



RuRAD

"In the Sticks"

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

In the Sticks

AUGUST 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.

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 & Pub News

The **Olde Royal Oak** in Burton-on-Trent which closed in August 2023, re-opened under new management at the beginning of March. Yes, I know this is old news but hey, we're not perfect. It seems from the Facebook page that live music is (again) a regular feature. The pub was formerly owned by the **Fownes Brewing Co.** and was awarded Burton and South Derbyshire CAMRA POTY in 2022. That was before the brewery ceased trading the following year. However, Tim Hibbert who brewed for the company is now brewing their ales for the **FOWND** brewery in Kidderminster which opened in 2023 and is co-owned by the Weavers Real Ale House group. The latter have three pubs in Kidderminster, Stourbridge and Malvern. Your editor and the Jedi have visited the pub in Kidderminster on a number of occasions and a RuRAD group called at the Malvern pub in July 2023 - both establishments were excellent in all respects: welcome, ale and ambience.

July 12th saw the opening of the **Tiny Tap** sampling room at the new home of **Little Brewing Company** (Unit 23, Northedge Park,

Alfreton Road, Derby, near the Toolstation building). It is an impressive new build premises with an array of shiny vessels on a raised mezzanine floor. Although brewing had not commenced on my visit I was told that this was to happen in the next week or two. Opening times planned are Thursday: 5.00 pm, Friday to Sunday: 12 noon. There is also a pleasant outside seating area. **Sooty**.

Wraggy (of Wraggy's Beer Review Channel on YouTube) gives a very enthusiastic review. Your editor and the Jedi called in on the Sunday to find 3 cask ales and about 5 or 6 keg lines plus a fridge with cans and bottles. There was live music on and it is hoped that there will be food vendors visiting on Fridays and Saturdays - no doubt these will be advertised on Facebook. **Snug Dave**.

The (Derby) **Brewery Tap** which is now under the ownership of the Pub People Group, re-opened on July 18th after a major refurbishment and has now reverted back to its original name of the **Royal Standard**. It looks very appealing both inside and out with a good range of 5 real ales plus craft beers. Prices range from £4.00 to £4.60 a pint for cask ales with craft being 50%-60% more. The beer range is expected to change on a day to day basis but on the opening night, most real ales were locally sourced. CAMRA members get a 20p discount and they have also introduced a loyalty card - buy 8 pints and get 1 free - which can also be used at the **Greyhound** pub on Friar Gate. **Sooty & Bald Eagle**.

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

The **Beestonia Brewery** which was only established as an idea in 2022 is now in production and opened a tap room at the end of May 2024. The brewery and tap room are located on Hallam Fields Road, about a 3

minute walk from the Hallam Fields Lock on the Erewash Canal and about the same distance from the Ilkeston Rugby Club. Their beers have started to appear in local outlets - **Stanton Tap** (Ilkeston), **Sawley Junction** (Long Eaton) and **Smithfield** (Derby) for example. Opening hours are reported as Friday: 2.30 pm and Saturday & Sunday: 1.00 pm.



MARKET TAVERN

41 HIGH STREET
SOUTH NORMANTON
DERBYSHIRE DE55 2BP

5 REAL ALES

6 REAL CIDERS

OPEN ALL DAY TUES - SUN

07709 762448



@MarketTavernSouthNormanton

Magpie Brewery in Nottingham (Unit 4, Ashling Court, NG2 3JA, adjacent to the Notts County Football Ground) are having an Open Day on 3rd August to which everyone is "cordially invited". Attractions on offer are...

Free Brewery Tour by the brewer

Live music throughout the afternoon from Gaz Sears

Street food from Bomba including an exclusive Magpie burger [as opposed to a magpie burger? - Ed]

A chance to try an exclusive taproom-only beer

Free parking

Children and "cute doggies" are also welcome. The brewery tours (over 18s only) will start at 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm but numbers are limited. Tickets (which are free) are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk. The event itself starts at 12.00 noon.

The **George** pub in Alstonefield, about 7 miles north of Ashbourne, was due to be sold at auction on 16th May by Bond Wolfe but was withdrawn from sale at the end of April. No reason was given. The property was listed again in the auction on 11th July but was again withdrawn. The guide price is £645k.

