

"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 snugdaye@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.



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https://royaloakockbrook.com



Beer & Pub News

The White Lion in Sawley has been acquired by Punch Pubs & Co. which are based in Burton-on-Trent. According to a press release by Punch Pubs, "Assistant Manager Alistair will be taking over the day to day running of the pub as he steps up to become the White Lion's Manager". Further investment is planned in the coming months, details of which will be announced later in the year.

I called in one Sunday in June and found a friendly welcome and 7 ales on the bar: Bradfield Farmers Blonde, Theakston Old Peculier, TT Landlord & Boltmaker, Doom Bar, Black Sheep Bitter and St Austell Tribute. They also have a loyalty card - buy 8 pints (not necessarily all at one go!) and get a "free" pint. Snug Dave.

Goodwin's "The Business Broker", based in Rotherham, are advertising for sale a micropub, name undisclosed, in the Nottingham NG9 postcode area (Bramcote-Beeston). From the photos, it is clearly the **Bird Hide** in Attenborough. The asking price is "in the region of" £110k. Thanks go to Big Al for

JULY 2024

doing the detective work.

The Fox & Hounds (aka. The Fox) in Coxbench closed its doors (again) on 26th May. The pub was taken over by Leo Hill and Amelia Hawkins in October 2023 after having been closed three months earlier when the previous licensees left due to ill health. The following is part of a Facebook post by Leo and Amelia dated 20th May...

"We have made the extremely difficult decision to move on from the Fox at Coxbench, with our last service being Sunday the 26th of May. Over the past few months we have come to learn that unfortunately a tied pub/venue just isn't for us in the current climate and doesn't quite work with our business model or style, and with key aspects of the business being out of our hands and this bringing certain challenges, costs rising across the board and things only becoming more expensive as time goes on, we feel uncomfortable at the prospect of committing to a full lease (and the cost increases that will come with that)".

The pub is owned by Heineken Star Pubs & Bars who have it listed as available to run for an annual rent of £15,869 and estimated ingoing costs of £20,467.



A new brew-pub is about to open (est. 2nd July) in a former industrial unit under the railway, close to Burton-on-Trent Railway Station. Called Outwoods Brewing Company, the new venture is the brain-child of Colin Trowell who describes it as "a pub that has a brewery, not a brewery which has a pub". The likely name of the bar will be The Arches and opening hours are forecast to be Tue-Thur: 15:00, Fri & Sat: 12.00, Sun: 13.00.

In an article entitled "Out Of The Woods" dated 12th June, which appeared on the Beertonian web-site (www.thebeertonian.com

Free Copy

"dedicated to promoting beer, brewing and pubs in Burton upon Trent"), article author Ian Webster interviewed Colin Trowell and quoted him as follows...

"I'll be doing cask when the cold room is up and running, keg is a lot safer because it is a sealed vessel, it's a bit like a bottle conditioned beer. It's got yeast in it and it's lively and active, but you're not losing it to oxygen, it'll keep for six months. What I want to do is fill the gap in between keg and cask. They aren't hazy beers everything's got to be clear, clean flavours, not wacky prices or ABV. It's just normal beer but it's in keg, it's just how I dispense it. Most of my beers are around the 4% mark, I'll have three hand-pulls and eight taps but the pricing is pretty much going to be the same, probably looking at about four quid a pint for up to 5%, if it's 5.5% it may be £4.50."

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

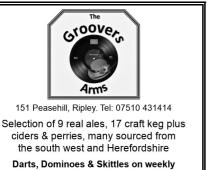
Serving a wide selection of beers from BOTTLE BROOK and LEADMILL plus Guests Beers

RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

The Crich Brew Co. have just celebrated their 1st birthday and wrote the following [edited] post on Facebook, dated 15th June, to spell out their achievements and plans for the future...

"It's our birthday! 12 months ago we set up a brewery, not knowing if it would succeed or not. But fast forward a year and we've more than doubled our brewing capacity, brewed 40 different beers, made beer with some of our favourite breweries and sold over 30,000 pints of beer! We've done events, beer festivals, pop-up bars and tap takeovers and we sell our beer in over 20 different pubs and bars! It's been a phenomenal journey so far, and we have a ridiculously exciting year ahead. We have more great beer planned, more collaborations booked in, and, if everything goes to plan, in 2 weeks time we'll be doubling our capacity again and moving production over to Belper where we'll have much more space to brew and our very own tap room!"

