

RuRAD In the Sticks

LEADMILL BREWERY and BOTTLE BROOK BREWERY

Producers of Traditional Hand Crafted Real Ales

In the Sticks

Welcome to the latest issue of "In the Sticks" the newsletter of RuRAD, Rural Real Ale Drinkers. We hope you enjoy reading it.

If you want to receive a copy electronically, e-mail snugdave@outlook.com.

For current & previous issues log on to www.dgmhall.me.uk/rurad. You can also find copies of the newsletter on the Loughborough CAMRA web-site (www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/magazines) along with digital copies of other local beercentric publications.



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

Beer & Pub News

As is probably widely known by now, Buxton Brewery has run into financial problems for all the usual reasons: "low consumer confidence, lack of business support from the government and post COVID difficulties". Early in May, the brewery posted a notice of intention to appoint administrators, via Primas Law - this will protect the brewer and Pubco from creditor action for a period of around ten days. An article dated 20th May in The Grocer, reported that Buxton Brewery has now been sold in a pre-pack administration deal to a company known as "Happy Place Investors" which, according to insolvency firm Interpath Advisory, would safeguard the future of the brewery and the group's taprooms and bars in Buxton and the employment of all circa 50 members of staff.

As for the Buxton Brewery outlets, the Tap Room & Cellar Bar (next door) are both open together with a new Trackside@Buxton Brewery bar next to the brewery on Staden Lane and which (according to WhatPub) is open every day from 12.00 noon. The Treacle Tap in Macclesfield closed its doors towards the end of April.

JUNE 2024

And another brewery closes...

The Wriggly Monkey Brewery, based just outside Bicester, Oxfordshire, posted the following (edited) message on Facebook dated 1st May...

"It is with immense sadness that we must call time on the Wriggly Monkey Brewery. We would like to thank all of our customers, friends, and followers for the support over the last six years. It has been an incredible journey, with amazing highs, and our fair share of lows. Unfortunately, despite all the incredible efforts of our team, we cannot keep the pedal flat [motoring reference, apparently - Ed] for any longer. The brewing industry and the wider hospitality sector has faced unprecedented cost increases and significant disruption over the last few years, that have challenged the brewery's viability going forwards".

Over the Early May Bank Holiday (3rd-5th May), the Pig & Pump in Chesterfield hosted a n Ashover Brewery tap takeover which featured 9 of their beers. Perhaps it's a Pig & Pump Bank Holiday "thing" as they had a Vocation tap takeover on the Late May Bank Holiday (24th-26th May) which offered 10 cask and 3 craft keg beers from the brewery. Apologies for the late announcement but keep an eye on Facebook leading up to the August Bank Holiday week-end (23rd-25th August) as there may be another?



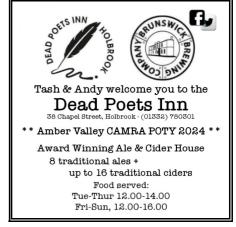
While travelling from Chesterfield to Sheffield on the X17 bus, I noticed the **Red Lion** at Whittington Moor is up for sale. I think this is the furthest south pub of the **Old Mill** brewery of Snaith. Shame! **Bald Eagle**.

The pub sale is being handled by Fleurets and the asking price is £195k +VAT. According to the Fleurets web-site, it has now been sold

Free Copy

STC. It is described as a "community pub" but was unable to recover to pre-COVID trading levels.

According to a couple of RuRADians, the **Thorn Tree** in Ripley closed for a major refurbishment on 4th May and is due to reopen mid-June. The pub, formerly owned by the Pub People Group, is now operated by the Valient Pub Co. This company, based in Birmingham, was only established in 2021 and the pubs under their care are widely distributed [as far as I can tell - Ed] - eg. in Bala, Dorchester, Kirkby Stephen and Bridgnorth amongst other locations.



According to a reliable source, the **Bird Hide** micro-pub in Attenborough is up for sale. No further details can be found via the magic that is the internet.

The lease of the **Crossroads Tavern** in Alfreton is up for sale. A Facebook post dated 23rd May said that the business was being sold "reluctantly due to new ventures" and that interested parties should call 07909 371458.

Andrew Brett at the **Red Lion** in Ripley will be hosting a Featured Brewery event - showcasing **Oakham Ales** - in June, from Monday 24th to Sunday 30th. Andrew submitted the following statement to "In The Sticks"...

