the walks, please go to www.belpernorthmill.org.uk. Ian added that the the walks proved very popular last year and advises booking early.

RuRAD Snippets

On a recent visit to the **Bunny Hop** in Langley Mill, I found 5 ales on the bar: **Grasshopper Devil's Horse**, **Blue Monkey Primate**, **Wai-iti**, **Nelson & Taiheke** (a single batch cask special) and **White Wolf** from **Little Critters** and **Bang**

The Elephant Gaja. But I was especially impressed by the cheese & onion cobs for 50p! As an aside, the pub also hosts regular events including a quiz night, sports on TV and live music. **Charisma Bypass**.



151 Peasehill, Ripley. Tel: 07510 431414
 Selection of 9 real ales, 17 craft keg plus ciders & perries, many sourced from the south west and Herefordshire
Darts, Dominoes & Skittles on weekly Quiz night Fridays plus card Bingo
Live music during the summer months plus regular vinyl nights featuring The Groover

In The Papers

The Derby Telegraph (20th March) reported that the Pub People Group, who have recently taken over the **Cross Keys** in Belper and the **Spotted Cow** in Holbrook, have bought the freehold of the **Greyhound** and **Brewery Tap** in Derby. As readers will probably know, these two pubs were put up for sale when the pub-owning arm of **Derby Brewing Co.** went into administration last October. The plan, according to Andy Crawford, managing director of Pub People, is to refurbish both establishments inside and out, which may take up to 6 months. He is also considering reverting the **Brewery Tap** to its former name of the **Royal Standard**.

A recent story in the Daly Telegraph told of Christopher Airlie, landlord of the **Troll Inn**, Dundee, who, no longer willing to pay the £1,300 monthly Sky Sports subscription, told his customers that anyone with their own personal account could bring in a laptop and watch the football in the pub. As a consequence, Sky took Mr Airlie to court... and lost.

The Daily Telegraph (along with other media outlets) also reported that **Carlsberg Marston's** (CMBC) have launched a new product which they are calling "fresh ale" or "brewery conditioned ale". The following is taken from a CMBC press release dated 7th March...

"Fresh Ale is brewed using the same method as traditional cask ale. After primary fermentation, Fresh Ale then undergoes a controlled second fermentation for conditioning within the brewery. Following this, Fresh Ale is kegged in 30L units to maintain its distinctive mouthfeel and flavour profile for up to 14 days once broached".

However, it is intended that this new product will be dispensed using hand-pulls but CAMRA strongly object to this decision claiming that customers expect genuine cask beer from a hand-pull rather than a pasteurised alcoholic drink. Apparently, **Otter Brewery** launched

this product almost a year ago with a beer called *Amber Fresh*. The first CMBC products are reported to be *Wainwright* and *Hobgoblin*.



Out & About

Reports this month from Macclesfield and a follow-up piece about Gloucester.

Macclesfield 9th Feb, 2024

This was a train trip for under £20 where I was joined by Pothole Ady and Mythical John. I had not been to Macclesfield since a RuRAD trip many moons ago but it was not a difficult place to find your way around and not too much walking. Not far from the station as we started the hill climb was the **Waters Green Tavern**, a very traditional pub with long serving licensees. Fewer ales available than expected but my **Abbeydale Moonshine** was good as the others went for **Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby** (6% first drink!) and **Oakham Pendulum** with *Bass* not tried. A decent start for us in an old-fashioned pub but as usual we soon lost our bearings and had to retrace our steps to get to the **GBG Castle**. This is Grade II listed building and has a CAMRA Heritage Interior so has a maze of small intimate rooms. We accessed the bar in a separate room where I had **Lune Valley Lunebrew Bitter** with **Beartown Spring Cleaning** (Henry vacuum cleaner on the pump clip) and **MBH Onyx** available. Fantastic pub inside, black & white exterior, decent beer selection and quality plus friendly service - what's not to like?

Further up and along the hill we arrived at the **Picture Dome**, a former cinema now successfully converted to a food hall with various meal options and also the **GBG Jack In The Box**, a small upstairs bar operated by **Blackjack Brewery**. The cask ales were their **Early Days Northern Porter**, **Salvation IPA** & **Blonde** with **RedWillow Headless** as a guest. Good beer here served in an almost surreal atmosphere overlooking the various dining options.

We then had a longer walk but downhill to reach the **Bollington Brewery** operated **Park Tavern**. It's a smart refurbished town pub on a main road with **Best**, **White Nancy**, **Oat Mill Stout**, **Eastern Nights** and **Long Hop** all from **Bollington** on cask. Very good quality ales but no guest ales offered, which did not really

matter to be fair. We were ahead of schedule for some opening times so added the **Fountain** into the equation, another **Bollington** pub but this time more of a city style café bar with pizzas etc. The same five quality ales were on offer but I preferred the previous pub for ambience.