Owner/brewer Lloyd Stringer confirmed that they are taking over the former Campbell Street Brewing premises which were recently vacated and, "fingers crossed", should be getting the keys at the beginning of July. Lloyd hopes to start brewing at the site from September on a 1000 litre kit.



Thornbridge have finally released the first batch of *Jaipur* brewed using one of the old Union Sets recently acquired from Carlsberg-Marston's. Rob Lovatt, Head Brewer at Thornbridge wrote the following on the brewery web-site...

Quiz night Fridays plus card Bingo

Live music during the summer months

plus regular vinyl nights

featuring The Groover

"On the 20th of May, we brewed a double Jaipur at the Riverside brewery, producing 10,000 litres of wort. The following day, half of this Jaipur wort was transferred to the Union system and fermented there for about 4 days before being dropped out of the Union and pumped back into a separate racking tank. A few days later, we racked this, our first 'union' beer, into casks in the usual way, with priming sugar and finings and cask-conditioned them in our cold store".

Both versions of *Jaipur* were ready for tasting by 10th June and were sampled to see how they differed...

"It's not that easy to tell the difference between the two, but they are certainly different and both are great beers in their own right. Even as a Head Brewer with 20 years plus experience, I am still trying to find the words to articulate the difference. I would describe the Unionfermented version as more rounded and softer and perhaps less bitter". Rob Lovatt.

One confirmed sighting of the new version of the beer, called *Jaipur Union*, was at the **Holly Bush**, Makeney.

Another new beer from Thornbridge is Jaipur Noir, "a Black IPA, using an array of dark malts to give this version its unique look alongside the classic Jaipur flavours". This was seen at Angels Micro Pub in Belper recently.

The Hoptimist micro-pub in Spondon - now known as the Hoptimist-Spondon - is about to be joined by a sister pub in Draycott called, well... you can probably work that out for yourselves. It is located in the former Draycott Tap micro-pub on the corner of Victoria Road (A6005) and Victoria Avenue. As "In The Sticks" goes to press, the pub is

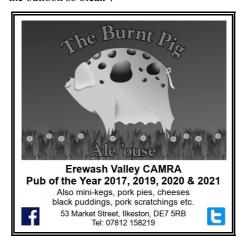
still being fitted out but the expectation is that it will open at the beginning of July, maybe sooner.

The **Derby Brewery Tap** which was sold along with the **Greyhound** to the Pub People Group, closed on June 10th for a 4 week refurbishment. When it re-opens in early July it will have reverted to its original name of the **Royal Standard**. **Sooty**.

The **Thorn Tree** at Ripley re-opened on 18th June after undergoing refurbishment which has taken about 7 weeks. From the photos on Facebook, it all looks very smart. There are 4 hand-pulls on the bar which include *Doom Bar*, *Pedigree*. and **Tetley** *Original Cask*.

The Moulders Arms (aka "The Thack") has closed again after a period of about 14 months. The following is an [edited] Facebook post dated 14th June...

"Sorry to say this folks, but the pub is now closed and will not be re-opening, at least not under my tenure. It was worth having another go. Business wise the writing has I'm afraid been on the wall for quite a while, with no sign of improvement. The premises is in need of costly repairs, and the business I'm afraid just doesn't generate the income to justify it. It would have been nice to have seen one more summer out, but the recent loss of multiple staff has brought things to a head and it would seem unfair going on a recruitment drive with the outlook so bleak".



The Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA Branch AGM will be on 14th July at the **Brown Cow**, Mansfield, starting at 2.00 pm. NB: Please note change of venue due to the forced closure of the Priors Well Brewery & Tap.

This local CAMRA branch have continued their renaissance with the production of the Summer '24 Pints Of View quarterly newsletter. Due to the cost of printing, it's on-line only so don't expect to see it in the local pubs but it can be found by going to the M&A website (www.mansfield.camra.org.uk).

