



RURAD

"In the Sticks"

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

In the Sticks

MAY 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.



MARKET TAVERN

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Beer & Pub News

It has been reported that the **Puss In Boots**, just set back off the Wirksworth Road near Windley, has closed, probably permanently. The pub closed for a period following the death of long-standing landlord Stewart Austin in 2020 but re-opened in December 2021 and was being run by Stewart's widow Josie and her twin sister Megan with support from other family members.

Another report about the new **Rabona Sports Bar** in Matlock, this time from Riberman...

Just an update on the new **Rabona Sports Bar** and Tex-Mex restaurant on Dale Road, Matlock which was previously the Pointing Dogs. The bar opened last week (15th March) and I popped in yesterday evening (24th March) around 7.00 pm. There were about 40 punters in at a time when the Pointing Dogs was usually closed. A lively atmosphere, music and an arcade style basketball game in the ground floor bar, with food, mainly burgers, pizzas etc. available on the ground floor and in a large upstairs dining area which has views over the River Derwent. There was the usual range of keg beers and lagers but surprisingly

for a bar of this type, there is a solitary hand pump! When I enquired about real ale, I was told that the plan is to have one regularly changing cask line, on this occasion it was **Timothy Taylor's Landlord** at £4.40 a pint and in good condition. The pub is also dog friendly, but at night maybe a little noisy for our four legged friends? **Riberman**.

SMITHFIELD

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

Derby CAMRA Pub of the Year 2018 - 2022, 2024

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

I thought "In The Sticks" would like to know that the long closed **Blenheim House** hotel in Etwall has very recently opened as a pub under brand new ownership. It was previously a small hotel with bar and restaurant and was most recently owned by **Marston's**. It didn't sell cask ale in its last years and the overall beer sales were very poor with quality to match apparently. It got beer lines installed just before the Easter holidays. Currently it is selling **Dancing Duck Ay Up** and **22** both in very good condition. The plan is to have possibly a **Dancing Duck** beer, maybe **Bass** and a regularly changing guest beer to "maintain interest" with regular drinkers. These plans are somewhat "fluid" at the moment and they are open to suggestions from customers apparently. They are currently sourcing lager and similar from **Molson Coors** and were thinking of having a **Sharp's** cask beer. However, I was told that their test samples of **Sharp's** haven't been widely welcomed by customers and they are rapidly rethinking this! If they can get planning permission the revitalised pub exterior will be stripped back to the bare brick once more. The existing **Blenheim House** pub name is very likely to change. A number of locals would like the name returned to its original **Etwall Arms** name and this is under consideration. Food will be offered when a chef can be recruited and the time scale until food is regularly on the menu

is expected to be something like 6 to 8 weeks according to the new owner. At present I have no information on whether the pub will eventually offer accommodation once more. I would expect it will though. **Andrew CoolUnc**.

The former **BeerHeadZ** micro-pub just outside Nottingham train station, re-opened as the **Brew Tavern** on 14th March. After a little refurbishment, the bar now offers 5 cask ales and 8 craft keg beers.

John Smith at the **Victoria Inn**, Derby has installed four more hand-pumps on the (small) bar, bringing the total up to 10. He is hoping to have 8 or 9 in use at any one time. Apart from the regular beers from **Leatherbritches**, there is always an ale from **Little** (gluten-free) and there was also a beer from **Pentrich** on a recent visit. A beer festival in conjunction with the **Brunswick Inn** and supported by Derby CAMRA is planned for July. **Snug Dave**.

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

"In The Sticks" is sad to report that two more small breweries have fallen by the wayside: **Chapter Brewing** (Runcorn) and **Silver Brewhouse** (Staveley)...

Chapter Brewing, based just outside Runcorn, Cheshire, announced that it would be closing at the end of June. This despite **Dead Man's Fist**, a smoked porter, winning Best in Class at the recent CAMRA Winter Beer Festival. The **Chapter Brewing Tap**, three-times winner of the Halton CAMRA POTY competition, will remain open on Fridays and Saturdays until the end of June. This is an extract from a Facebook post dated 2nd April...

"After 8 years of fun, freneticism and fulfillment, it is time to close the book on Chapter Brewing. We have had the privilege of making beer for you all and being alongside

you drinking it: whether that is at the Tap, at a festival, online during lockdown or, most likely, at one of the many fabulous bars that we have delivered to and frequent ourselves. However, the time is right to finish this particular story."