"We will be giving over all of our Guest Ale lines for this event. I have so far preordered 9 of the cask aged ales - there will hopefully be 12-15 in total - that will be featured during the week-long Oakham Ales showcase. These will obviously include Citra, Inferno, Green Devil etc. but will also include a brand new seasonal ale called Superdelic".

For those readers who have not seen the

story, Carlsberg-Marston's announced at the beginning of the year that the four remaining Union Sets in their Burton-on-Trent brewery were being retired. These comprise a set of 150 gallon wooden barrels in which Marston's Pedigree was brewed (although blended with brews from stainless steel fermenters in the recent past). One of these sets has now been acquired by Thornbridge Brewery based outside Bakewell, and they intend to use it to brew some of their flagship ales, starting with Jaipur.

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

More local CAMRA POTY winners (for those people who don't yet know)...

Amber Valley POTY

- 1. Dead Poets Inn, Holbrook
- 2. Talbot, Ripley

3=. Old Oak Inn, Horsley Woodhouse and Groovers Arms, Ripley

Amber Valley Cider POTY

- 1. Angels Micro Pub, Belper
- 2. Dead Poets Inn, Holbrook
- 3. Groovers Arms, Ripley
- 4. Talbot, Ripley

Erewash Valley POTY - Rowells Drinking Emporium, Long Easton

Erewash Valley Cider POTY - **Dew Drop Inn**, Ilkeston

The next two Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Final Friday @5 gatherings will be on...

31st May, Stagecoach 1 Route, starting at the Market Inn Huthwaite.

28th June, check Branch Website for details!!

The next Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Branch Meeting will be on 6th June at the Black Bull, Blidworth, starting at 8.00 pm.

Contributors: Bald Eagle, Big Al, Charisma Bypass, David Sheldon, HH, the Jedi, Jamie Still, Snug Dave, Tweedle Dee

Beer Festivals

The Belper Goes Green Eco, Community & Arts Festival returns on 7th-10th June at the Belper Meadows Cricket Club. Over 75 eco-stalls are promised along with live music, talks, workshops and family activities. Amber Valley CAMRA are running the Real Ale & Cider Tent offering 50 LocAles sourced

within 20-25 miles of Belper. A full list of the ales and ciders can be found on the Belper Goes Green Facebook page dated 17th May. The festival kicks off at 5.00 pm on Friday 7th and then opens at 12.00 noon on both the Saturday and Sunday. Tickets can be bought in advance via the Transition Belper web-site (www.transitionbelper.org) for £5.50 for the week-end. No charge for under 18s, CAMRA Members & Transition Belper Members. Please note that tokens will not be used this year - payment is by cash and contactless. Also, drinks will only be served in polycarbonate "glasses" which can be brought to the site or hired for £3.00.

Local beer festivals to remember in June include the **Dead Poets** Cask Ale & Cider festival (12th-16th) plus two more over the week-end of 27th to 30th June: **Angels Micro Pub** has a North vs South festival with 12+ beers from the north and south of England, and just up the road in Bargate, the **White Hart** will have 20+ beers on offer (no further details are available). At the latter, there will be pop-up food in the car park from El Capo Pizzas (28th) and Pablo's Burgers (29th) plus a Quiz Night on the 30th.

The Bunny Hop in Langley Mill is hosting its BunnyFest Music Festival on Saturday 22nd June which coincides with the pub's 8th birthday. All proceeds from the event will go to Nottingham QMC Wards E38 & E39 for children (0-18 years) with terminal illnesses.

Just a quick mention of the **Bromsgrove Beer Festival** (27th-29th June) which the Didler regularly attends. He had this to say about the festival in 2022...

"What a fantastic beer festival and it never disappoints. The cask cooling system makes all the difference and every beer was perfect. This has to be one of the best festivals in the country and the quality outstanding".