Contributors: Bald Eagle, Big Al, Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, HH, Ian Webster, the Jedi, Rodders, Snug Dave, Sooty, Steve Lawton, Tram Inspector, Tweedle Dee

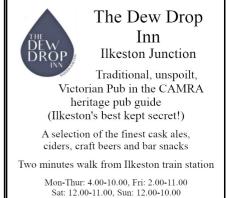
Beer Festivals

The 5 micro-pubs in Heanor will be hosting the 'Eanor Music & Beer Festival on Saturday

20th July, the day before the Heanor Carnival on the Sunday. These are: Angry Bee, Crafty Tap, Dead Man's Tankard, Hop Wright Inn and Redemption Ale House. A full program of live music is scheduled at 4 of the 5 venues (not the Redemption Ale House) starting at 2.00 pm and the line-ups at each venue can be found on the 'Eanor Music & Beer Festival Facebook page. In addition to this, Pete Wright at the Hop Wright Inn will be having a new brewery launch day, the brewery in question being Popeye Brewery which is housed at the rear of the pub.

The **Feather Star** (Red Lion Hotel) in Wirksworth will be holding their annual beer festival from 25th to 28th July. Jo Fitchew at the pub informed "In The Sticks" that...

"There will be 30+ beers from the best traditional and modern breweries around the UK, plus ciders and street food. We're hosting a 'beer symposium' including a Q & A with brewers and industry folks discussing 'The Future of Beer and Pubs'. Also loads of live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon".



RuRAD Snippets

On a (rare) sunny Saturday in June, the Jedi and I travelled into Derbyshire to track down the Aldwark Brewery Tap which is now open every Saturday and Sunday until the end of August. Travelling up from Derby, pass through the village of Brassington and you will start to see Aldwark Brewery signs just after the road crosses the B5056 at Longcliffe. There is plenty of covered seating for when the weather is less than clement but on our visit, we sat outside in the sunshine and looked out over the Derbyshire Dales towards the Derwent Valley, Ales on the bar were Roan (4.0%) and Hare On The Hill (4.6%) plus a selection of kegs and ciders. Freshly baked (delicious) sausage rolls and pasties are also available. Camping (and Glamping) sites are available for those who want to stay for longer and there is a "Beer & Shear" event on Sunday 28th July which sounds interesting but I fear for the sheep. Aldwark will be hosting a beer festival on 24th & 25th August - more details in the next issue. Snug Dave.

A micro-pub which I had known about but neglected to visit for too long is the **Sawley Junction** just opposite Long Eaton railway station, but that omission has now been rectified. This is a cosy and very friendly and welcoming bar with a wide range of cask ales. craft keas and ciders on offer. They also brew their own beers under the name Birch Cottage Brewery although these are rarely seen outside the pub itself. You will generally find up to 8 cask ales available divided into Bitters & Stouts and Pales & IPAs plus a range of craft beers (5) and ciders (6-8). A live beer board can be found on the Sawley Junction web-site or using the Real Ale Finder app. And as a bonus (but for who knows how long?) you can park in the Long Eaton station car park (operated by Erewash Borough Council) for free (yes, free!) on Sundays, Bank Holidays and after 6.00 pm. 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 Papers

Derbyshire Live (17th June), reported that the Kings Arms pub in Crich which closed in March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown and never re-opened, is likely to be converted into housing. The owners have submitted a planning application (AVA/2024/0396) to Amber Valley Borough Council to build two houses on the site of the pub and a further two single-storey dwellings on the car park. It appears that efforts were made to sell the pub but despite two offers being received, both potential buyers pulled out. A decision is expected in August.

Out & About

Just a couple of reports this month from Leeds and Cheltenham Spa.

Leeds, 1st June, 2024

On Saturday 1st June I got my train from Langley Mill to Leeds and then made the 10 minute walk to the **Grove** at Holbeck which re-opened a few days earlier after its horrendous arson attack in 2023. I have to say that they have done a first class job restoring this unspoilt classic pub to its former glory. I had halves of **Ilkley** Mary Jane (3.4%, £2.25) and **Ossett** White Rat (4.0%, £2.85) - not cheap these days in Leeds but both in good order and it was great chatting to the bar manager about the massive work done here.

It was then around a 10 minute walk to the former iconic Tetley brewery, recently taken

on by Kirkstall, and a visit I'd be planning since it re-opened. I hadn't been here for around 44 years since its Tetley days and it was great to be back. Here I sampled halves of Leeds Pale (3.8%, £2.10) and Kirkstall Three Swords (4.5%, £2.30), both being in good nick. They have done a cracking job so far and will soon be offering brewery and tasting tours.