Chapter Brewing beers will be available to sample at Chester Craft Beer Festival (18th May), Fyne Fest (31st May-2nd June) and Liverpool Craft Beer Expo (6th-8th June).

And this from the **Silver Brewhouse** Facebook page...

"It is with a very heavy heart that we have to announce that Silver Brewhouse has come to the end of the road. The pressures in the industry have taken their toll and it's time for us to leave. We would like to thank all our family and friends for the love and support over the years and all the wonderful people who've been a part of our team along the way. Many thanks also to our great customers for the support in keeping us going this long."

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

But on a brighter note, I came across a new brewery (to me) when I sampled a couple of excellent pints of **Treehouse Brewery Hollywood** at the **Jolly Sailor** in Hemington on a recent visit. **Treehouse Brewery** is based in Cavendish Bridge (Leicestershire, just) and was established as a company in July 2021 with their first commercial brews being released in March 2022. Apart from the **Jolly Sailor**, their beers have also been seen in the **Hole In The Wall** (Mickleover), **Smithfield** (Derby), **Sawley Junction** (Long Eaton), **Hoptimist** (Spondon) and **Navigation** (Shardlow). Look out for ales with punning tree-inspired names: **Oakey Dokey**, **Take A Bough**, **Spruce Springsteen**, **We Tree Kings** and so on. **Snug Dave**.

The **Riflemans Arms** in Belper re-opened on 13th April under new management after a short period of closure. There are 4 real ales on the bar which will typically include **Dancing Duck Ay Up** and **Marston's Pedigree** plus 2 guests, one of which is likely to be a 2nd offering from **Dancing Duck**. Also a range of up-market snacks - *fromage végétarien* anyone? The pub now opens at 12.00 noon every day.

The **Pattenmakers Arms** in Duffield, which was refurbished and re-opened as a "fine dining" destination in March 2023 after

about 3 years being closed, is now up for sale again with an asking price of £995k. The sale is being handled by Christie & Co. but the details can also be found on RightMove.

The next Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Branch Meeting will be on 9th May at the **Red Lion**, Underwood, starting at 8.00 pm.

Contributors: Andrew CoolUnc, Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, Jamie Still, Riberman, Snug Dave, Tweedle Dee

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

Beer Festivals

Just a reminder that the week-end tap takeovers at the **Crown Inn**, Beeston started again at Easter and will run through to the end of the summer.

Still more than a month away but this year's Belper Goes Green festival will take place at Belper Meadows Cricket Club on 7th-10th June. More details in the June issue.

In The Papers

The Nottingham Post (5th April) reported that a new micro-pub called **Somewhere Beerhouse** had opened in Beeston in the former Little Plant Guys shop which has now relocated to Canning Circus. It is located at the top end of High Street in Beeston, about a 10 minute walk from the Bus & Tram Interchange. On offer are craft keg beers, ciders and natural wines supplied by Nottingham based Kraft Werk while the people behind local Beeston deli, Essen provide the snacks. There are 4 beers, listed on the menu as Beer One, Beer Two etc. (although one is named in the article as being **Parade** (6.0%) from **Beak Brewery** based in East Sussex), and 4 wines - Wine 1, Wine 2 etc. Quirky or what? Like many micro-pubs, it's table service only. The bar is open Thursday to Sunday from 3.00 pm.

The following story appeared in various media outlets recently, including the Daily Telegraph...

The **Hole In The Wall** pub in Bodmin, which was awarded POTY 2024 by the local CAMRA branch (CAMRA Kernow) has had the award revoked following a complaint from a Truro resident. The pub is festooned with a large collection of memorabilia amassed over many years, some of which is connected with

Bodmin's role as a garrison town at the time of WWII. And included in this collection is a swastika armband brought back, no doubt, as a memento by a soldier returning from the war. Apparently this was seen as offensive (what isn't these days?) and Colin Curless contacted the local CAMRA branch to complain. According to the reports, it was a decision made at national and not local level. It is very likely that this item has been in the pub for nearly 80 years and it didn't stop the **Hole In The Wall** being awarded POTY on two previous occasions. Who remembers the TV series "Branded" from the 1960s? I wonder if CAMRA performed a "de-awarding" ceremony equivalent to Chuck Connors having his epaulettes torn off and his sword broken?