Contributors: Bald Eagle, Charisma Bypass, the Jedi, Snug Dave, Sooty

Beer Festivals




The **Horse & Jockey** in Selston will be holding its annual "Selstock" Music, Beer & Cider festival ("Friesians To Be Beerful, Pt 3") from 9th to 11th August. Landlord Stephen Whetton's daughter Hayley submitted the following...

"Returning for 2024, the **Horse & Jockey** in Selston presents our Selstock Music & Beer Festival. Starting Friday 9th August with the main event on Saturday 10th August when we have music scheduled from 12 noon all the way through to close. A choice of 10 real ales from your favourite breweries along with 8 ciders which will bring a little taste of Cornwall to the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire borders. Sup up Sundays brings the chance to finish what's left of the selection at a discounted rate. Newcomers and regulars alike are welcome to join us". Hayley Combe.

The 4th Arboretum Beer Festival returns to Nottingham Arboretum on Saturday 24th August starting at 12 noon. The advertised attractions include real ales, craft beer, street food, live music, DJs & more. Tickets are priced at £15 plus booking fee.

Tickets for the 2024 Robin Hood Beer & Cider Festival (9th to 12th October) are on sale and there is still (just) time to get "Early Bird" tickets until 2nd August which includes complimentary tickets to Notts' One Day Cup home match against Essex on Sunday 11th August. Ticket prices (which include three beer tokens and an event glass) are...

Wednesday & Thursday: £15
Friday & Saturday: £24
Saturday Evening: £15
Four-Day Pass: £45



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

Miscellaneous Jottings

A number of Ruradians attended the 1st Heanor beer & music festival in mid-July which was very busy and well attended at all of the venues. Pete Wright launched his **Popeye** brewery beers at the **Hop Wright Inn** which were *I Eats My Spinach* (5.3%, a green spinach beer) and *Bluto's Revenge* (4.5%, a tasty milk stout). Extra beers were available here and also at the **Redemption Ale House** where they were queuing to get in. There was a great atmosphere in all of the pubs and hopefully a successful day for

everyone. **Sooty**.

Regular reader, Chris Ray, alerted "In The Sticks" to an article which appeared in the Summer 2024 issue of the Hereford CAMRA Hopvine magazine. This particular article is one of a series of regular comment pieces by "Grumpy Old Git" and the Summer 2024 subject was "dogs in pubs". Rather than include it in the RuRAD newsletter, readers can find the magazine on the Hereford CAMRA web-site (www.hereford.camra.org.uk). Some people may not be sympathetic to the views expressed!

Tracy and all the staff welcome you
to the

OLD OAK INN

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East Midlands Pub of the Year 2016

Serving a wide selection of beers
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In The Papers

Derbyshire Live (30th May) reported that the **Corner Room** in Long Eaton, lately owned by the Pub People Group, has been put up for sale (yet again) with an asking price of £305k. Formerly a Wetherspoons pub and called the **Twitchel Inn**, it was bought by Hawthorne Leisure but closed suddenly in July 2019. Pub People bought it in 2021 and after significant refurbishment, it was re-opened and renamed the **Corner Room**.

Nottinghamshire Live (27th June) reported that **Castle Rock** was named Pub Group of the Year in the National Pub & Bar Awards organised in conjunction with Pub & Bar Magazine. In addition to the Pub Group award, there are also a Pub & Bar awards which all pubs (and presumably, bars) in the country can enter. These are narrowed down to 94 county winners followed by 13 regional winners and finally an overall national winner. In the East Midlands, the county winners were...

Derbyshire: **Railway**, Belper
Leicestershire: **Forge Inn**
Northamptonshire: **Tollemache Arms**
Nottinghamshire: **Plough**, Normanton-on-the-Wolds
Rutland: **Olive Branch**

...with the East Midlands winner being the **Tollemache Arms**. The **George Inn**, in Norton St. Philip, Somerset, won the overall Pub of the Year.

The Daily Telegraph (9th July) reported that **Marston's** has sold the remainder of its brewery business to **Carlsberg** for £206m. The company has not brewed beer


independently for 4 years since going into partnership with **Carlsberg** in 2020 as part of the **Carlsberg Marstons Brewing Company** (CMBC) joint venture, of which **Marston's** owned 40%. This once famous brewing company, founded in Burton on Trent in 1834, will now no longer brew beer but will concentrate on its pubs business. This article was accompanied by a scathing comment piece written by Ben Marlow which included the following two paragraphs...