Time to move on and a short stroll to the Adelphi, a classic former Tetley heritage pub and one I'd not been back to for many years. I had a swift half of Leeds Pale (3.8%, £2.50) with other ales being T T Landlord, Black Sheep Bitter and Kirkstall Three Swords. It was then only a few minutes walk to the Duck & Drake where I enjoyed a half of Saltaire Amarillo (4.4%, £2.55) - great ale but the pub was very quiet on a Saturday afternoon.

It was now time for a break to visit my favourite chippy here, the Fishermans Wife inside Leeds Kirkgate Market - great cod and chips for £6.95 which was superb as always and very reasonable by todays prices. I then moved on to my top pub in Leeds, the Templar, a classic former Tetley heritage pub and always busy with great chatty locals and staff. I had a pint and a half of the Kirkstall Three Swords - a bargain at £3.66 a pint with CAMRA discount - more to my liking pricewise, and excellent as usual. I now just had time to visit the Brewery Tap below Leeds railway station for a half of Leeds Yorkshire Gold (4.0%, £2.80) - the most expensive ale today but I have found the city centre prices here, as in most cities, have shot up alarmingly so we are lucky in our area. The Didler.

SMITHFIELD

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Pork Pies & Fresh Cobs available daily

Fantastic Beer Garden right next to

Fantastic Beer Garden right next to the river

Cheltenham, 14th-17th June, 2024

The main reason for visiting Cheltenham Spa for the week-end was to visit the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway which just happened to be hosting a beer festival, organised by the local CAMRA branch. Trains and beer! What's not to like? I took the train from Cheltenham Racecourse up to Broadway through pretty Cotswold countryside and took advantage of the visit to call at the GBG Crown And Trumpet Inn and luckily arrived early enough to avoid all the dining tourists. Back in Cheltenham Spa, there are 7 GBG pubs (plus 1 club) within

walking distance of the commercial centre of Cheltenham Spa and I visited 5 of them.

I called at the Sandford Park Alehouse on a couple of occasions as it was only about 10 minutes walk from my hotel. I discovered later that it was only opened in April 2013, yet won the CAMRA National POTY in 2015 and has been in the GBG every year since. It comprises a large U-shaped room with a long bar plus a snug, all very traditionally decorated - bare bricks, bench seating, beerrelated pictures on the wall and so on, plus a sizeable garden. Nine cask ales on the bar from Purity (x 2), Oakham, Wye Valley, Castle Rock Bowland Gloucester. Broadtown and Goffs and a long bank of 16 keg taps. A range of snack food and main meals are also available.

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

A little bit further out of town is the Railway which had 3 ales on the bar from Siren, Bristol Beer Factory (BBF) and Good Chemistry. Two rooms: a smallish bar (reserved for a group when I visited) and a large room mostly given over to diners. Plus an extensive outdoor area, partly covered and partly open, nicely decorated with plants and foliage.

The first pub visited on the Sunday was the **Kemble Brewery** which has been a pub since 1847 and where cider was brewed in its early days (but no longer). It's located amidst an estate of restored terraced houses, many painted in bright colours. This is a narrow 1+roomed pub with traditional decor - lots of wood - with a garden to the rear which happened to be a sun-trap on my visit. Six hand-pumps on the bar of which 5 were in use: Ramsbury, BBF, Wye Valley (x 2) and Hanlons.

Close to the Sandford Park Alehouse and the Moon Under Water (one of two JDW establishments in Cheltenham, neither of which I visited), is the Strand, a large single-roomed pub, more of a café bar really, with a large outdoor area. Four cask ales from Wye Valley, Arbor and Prescott (x 2) plus 11 craft keg beers and 5 ciders. My Arbor was very good but I wish I'd tried the Prescott as it's a Cheltenham brewery. Next time eh?

To the south of the town lie the **Beehive Inn** and the **Jolly Brewmaster**. The **Beehive Inn** is quite a sprawling multi-space pub with a

strong focus on food but with 6 ales on the bar from BBF, By The Horns, Ramsbury and Only With Love plus Titanic Plum Porter and TT Landlord. The service was welcoming and efficient. It also has patio areas front and back

The **Jolly Brewmaster** is in the obviously affluent area of Montpellier with its Regency housing for which Cheltenham Spa is famous.

This has one large room but has separate areas on two levels. The young barman was very helpful in describing the range of about 9 beers on the bar but with no board I couldn't take a photo. I had a beer from Stroud brewery but there were also options f r o m Wye Valley, Butcombe, Sharps, Salopian and even Peak Ales. As with the other pubs I visited, there is a garden with open and covered areas.