Also in the Daily Telegraph, was an article about the price of beer and where in the UK a cheap pint can still be found (apart from Wetherspoons, that is)...

The author of the article, Will Hawkes, was shocked to discover that he was being charged nearly £8 for a pint of "mass-produced beer" (in London, obv). He goes on to say...

"Of all the indignities of modern life, expensive beer is among the most infuriating. Beer should be an affordable pleasure - and yet, according to the CAMRA, a glass of beer in the pub is now a 'luxury'".

Without going into details, the three areas highlighted for good value ale are the Black Country, Sheffield and the north-east of England, specifically the coast between Stockton and Sunderland where a pint - even of **Sarah Hughes Ruby Mild** (6.0%) - could be purchased for "well under £4".



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

Out & About

Reports from Mansfield and Cambridge in this month's issue, but first, a response to CPD's dismissal of the Macclesfield Wetherspoons from reader, David Sheldon...

Reading Mr Duck's Macclesfield (a town we are very familiar with) report I noted a comment which I see a lot - someone claiming that a particular Wetherspoons pub is "the worst in the country" which usually makes me wonder how many Wetherspoons pubs these people have actually visited. The **Society Rooms** in Macclesfield is quite a nicely

arranged pub and usually offers an interesting range of cask ales, generally in good condition. As to how it rates against all the other JDW pubs is obviously about personal preference but as my wife and I have visited 911 Wetherspoons pubs, 302 of them on more than one occasion, I can say that there are JDW pubs that we prefer but also a good number which aren't as "good".
David Sheldon.

The following two articles have, by necessity, been shortened. The full accounts can be found on the RuRAD "Out And About" web page.

*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

Bass + 3 Constantly Changing
Guest Ales Available

Beer garden and separate children's play area

Lunches Served: Every Day from 12.00
Evening Meals: Mon to Sat

 <https://royaloakockbrook.com> 

Mansfield, 9th Mar, 2024


For this trip I caught the Nines bus from Derby and alighted in Ripley to visit the adjacent GBG **Red Lion** for breakfast and a beer festival pint. Both the breakfast and **Theakston Atlantic Red** were good and I departed just as another of the plentiful Nines buses was arriving and was hauled on board by a fellow AV CAMRA traveller. It takes a long time but eventually we arrived at the bus station at Mansfield. I am largely unfamiliar with this area and by a fairly vague route we found our way to the GBG **Brown Cow** where our small group then totalled six. The impressive cask list comprised ten ales with two from **Everards** and one each from **Welbeck Abbey**, **Tollgate**, **Hawkshead**, **Ossett**, **Campbell Street**, **Woodfordes**, **Brewsters** and **Church End**. My **Tollgate Old Rasputin** and **Brewsters Brigid's Brew** were both very good. Whilst here we were joined by a couple of officials from the rejuvenated Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA who were good company and showed us their impressive magazine.

We moved into the main town area to the **Garrison** which is located in a row of shops. I was somewhat late arriving due to following the wrong group of people in the distant bright sunshine before recalculating. There were six cask ales: **Theakston Best Bitter**, **Black Iris High Seas** (7.0%) and four from **Shiny** - **Big Scoop**, **Circle Pit**, **Dots** and my choice **Simple Souls**. Decent ale in a standard town centre boozier with friendly service.

We then walked to the **Priors Well Brewery Taproom** which I had already passed twice on incorrect routes. This is in the impressive

looking old Mansfield Brewery building with a large floor area and a long bar at one end. On the bar were **Priors Well Pale**, **Citra** and **Resurrected** - I went for the latter which was unfortunately not very good so also had the rarely seen **Timothy Taylor Dark Mild** which was better, with **Castle Rock Crafty Flanker** also on. Our next walk to the **Stella Taps** micro-pub took us past the Mansfield Town football ground but fortunately, we arrived just before it was invaded by football supporters. My ale of choice was **Parkway Grand Slam** and very good too. In this friendly place the other ales were **White Lion** and **Dangerous Dave**, both from **Empire**.

Back to the bus station for a return bus, alighting this time for a visit in Sutton-in-Ashfield to the GBG **FireRock**. This is the tap house for the brewery of the same name so I duly tried their **Slow Rollin'**, with **Verdant Bissoe** and **Black Iris Rise & Shine** also available on cask. It is a rustic style open plan place with barrels for seats in some parts and the brewery visible in an adjacent room. I also had time to try a **FireRock IPA** (5.0%) which was a decent keg drink. **Chris P Duck**.