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

RuRAD Snippets

It is always nice to report on a pub opening or re-opening, instead of closing. So the **Jug & Glass** in Lea has re -opened after a period of closure, and due to the efforts of ex-Derby County footballer Jake Buxton, who I believe is now involved with the Derby County academy. He lives in the village and has

bought the pub, much to the delight of the locals, as they now have a pub again. Jake plans to put in a manager to run the pub. which I believe is Dave & Lorraine Mountford from the Boat in Cromford. The current opening hours at the moment are lunch time till 11.00 pm from Thursday till Sunday, and they are looking to add Wednesday soon. Beer is limited at the moment to 3 real ales: Pedigree as Marston's helped sort the cellar out, Hobgoblin or similar, and a rotating guest beer as the 3rd. The pub itself seems more loved regarding the decor and seating. It will continue to be improved over the coming months, and hopefully open across the week in time. There is also a good food menu on offer. The pub can be reached on public transport by catching the 141 Matlock bus from Ripley, which drops you very close to the pub. Many thanks to Steve from Lea for all the information. Charisma Bypass.



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

In The Papers

According to Derbyshire Live (6th May), Heineken Star Pubs & Bars are promising to invest £650k in a revamp of the **Punchbowl**, West Hallam subject to the recruitment of a licensee. The refurbishment would extend the trading space of the pub to provide 130 covers and add a new kitchen and accessible toilets.

As an addendum to this story, the BBC reported on 6th May that Heineken will reopen 62 recently closed pubs and invest £39m in refurbishing hundreds of sites across the UK. The company said the cash injection into its Star Pubs & Bars chain will create more than 1,000 new jobs.

Derbyshire Live (24th May) reported that the Needlemakers Arms on Kensington Street, Ilkeston has been sold and that the pub would close on the following day (25th May). The pub was owned by Heineken Star Pubs & Bars but the name of the buyer wasn't revealed.

The Daily Telegraph (18th May) reported that Ben Cheshire, landlord at the Coronation pub in Southville, has introduced a two-tier pricing system whereby drinks are up to 20% more expensive for customers who order inperson at the bar rather than via a smartphone app using a QR code. Mr Cheshire said that the digital service reduced the

burden on his staff and added...

"I've found not having to constantly be serving people way better for my mental health. Bar work can be really mentally tiring. It takes the stress away rather than having to constantly interact with different people for eight hours straight". [Yeah well, good luck with that, mate - Ed].



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National CAMRA AGM 2024

It's not exactly within the remit of the "In The Sticks" newsletter but readers may be interested in some of the 9 motions that were discussed at the 2024 CAMRA AGM held in Dundee from the 26th to 28th April...

MOTION 3: This Conference agrees that the campaign for full pints (per Motions 9 and 20 in 1992 and Motion 2b in 1998) has been, by any metric, a failure. It instructs the National Executive to remove all references to campaigning for full pints from policy documents and instructs the National Executive to inform Beer Festival Organisers that all beer festivals should be allowed to revert to 20 and 10 ounce glasses (or their 1/3 and 2/3 pint equivalents) with effect from 1 January 25.

The motion was **Defeated**

MOTION 5: This Conference agrees that oversized lined glasses should be available to customers on request for pubs and clubs to be entered into the Good Beer Guide.

The motion was Defeated

MOTION 6: This Conference instructs the National Executive to ensure that the intentions of the CAMRA policy on ingredients labelling are enacted. Brewers, pubs and clubs that do not indicate that a beer on sale is intended to be cloudy should be ineligible for entry in the Good Beer Guide and such beers excluded from sale at CAMRA beer festivals.

The motion was **Remitted** (ie. no vote was taken)

MOTION 7: This Conference agrees there are too many pubs in the Good Beer Guide and instructs the National Executive to implement the exact wording of Motion 9 passed in 2002 and reduce the number of entries to no more than 4,000 for the 2026

edition.

The motion was Defeated

MOTION 8: This Conference instructs the National Executive to implement a comprehensive review of the Good Beer Guide. The review shall report to Conference in 2025 to ensure all relevant recommendations are implemented for the 2027 or 2028 edition, whichever is the more practicable.

The motion was Carried

Out & About

Just one article this month from June & Gary from Ilkeston who visited the Isle of Wight in April.

Isle of Wight, April 2024

Having travelled to the Isle of Wight on an Alpha Coaches trip, we stayed at the Shanklin Hotel in Shanklin, a lovely place with lots of thatched roofs, but there was no cask ale at the hotel. The bottles were acceptable at £4.80 each from Island Brewery IOW: Wight Gold (4.0%), Yachtsman's Ale (4.2%) and Wight Night (4.5%) - all were tried. These coach tours include excursions but on our free day we caught the local bus to Newport where our first stop was the JDW Man In The Moon. This is a lovely huge place that was once a Methodist Chapel where you can even sit up in the altar space. The Goddards Fuggle-Dee-Dum (4.8%) and Milestone Pacific Islander (5.1%) were tried with us preferring the Goddards.