Also in Cheltenham is the DEYA Brewery & Tap Room with a new wine & beer bar called The Swamp soon to be opened nearby. According to WhatPub, they offer only 1 cask ale along with 25 "live beers" dispensed from keg taps. Deya are famous for vegan-friendly, unfined beers which aren't to everyone's taste but I would have considered visiting if I'd more time. Snug Dave.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

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 6th-7th Jul. Beer, Bands & BBQ. Old Poets Corner, Ashover. Titanic & guest ales, 7 live bands, BBQ 12th-14th Jul. Anglers Rest Beer Festival. Main Road, Bamford, Derbyshire 12th-14th Jul. Langton Brewery Beer Festival. Grange Farm, Welham Road, Thorpe Langton, Market Harborough 12th-14th Jul. Night Inn Beer Festival. Lion Buildings, Market Place, Uttoxeter 12th-14th Jul. Wortley Beer Festival. Wortley Mens Club, Reading Room Lane, Wortley Village, Sheffield 19th-21st Jul. The Steampacket Annual Beer and Cider Festival. Derby Road, Swanwick. 25 cask ales, 30 traditional ciders, live music 20th Jul. Heanor Music & Beer Festival. Featuring all 5 micro-pubs from 2.00 pm. Facebook 'Eanor Music & Beer Festival 25th-27th Jul. Leicester Lions Rugby Football Club Beer Festival. Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicester. 60 ales 25th-28th Jul. Feather Star Beer Festival. Red Lion Hotel, Wirksworth. 30+ beers, cider, street food, live music & "beer symposium" 25th-28th Jul. Smithfest 2024. Meadow Road, Derby. 40+ real ales, keg bar, 10 ciders, food & music 25th-29th Jul. The Mallard Summer Beer Festival. Station Approach, Carlton Road, Worksop. 16+ ales 26th-28th Jul. 13th Market Bosworth Real Ale Festival. Goods Shed, Station Road, Market Bosworth. 60+ ales, 25 ciders 25th-27th Jul. Wolverhampton Summer of Beer & Cider Festival. Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton

4th-6th Jul. Hasting Beer & Music Festival. The Oval, Falaise Road, Hastings
4th-6th Jul. Chorlton Beer Festival. St Clements Church Grounds, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester
5th-6th Jul. 11th Maidenhead Beer Festival. NMCC Sports Bar, Summerleaze Park, Maidenhead. 50 ales, 10 keg, 25+ ciders
5th-6th Jul. Manchester Craft Beer Festival. The Depot, Mayfield, Manchester. 500+ beers from 65 breweries
5th-7th Jul. Talyllyn Railway Beer Festival

10th-13th Jul. 33rd Ealing Beer Festival. Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, Ealing. 330+ ales, cider/perry, wine, foreign 12th-13th Jul. Hopfest. Preston Grasshoppers RFC, Lightfoot Green Road, Fulwood, Preston 12th-14th Jul. Beer on the Wye Beer Festival. Marque@Hereford Rowing Club. 300+ beers, cider/perry 13th Jul. Devizes Beer Festival. The Wharf, Devizes, Wiltshire. 100 ales, cider/perry 16th-20th Jul. Chelmsford Beer Festival. Admirals Park, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford 18th-20th Jul. South Devon Beer & Cider Festival. Teignmouth RFC, Bitton Park Sports Field, Teignmouth, Devon 19th-20th Jul. Crafty Dogg Beer Festival. Ilkley Rugby Club, Denton Road, Ilkley 19th-21st Jul. Cotswold Beer Festival. Postlip Hall, Winchcombe, Cheltenham. www.postlip.camra.org.uk 25th-27th Jul. 43rd Egham Ale & Cider Festival. United Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham, Surrey. 60+ ales 25th-28th Jul. 34th Ipswich Beer Festival. St Clements Church, Fore Street, Ipswich. 100+ ales, craft beers & cider 26th-28th Jul. Windsor Beer Festival. Windsor & Eaton Taproom, 1-4 Vansittart Estate, Duke Street, Windsor 26th-28th Jul. Epping Ongar Railway Beer Festival. North Weald Station, Epping. 70 ales, 15 ciders

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.

Angels Micro Pub

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