**The Dew Drop
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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

Cambridge, 19th Mar, 2024

A coach trip took me, Pothole Ady and new Bosman free signings the Krankies to Cambridge, my first visit for over ten years. Arriving at 10.30 am we set off to the **Regal** because it was open early. It's a JDW establishment in a former cinema and one of the largest pubs in Britain. There was a residue of guest ales left over from their recent beer festival and my **Anderson's Irish Red** was decent enough for a starting drink. A ten minute walk saw us arrive at the GBG **Elm Tree**, a green painted street corner local amongst tree lined streets of 19th century houses. Inside there is a plethora of old brewery memorabilia in this superb traditional pub with plenty of cask ales to choose from. I had **Lister's Limehouse Porter** which was good with six other ales, mainly regional, on the bar. We avoided the **Brewpoint** reincarnation of **Charles Wells** due to recent disappointments with that brewery. We then continued on to the GBG **Free Press**. Another old corner pub with rustic furniture and not bad ale choice for a GK pub with surprising guest ales including **Tiny Rebel Cwtch** and **Leeds Pale**.

We next proceeded to the **Cambridge Brew House**, which I believe was the **Kings Arms** last time I was there. It has a long bar in a large single room with the brewery visible behind glass panels. There were five of their ales available on cask plus a guest from **Barsham Oaks**, and my **CBH Parker's Pint** was pretty good.

Our tour next took in the nearby GBG **Maypole** which was unfortunately temporarily enveloped by an encroaching building site with the background sound of pneumatic drills. Aside from the noise it was OK inside with a friendly bar manager and six cask ales on the eight hand-pulls that we saw. It was an eclectic selection with ales from **Huntingford** (x2), **Shortts**, **Nene Valley**, **Tydd Steam** and my choice **Grain Best Bitter**.

Tracy and all the staff welcome you
to the

OLD OAK INN

176 Main Street
Horsley Woodhouse
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East Midlands Pub of the Year 2016

Serving a wide selection of beers
from BOTTLE BROOK and
LEADMILL plus Guests Beers

RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

It was then a short walk by the riverside and over a bridge to reach the **Pickerel**. This pub dates from the 17th century and has low beams amongst other historical features. Now owned by GK the cask ale range was not the greatest with several GK and national ales but my **Nethergate Umbel Magna** was a really good drink. We then ordered an Uber taxi to the GBG **Cambridge Blue**. We found this to be a superb pub with an informative traditional landlord and we chatted with some local drinkers. A mere 9 ales occupied the fourteen hand-pulls and it was difficult to decide which ale to have. Because it was all so good we decided to stay for a second drink with my choices of **Colchester Sweeney Todd** and **Mighty Oak Joy Six** both being excellent. Other ales were from **Crouch Vale**, **Tring** (x2), **Ossett** and **Nene Valley** (x3).

Our final call was nearby at the **Kingston Arms**, not currently GBG but will be next time. The enthusiastic landlord had seven cask ales on of which I had **Green Jack Trawlerboys**, **New River London Tap** and **Tring Side Pocket**, all of which were equally good. The other four cask ales came from **Welbeck Abbey**, **Hanlons** and **Ossett** plus **Bass**. The last two pubs were so good that because of having additional drinks there we had to miss out on several other pubs on my list plus two later opening GBG pubs. That was no bad thing and leaves the option of a return visit to a city that I found far more impressive for good ales than my last visit many years previous. **Chris P Duck**.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