We then moved on to the Newport Ale House where we sampled Sharp's Sea Fury (5.1%), Arundel Sussex IPA (4.5%) and Woodforde's Pure Gold (4.5%) - all served by gravity straight from the cask, all very nice and all at £4.60 a pint. Next, to the Bargeman's Rest at the side of the river - very much a foody pub with lots of nautical memorabilia. Goddards Wight Squirrel (4.3%) and Ringwood Boondoggle (4.2%) were both tried here with the Goddards preferred. £4.90 a pint with Forty Niner and Best Bitter, both from Ringwood, also available.



We then caught another bus to Ventnor and called at the Crab & Lobster where Island Brewery IOW Nipper Bitter (3.8%) and White Knuckle Pale Ale (4.2%) were sampled, the

latter being preferred. Also on were Brains Rev James and TT Landlord. We then moved on to the Volunteer which is very much a locals pub with 4 ales available: Goddards South island (4.2%) and Fuggle-Dee-Dum (4.8%) plus Butcombe Original and St Austell Proper Job also on. Here was a proper landlord wearing a shirt and tie and even an Arkwrights cash till which you don't often see

We were then taken on the IOW railway and spent a short time in Ryde were we found the S. Fowler & Co Wetherspoons. Beers here were Butcombe Gold, Evan Evans WPA, Sambrook's Junction, Hook Norton Old Hookey, Hobgoblin Gold and Milestone Pacific Islander. Both the Sambrook's and Evan Evans were tried and found to be in good nick.

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

Back into Shanklin we called into the Fishermans Rest, a small pub with 3 sticks serving but only 2 in use, both from the local Yates' brewery: Islander (4.0%) and Fisherman's Brew (4.0%), the latter preferred even at £5.25 a pint! The pub had flagstone flooring but again was very foody. As was the Steamer Inn with 4 sticks but only 2 in use: Goddards ESB and Ringwood Forty Niner - £5.00 a pint and we both agreed that the Goddards was bottom of the barrel? We made our way up to the old town against my better judgement as it was to a GK pub called the Crab which is an impossibly pretty pub with a thatched roof and bare floorboards. It sold GK IPA & Abbot, and Spring Break (4.4%) which was acceptable and was brewed by Future Brewers but it was a shame that we had to ask twice for our ales to be topped up. Close by was the Village Inn which was offering 3 sticks, all of which were tried: Laine Brew Co Brit-Hop (4.0%) Butcombe Bitter (4.0%) and T T Boltmaker (4.1%) which we preferred. £5.20 a pint but it was another pub mostly catering for diners, with tiffany lights and just too many tables for food.

Our last pub was **King Harry's Bar**, a nice pub with small rooms and a real fire plus no food sold. I had **St Austell** *Proper Job* while Gary had the **Fullers** *ESB* which was the best of the two at £5.25 a pint. Also available was **St Austell** *Tribute*. The pub also had a nice rear beer garden. **June and Gary**, **Ilkeston**.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