Very close around the corner is the **Jolly Sailor**, a small friendly street corner boozier where we drank the local **Storm Bosley Cloud** in preference to **Boltmaker**, *Bass* or *Wainwright*. A few steps away we found the recently reopened **Treacle Tap** which is a small bar now run by **Buxton Brewery**. There were just two **Buxton** ales on the three sticks but the **Right To Roam** was an excellent drink and served by a most enthusiastic barmaid, with the other ale being **Stacked West Coast IPA**. A further five minute walk brought us to the **Earl Of Mercia**, which is located on the steep approach to the Market Place. A fairly recent conversion from a restaurant, it held a couple of cask ales - a house ale from **Beartown** understood to be **Kodiak** and **Landlord**. The former was very good and yet another good welcome from the landlord here in a very pleasant environment. On the Market Place we tried **R&G's Beer Vault** which was keg only and not particularly appealing after some nice traditional pubs. I had **Vault City Iron Brew Sour** which was OK but not very sour - I later noted that all **Vault City** ales contain fruit of some sort.



It was now time to retrace our steps to visit some of the later opening places, starting with **Snowgoose** which is an interesting café bar with many rustic features including our Formica top table. Here we found two cask ales from **Wincle** and whilst I had the **Sir Philip**, a traditional bitter, the others went with **Rookery Wood**, a dark ale. Good beer and atmosphere in here with a good welcome at the bar. We then crossed the main road and climbed up to the CAMRA award winning **GBG Wharf** with four cask ales available. My **RedWillow Feckless** was one of my best of the day, with their **Headless** and two from **Ossett** also on. Another really enjoyable pub visit with plenty of beer chat with the barman in this traditional corner pub.

Out last call of the day was at **RedWillow** where the ale was, as expected, excellent. I added **Weightless** & **Headless** to my day list,

although **Faithless** & **Meaningless** seemed somewhat inappropriate in my esteemed company. We had seen very few national ales and also avoided the worst Wetherspoon in the country (according to a local drinker), not to mention no **Robinsons**, **Hydes**, **Marston's**, **Doom Bar** or **Greene King**. It was a good finish to a superb beer day with great pubs, friendly people and mainly local ales throughout the day, voted as one of the best trips ever by our party. **Chris P Duck**.



Gloucester, 8th Mar, 2023

What?! Another report from Gloucester? I was so inspired by Chris P Duck's article last month that I decided to have a week-end there and report on the pubs he didn't manage to visit. Oh yes, and visit the other attractions the city has to offer - the cathedral, restored docks area, National Waterways Museum (a bit expensive I thought), various archeological remains dating back to the Roman period and so on.

The **Linden Tree** is quite a dark pub with low beamed ceilings. Spacious with a large area to the rear with a TV showing sport plus a pool table. Six hand-pumps on the bar but only 3 in action early doors on a Friday - soon to be 4 but the landlady was waiting for the **Wye Valley Butty Bach** to settle. **Wadworth 6X** is probably standard and the other two were **Wye Valley HPA** and **Coachman** from **Clavell & Hind**, a local Cheltenham brewery, named after a couple of infamous highwaymen and the beers are named accordingly. I hadn't been in Gloucester more than an hour and two people had recommended the **Café René** to me. It's an atmospheric bar and restaurant decorated with bottles - the ceiling of the dining area is lined with them. Three cask ales on offer: **Clavell & Hind Blunderbuss**, **GK Scrumdown Golden Pale** and **Hardings Best Bitter** and no complaints about the quality.

The **Drunken Duck**, **Turks Head Inn** and **Pelican Inn** were much as CPD described them so there is little to add. I was particularly impressed with the **Pelican Inn** owned by **Wye Valley**. It had an extensive range of 10 beers (including one from **Blue Monkey**) and seemed like a thriving, popular locals pub. As regards the **Fountain Inn**, this is an old coaching inn with a maze of rooms plus a patio area. Seven hand-pumps on the

bar with ales from **Dartmoor** (the *Jail Ale* favoured by CPD), **Stroud**, **Exmoor**, **St Austell**, **Butcombe** and **Rooster's** plus **T T Knowle Spring**. It was very busy with many reserved tables which was typical according to the friendly and helpful manager. Just to add to what CPD had to say about the **Hop Kettle**, the bar is on 3 floors with a spacious upstairs area and a ground floor outdoor decking area overlooking the docks. My *Element* pale ale and *Nowadays* modern bitter (whatever that means) were both very good. But unless you

have the right change it seems to be a card only establishment.