3rd-5th May. Lincoln Green Brewery 12 Years of Cheers Beer Festival. Unit 4/5 Enterprise Park, Wigwam Lane, Hucknall
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-5th May. Fixed Wheel Sausage & Cider Festival. Unit 8/9 Long Lane Trading Estate, Blackheath, Halesowen
3rd-6th May. Royal Oak Beer Festival. Green Lane Ockbrook. Peak District themed, ±20 ales + cider
3rd-6th May. The Old Hall Hotel Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ales
3rd-7th May. Cask Ale Festival. Spanker Inn, Spanker Lane, Nether Heage
16th-18th May. Rail Ale Festival. Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 350+ ales
19th-18th May. Shirley Beer & Cider Festival. Camp Hill Rugby Club, Haslucks Green Road, Solihull. 100 ales
16th-19th May. Tap Into Tutbury Beer & Cider Festival. Within the Pubs & Clubs of Tutbury. www.facebook.com/tapintotutbury
22nd-26th May. 12th Furnace Spring Bank Holiday Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. 30+ ales, cider, craft keg, food
24th-27th May. Milking Parlour (Tollgate Brewery) Beer Festival. Southwood House Farm, Staunton Lane, Calke. 30 ales, live music
24th-26th May. Pentrich Brewery Tap Takeover @ The Smithfield. Meadow Lane, Derby
24th-27th May. The Old Hall Hotel Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ales

1st-8th May. Engineers Arms Beer Festival. 68 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire
2nd-4th May. Sunrise Beer Festival. The Sun Inn, 7 Lichfield Road, Stafford
2nd-5th May. Red Shed East v West Beer Festival. 18 Vicarage Street South, Wakefield
3rd-4th May. Wetherby Beer Festival. Grange Park Sports Club, Old Boston Road, Wetherby. 50+ ales, gin, fizz, music
3rd-5th May. Hopworks Springfest. Hopworks Brew Co, 335 Ranglet Road, Walton Summit Centre, Preston
3rd-5th May. Gateshead Beer & Music Festival. @ Gateshead Rugby Club
4th May. Hambleton Brewery Open Day. Melmerby Green Lane, Melmerby, Ripon
4th May. Love Beer Brewery Open Day. 95 High Street, Milton, Abingdon
4th May. Witney Beer Festival. St Mary's Church, Church Lane Witney, Oxfordshire. 60 ales
4th-6th May. Isle of Wight Beer Festival. Havenstreet Station, Isle of Wight
9th-11th May. 2nd Biggleswade Beer Festival. Conservative Club, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade. 40 ales
9th-11th May. 15th Clitheroe Beer & Cider Festival. St Michael Assembly Room, Lowergate, Clitheroe. 60+ ales
9th-11th May. 17th Bexley Beer Festival. Old Dartfordians Sports Club, Bourne Road, Bexley. 90+ ales, cider
9th-12th May. Darlington Snooker Club Beer Festival. 1 Corporation Street, Darlington. 30 ales
10th-11th May. Macclesfield Beer Festival. Macclesfield RUFC, Priory Park, Priory Lane, Macclesfield. 150 ales
16th-18th May. Potbelly Brewery Beer Festival. Sydney Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire
17th-19th May. 32nd Yapton Beerex. Yapton & Ford Village Hall, Main Road, Yapton. 50 ales
17th-19th May. Wimbledon Brewery Beer Festival. Unit 8, 19 Prince Georges Street, Wimbledon, London
20th-25th May. Cambridge Beer Festival. Jesus Green, Cambridge. 180+ ales, 80 ciders
23rd-25th May. 41st Lincoln Beer Festival. Lincoln Drill Hall, School Lane, Lincoln. 100+ ales, cider/perry, foreign
24th-26th May. 27th Newark Beer Festival. Newark Castle Grounds, Newark. 100+ ales, cider & perry
24th-27th May. South Devon Railway Spring Rail & Ale Festival. Staverton, Devon
24th-27th May. The White Horse@Hedgerley Beer Festival. Village Lane, Hedgerley. 65 rare & one-off real ales
24th-28th May. West Riding Refreshment Rooms Beer Festival. Dewsbury Railway Station, West Yorkshire. 20 ales
29th May-1st Jun. 37th Colchester Beer Festival. Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester. 100+ ales, cider & perry
30th May-1st Jun. Northampton County Beer Festival. Becketts Park, Bedford Road, Northampton. 300+ ales, cider, craft
31st May-2nd Jun. Glastonwick Beer Festival. Church Farm, Coombes, West Sussex. 55-60 mainly rare cask 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

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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Selection of 9 real ales, 17 craft keg plus ciders & perries, many sourced from the south west and Herefordshire

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BLACK BULLS HEAD

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DE56 0SF

Disclaimer: It has been suggested in some quarters that the information included in this newsletter is as trustworthy as a horoscope written by a cat. The RuRAD Committee would like to assure readers that they are pretty certain that most of the reports are accurate... probably.