"Carlsberg is already the fourth largest brewer in the UK. It's hard to see how anyone benefits from more power being concentrated in the hands of a few global brewing giants — other than the companies themselves".

"Britain's brewers and the pubs that support it are in crisis and the bland beer behemoths that increasingly dominate are part of the problem".

As a postscript to this subject, **Silver Brewhouse** ceased trading in April and their Facebook post dated 19th April included the following plea...

"Wherever possible I would urge people to use small independent businesses. I know it's not always easy when there are cheaper alternatives but their survival really does matter".



BLACK BULLS HEAD

2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate
Belper, Derbyshire
DE56 0SF

Out & About

Included this month are two articles from Chris P Duck who describes visits to Wigan and the Wirral Peninsula.

Wigan, 22nd Mar, 2024

Joined by Mythical John, Showbiz Steve and Activity Mike for this trip we arrived in good time by train in Wigan at North Western Station. Conveniently for us the award winning **GBG Wigan Central** is close to the station exit, located under the railway arches on the opposite side of the railway bridge. Adorned by railway memorabilia and with some replica railway carriage seats, it had as expected, an excellent selection of local ales. I selected **Bank Top Signal** and **Brightside Manchester Skyline** for starters with the other five ales from **Moorhouses**, **North Riding**, **Beartown**, **Kirkstall** and another from **Brightside**. A very relaxed setting, at least on a Friday morning, with a second room offering much more table seating.

We next passed back under the bridge towards the market place area where our next call was the **GBG Raven**. This is a very impressive building featuring a mosaic tiled floor with old dark wood beams and plenty of old mirrors and pictures. We all had **Rooster's Capability Brown** here despite a couple of ales being on that we had not seen before - **Bradfield Farmer's Ale** and **Abbeydale Sheffield Stout**. Nearby we were tempted by a pie shop, where the counter lady insisted that I eat mine with a fork "because you are in Wigan now" - I had not realised that standards were that high in Wigan.



The
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Quiz night Fridays plus card Bingo
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Whilst pie eating in a small square, the adjacent **GBG John Bull Chophouse** was just opening so we were the first customers in. This is a **Thwaites** pub with their five ales being a house ale, the regular **Gold, Amber, IPA** plus **Irish Stout**. There was a craft beer bar upstairs that was not open. Downstairs featured a stone flag floor and a very strange mix of old high-backed wooden benches. We then set off for the further out pubs, commencing with the **GBG Real Crafty**. This place concentrates largely on keg beer and has a club like layout and bland atmosphere. There was a row of about 30 keg beers with my cask choice being **Track Sonoma** plus others from **Drop Project, Black Iris** and **Ossett**. The ales were decent enough but the interior is rather characterless.

A further brisk walk into the biting wind brought us to our furthest point, the **GBG Sherrington's**. This is a community bar set on a street corner with three ales from **Wily Fox (Dublin Up, Karma Citra and Crafty Fox), Wigan Brewhouse Indeed I Do** and my choice **Rivington Beach House**. On the return route we walked past the impressive looking Mesnes Park to reach the **Yellow Monkey** which is a micro-pub originally opened under a different name. The welcome was particularly good here and the only downside was that three of the six hand-pulls were empty. The three were **Facers Abbey Blonde, Kirkby Lonsdale Monumental** and the **Crafty Fox** already seen. It was too cold for the outdoor seating which overlooks the aforementioned park across the road.

Back in the town centre our next call was at the **GBG Tap 'n' Barrel** which is a narrow but

long bar in a pedestrianised area. With three cask ales available the **Phoenix Boss Man's Brew** was chosen by three of us but each glass looked and smelled progressively worse so these were returned and willingly replaced by either **Salopian Oracle** or **Hawkshead Pale** which were both good. Close by is the **GBG Anvil**, another popular street corner traditional pub. Here we found it quite busy and there were five cask ales on the seven hand-pulls. This time I had the **Wigan Brewhouse California** whilst two of the others went for their **Mad Monk (7.1%)** - other ales were **Abbeydale Belma, Doctor Morton's Snake Oil** and **Wainwright**.