The **Gloucester Brewery Tap**, **Brewhouse & Kitchen** and **Tank**, now rebranded as **Guilt Trip**, are all based in the restored docks. The first of these has a bit of an industrial ambience but the beer and service were both very good. More craft keg than cask but there are usually 2 of the latter on the bar. Sport on TV and various events are staged - quiz & comedy nights and live music. I looked

in at the **Brewhouse & Kitchen** on a Saturday evening but wasn't tempted to call in. Very young clientele and that seems to be the demographic being catered for. It advertises itself as a craft beer pub but the menu advertises 3 cask ales as well but the kitchen aspect predominates. The same can be said about the **Guilt Trip** which operates as a café during the day and a bar at night. Again, not a cask ale drinkers destination so I didn't linger. **Snug Dave**.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

- 28th Mar-1st Apr. Doncaster Brewery & Tap Festival. 7 Young Street, Doncaster. 14 real ales, 12 keg
29th Mar-1st Apr. The Old Hall Hotel Easter Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ ales
10th-14th Apr. Brunswick 10th Anniversary Beer Festival. 20 ales, 10 Derbyshire, 10 Yorkshire. 1 Railway Terrace, Derby
12th-13th Apr. Bustler Beer Festival. The Chocolate Factory, John Street, off Siddals Road, Derby
18th-21st Apr. Chin Chin Brewery Tap Takeover @ The Smithfield. Meadow Lane, Derby
18th-21st Apr. Rose & Crown Beer Festival. 104 Old Road, Brampton, Chesterfield
18th-22nd Apr. Campbell Street Beer Festival. Campbell Street Brewing Co, Arkwright's Bar & Tylers, Belper. 40 ales
20th Apr. Nottingham Racecourse Beer Festival. Local Breweries, Food & Racing. (www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/nottingham)
25th-29th Apr. Mallard St Georges Beer Festival. Worksop Railway Station, Worksop. 20 cask beers
26th-27th Apr. South Notts Beer Festival. Nottingham Moderns Rugby Club, Wilford, Notts. 60+ ales & cider
3rd-5th May. Penistone Beer Festival. St John The Baptist Church, Shrewsbury Road, Penistone. 30 ales, 10 ciders+keg
3rd-5th May. Sheffield Students Union Beer & Cider Festival. Cask, Craft, Cider
3rd-6th May. Royal Oak Beer Festival. Green Lane, Ockbrook. Up To 20 ales + cider. Peak District themed
3rd-6th May. The Old Hall Hotel Easter Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ales

- 28th Mar-1st Apr. Old Cannon Brewery Beer Festival. 86 Cannon Street, Bury St Edmunds
29th Mar-1st Apr. Old Cross Tavern Easter Beer Festival. 8 St Andrew Street, Hertford
4th-6th Apr. St Ives Beer Festival. The Corn Exchange, The Pavement, The Old Riverport, St Ives, Camb. 30 ales
10th-13th Apr. 46th Newcastle Beer & Cider Festival. Northumbria Students Union, Newcastle. 100+ ales + cider bar
11th-13th Apr. Scarborough Beer Festival. Corporation Club, Dean Street, Scarborough
11th-13th Apr. 11th Isle of Man Beer Festival. Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man. 120+ ales, cider/perry, craft beers
12th-13th Apr. 34th Oldham Beer Festival. The Queen Elizabeth Hall, West Street, Oldham. 60+ ales, cider/perry
17th-19th May 32nd Yapton Beerex. Yapton & Ford Village Hall, Main Road, Yapton. 50 ales
18th-20th Apr. Maltingfest. Osborne Park, Newton Abbot, Devon. 220+ cask, 70+ keg + cider
19th-20th Apr. 31st Chippenham Beer Festival. Olympiad Leisure Centre, Sadlers Mead, Chippenham
18th-20th Apr. 46th Farnham Beer Festival. Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham. 60+ ales, 25 cider/perry
24th-28th Apr. The Old Windmill Beer Festival. 22-23 Spon Street, Coventry. 40 ales, 35 ciders
26th-28th Apr. CAMRA Members Weekend & AGM, Dundee
3rd-4th May. Wetherby Beer Festival. Grange Park Sports Club, Old Boston Road, Wetherby. 50+ ales, gin, fizz, music
3rd-5th May. Gateshead Beer & Music Festival @ Gateshead Rugby Club

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 - 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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2018 - 2022, 2024**

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2019**

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Pork Pies & Fresh Cobs available daily
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Serving 8 Cask Ales, 6 Craft Beers and Real Cider
Star Bars Cask Ale Finalist 2019
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Fantastic Outdoor Garden

Disclaimer: The readers of this newsletter do so at their own risk. The RuRAD Executive will not accept liability for any accidents, damage or loss incurred. Oh bugga! That's one for car parks, isn't it?