1st Jun. The Crafty Tap Music & Beer Festival. 33 Market Place, Heanor, Derbyshire 7th-9th Jun. Belper Goes Green Beer & Cider Festival. Belper Meadows Cricket Club, Belper 8th Jun. One Valley Beer Festival. Held at a number of pubs within walking distance of Dronfield Station & Bus Route 43 8th Jun. Cheers & Beers Beer Festival. Kedleston Country House, Kedleston Road, Quarndon, £2 entry 8th Jun. Abbots Bromley Sports Association CAMRA Beer and Music Festival. Entry by pre-booked tickets, www.absasport.co.uk/absa-fest 12th-16th Jun. Dead Poets Cask Ale & Cider Festival. 38 Chapel Street, Holbrook 14th-16th Jun. Neepsend v Mallinsons Tap Takeover @The Smithfield. Meadow Lane, Derby 15th Jun. Eyam Brewery Open Day. Great Hucklow, Derbyshire. Buses No 65 & 173 stop a few minutes away 21st-23rd Jun. Loxley Beer Festival. Wisewood Inn, 539 Loxley Road, Loxley, Sheffield 21st-23rd Jun. 11th Rutland CAMRA Beer Festival. Rutland County Museum, Oakham, Rutland. 40+ ales/keg, 10 ciders/perries 21st-22nd Jun. 16th Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival. Stratford Racecourse, Stratford-upon-Avon. 50+ ales, 25 ciders 27th-29th Jun. Bromsgrove Beer Festival. Bromsgrove Rugby Club, Finstall Park, Bromsgrove 27th-30th Jun. The Angels North v South Beer Festival. Market Place, Belper. 12+ ales 27th-30th Jun. White Hart Beer Festival. White Hart, Sandbed Lane, Bargate. 20+ ales 28th-29th Jun. Desford Beer Festival. St Martins Church, 46 Main Street, Desford, Leicestershire. 40+ ales & cider 3rd-6th Jul. Derby CAMRA 50th Birthday Celebrations @The Alex, Brunswick & Victoria Inn. Extra beers available on stillage 3rd-7th Jul. Shiny Tap Summer Beer Festival. 10 Old Hall Business Park, Little Eaton. 12 cask, 10 keg, 4 ciders 4th-6th Jul. Leicester Beer Festival. Abbey Pumping Station, Corporation Road, Leicester. 60+ ales, 10 ciders

23rd May-23rd Jun, Norwich City of Ale, Various pubs & venues, Norwich, www.cityofale.org.uk 29th May-1st Jun, 37th Colchester Beer Festival, Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester, 100+ ales, cider & perry 31st May-2nd Jun. Glastonwick Beer Festival. Church Farm, Coombes, West Sussex. 55-60 mainly rare cask ales 30th May-1st Jun. Northampton County Beer Festival. Beckets Park, Bedford Road, Northampton. 300+ ales, cider, craft 4th-8th Jun. Thurrock Beer & Cider Festival. Thurruck Civic Hall, Grays, Essex 6th-8th Jun. Glasgow Beer Festival. The Briggait, 141 Bridgegate, Glasgow. 150 ales, cider & foreign 6th-8th Jun. Hitchin Beer & Cider Festival. Hitchin Rugby Football Club, Old Hale Way, Hitchin 6th-8th Jun. 19th Braintree Beer Festival. Braintree Institute, 15 Bocking End, Braintree, Essex. 33 ales 12 ciders 6th-8th Jun. 14th Twyford Beer Festival. Stanlake Meadow Recreation Ground, Waltham Rd, Twyford, Berks. 70 ales, cider, craft 7th-8th Jun. 26th Keswick Beer Festival. Keswick Rugby Club, Davidson Park, Crow Park Road, Keswick 7th-8th Jun. Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways Real Ale Festival. Dinas Station 7th-9th Jun. Hadrian & Border 30th Birthday Beer Festival. The Preserving Works, Shelley Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 7th-9th Jun. North Norfolk Railway Rails & Ales Festival. Beers Available at all 3 stations and on the trains 8th Jun. Mally Summer Festival. Mallinsons Brewery, 65-71 Lockwood Road, Huddersfield 13th-15th Jun. 22nd Gloucester & Warwickshire Railway Ale & Steam Weekend. 45 ales 13th-16th Jun. Stalybridge Buffet Bar Euro Beerfest. Stalybridge Station, Gtr Manchester 14th-15th Jun. 26th South Downs Beer Cider Festival. Lewes Town Hall, Fisher Street, Lewes, East Sussex 14th-15th Jun. Kent & East Sussex Railway Beer Festival

14th-15th Jun. 14th Guildford Beer Festival. Guildford Cricket Club, Woodbridge Road, Guildford. 100+ ales, cider 20th-22nd Jun. 36th Stockport Beer Festival. Masonic Guildhall, Wellington Road, Stockport. 150+ beers, ciders/perries 21st-23rd Jun. Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway Beer Festival

24th-30th Jun. 4th Drink Valley Beer Festival. Fleet Square, Swindon. 18+ ales, cider 27th-29th Jun. Waterloo North Liverpool Beer Festival. Old Christ Church, Waterloo, Liverpool. 125 ales and ciders 29th-30th Jun. Leighton Buzzard Beer Festival. Leighton Buzzard Brewing Co, Harmill Industrial Estate, Grovebury Road

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.

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

ROYAL OAK

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the https://royaloakockbrook.com

Tracy and all the staff welcome you to the

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RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

April and the team welcome you to the

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