Our final pub, the **GBG Swan & Railway**, was directly opposite the station entrance and is Grade II listed. The opulent interior had innumerable pictures and mirrors with stained glass panels set in dark wood. I went for **Bank Top Dark Mild** and not for the first time was impressed by this brewery. Other ales included **Hophurst Porteresque, Wigan Brewhouse All-Nighter** and three more seen already. A really superb pub although somewhat dominated by Rugby League pre-match attendees - we could easily have stayed longer but opted for a return to the equally good **Wigan Central** two minutes away. Here we found it much busier than earlier but were astonished to find that three of the seven ales had already been replaced. **Weetwood Jester IPA** and **Neptune Sea Of Dreams** were well received but I found the **Ilkley Celebration** to be my best drink of the day - so much so that I repeated the dose. What a great ending to a super day out - thanks to John for organising. Lots of good ales around and I personally preferred the old style pubs to the more modern bars for atmosphere and historical interest. **Chris P Duck**.



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Also mini-kegs, pork pies, cheeses
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Heswall & Parkgate, 14-15 Apr. 2024

As regular readers will know I have been on the Wirral many times before but never had a drink in Heswall until now. We were based for a couple of nights at the **GBG Jug & Bottle** which was very convenient for a nightcap. On arrival I set off to the furthest away pub, the **GBG Beer Lab** which is a micro-pub set in a row of shops. When asking for a half I discovered that they only serve in thirds, two thirds or pint glasses so I settled

for two thirds of their regular locally brewed **Peerless Triple Blonde** which was good. They also had **Kodiak & Eclipse** from **Beartown** and an extensive range of ciders so I promised to return the next day as I was supposed to be doing a hurried recce of eating places for the Old Fruit.

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

ROYAL OAK

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My next place was the **Harry Beswick**, named after the architect who designed the building as a former police station. Operated by **Hydes** it has plenty of police memorabilia within the very large interior which has plenty of table places for diners. The barman was very polite and informative but I thought the food was on the pricey side. Ales were the familiar **Original** and **Lowry**, with **Hopster** and **Pale Ale Anvil Brand** not known to me. Not my favourite brewery so I stuck with **Original**, intending to try something different the next day but ran out of time.

On to the **Bow-legged Beagle**, recently opened and one of four with the same name in a local chain of micro-pubs. Here I sat at the bar in conversation with barman Sam and a local named Andy for quite a while whilst indulging in **MBH Spring Pale** and **Coach House Gunpowder Premium Mild**. I duly received the call from the Old Fruit requesting to know where we were eating so I settled for the **JDW Preense Well** as it was nearest for her to walk. Here I had a predictable meal and drank **Redemption Magnus** which had an awful pump clip and tasted not much better. This was one of their more bland establishments and I was not inclined to have another drink from the moderate selection which I forgot to record in my haste to depart. The other reason was that I wanted to return to the **Bow-legged Beagle** as it was soon their closing time and not open at all on Mondays. This time I had **Beartown Eclipse** and we noted the impressive rear wooden patio area and pavement seating for better weather.

After leaving here we walked down towards the river to reach the **Dee View Inn** which is situated on a hairpin bend with views to the river valley. Although there were not many in, it was very welcoming with a good atmosphere and I chose **Black Sheep** over **Abbot** or **London Pride**. After discussing with locals we decided against going further down the steep hill to the **Black Horse** as it had just changed

hands and may not have been open. We returned to our accommodation at the **Jug & Bottle**, which is a large hotel created from a very large private house of 150 years ago, with river views through the trees. Here my **Brimstage Trappers Hat** was my last of the day so after driving 100 miles and a few pints I was ready for shuteye.

The next morning after an excellent breakfast served by friendly staff we embarked on a walk in gale force winds at RSPB Burton Mere before driving down to Parkgate. This was a port at one time before the silt created about a mile of saltmarsh up to the river with water only seldom reaching the promenade with the highest of tides and certain wind direction. Consequently it was also very windswept as we walked the length of the village. At one end is the **Boat House**,

a black and white timbered building backing on to the saltmarsh with good views towards Wales beyond. Acquired by **Hydes** a few years ago, it is largely a dining pub with most tables set out for diners. I chose **Pale Ale Anvil Brand** over **Original** this time and it was decent, especially sitting by the rear window to enjoy the extensive views. Near the other end of the promenade is the **Ship Inn** which did not appear to be open so we went in the **Red Lion** which has an interesting Walker's Warrington hanging sign. The ale selection in this old port pub was better than expected with my choice being **Coach House Innkeepers Reserve**. Their **Cheshire Gold** was also on with **Spitting Feathers Thirst Quencher** and **Landlord** also available. Again it had great views from the roadside windows and is a decent old pub with a food offering, albeit

just ending as we arrived but we had other plans anyway.

We headed back to Heswall and to the **Jug & Bottle** where we had booked a dining table. This time I drank **Purple Moose Cwrw Glaslyn Premium Bitter** which sounds impressive but I thought was fairly bland tasting. The meal was very good but we needed to walk it off so returned to the **Beer Lab** where I again had the **Peerless Triple Blonde** and also the **Beartown Eclipse** whilst engaging in light hearted banter at the bar. Back at the **Jug & Bottle** I went for the **Brains Rev James** this time as my final drink at this well-appointed hotel with good rooms, meals and ales. Overall a Heswall visit was worthwhile with a few decent pubs but a couple of days was enough. **Chris P Duck**.

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

1st-4th Aug. The 189 Micropub Beer Festival. 189 Blenheim Drive Allestree, Derby. 15 cask ales within 18.9 miles

1st-4th Aug. Abbeydale Road Beer Festival. 12 Venues. <https://pintsofsheffield.com>

9th-11th Aug. Horse & Jockey "Selstock" Music, Beer & Cider Festival. 96 Church Lane, Selston, NG16 6FB. 10 real ales, 8 ciders

15th-18th Aug. The Pharmacie Arms Books & Beer Festival. 3 High Street, Syston, Leicester

21st-25th Aug. Furnace Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. 30 real ales, 12 craft keg, real ciders and perries

22nd-26th Aug. Flowerpot Beer & Music Festival "Potfest". King Street, Derby. 30 beers, cider bar, live music

23rd-26th Aug. The Old Hall Hotel Beer Festival. Market Place, Hope, Derbyshire. 50+ ales

24th Aug. Arboretum Beer Festival. The Arboretum, Waverley St, Nottingham NG7 4HF. Ale, craft, food, music

24th-26th Aug. Seven Hills Beer Festival. Sheffield Tigers RUFC, Hathersage Road, Sheffield

25th Aug. The Organ Grinder Sausage & Cider Festival. 4 Woodgate, Loughborough, Leicestershire

5th-7th Sep. 30th Tamworth Beer Festival. Assembly Rooms, Corporation Street, Tamworth. 75+ ales, cider/perry

5th-8th Sep. Burton Ale Trail. 11 Pubs. See www.burtonaletrail.com

1st-31st Aug. Harrogate, Ripon & Knaresborough Ale Trail. www.harrogateandriponcamra.org.uk

3rd-4th Aug. 1st Middleton Railway Food & Ale Festival. The Station Moor Road, Leeds. 25 ales, cider, local produce

21st-24th Aug. 27th Clacton-on-Sea Real Ale & Cider Festival. St James Church Hall, 56 Tower Road, Clacton. 60+ ales

21st-24th Aug. 45th Peterborough Beer Festival. Embankment, Bishops Road, Peterborough

21st-26th Aug. 32nd East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival. Bury St Edmunds Cathedral; Bury St Edmunds. 250 ales, 40 ciders

22nd-24th Aug. 28th Watford Beer Festival. Halsey Hall, Rickmansworth Road, Watford. 35 ales, cider

23rd-26th Aug. Mid Norfolk Railway Beer Festival. Dereham & Thuxton Stations plus on-train bars

23rd-26th Aug. South Devon Railway Beer Festival. Staverton Station, Staverton, Devon

23rd-26th Aug. White Horse Beer Festival. Village Lane, Hedgerley, South Bucks. 25-30 rare ales + cider/perry/craft

23rd-26th Aug. Southport & Birkdale Beer Festival. www.sandbsportsclub.co.uk

30th-31st Aug. Harbury Beer Festival. Harbury Village Hall, Harbury. 31 ales, cider/perry


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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Disclaimer: In the event of any dispute regarding any aspect of a hypothetical RuRAD Rewards Scheme (should one ever be introduced), the decision of the RuRAD Executive shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into. So There.