

# "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 <a href="mailto:snugdave@outlook.com">snugdave@outlook.com</a>.

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.



## 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

#### Another Chapter Ends...

I am sorry to reveal that I shall be standing down as editor of "In The Sticks", with my last newsletter being the December 2024 issue. In addition, Charisma Bypass, who was a founding father of the RuRAD group when it started in 2003, also wishes to reduce his involvement as he will be turning 70 in February, a milestone I passed 2 years ago. Having spoken to a small number of RuRADians, it has been decided that there will be no search for a new team to edit and distribute the newsletter. Having said that, I personally feel that there is room in the "marketplace" for a local monthly real ale newsletter which focusses attention away from the urban centres of Derby and Nottingham. Both I and Charisma Bypass will offer any support and advice to anyone who feels they would like to set one up. Or alternatively, if someone feels that they have the technical skill and enthusiasm to carry on with "In The Sticks" then they should contact me or Charisma Bypass. Snug Dave.

#### Beer & Pub News

I am pleased to inform everyone that after

## SEPTEMBER 2024

over 4 years of closure, the Amber Hotel at Oakerthorpe has re-opened and is now a thriving pub, which was nice to see on a recent visit. The pub is still owned by Shaun Fields, and is to be run by his sister Marie Symonds. There were 2 real ales on the bar: Bass and Infinity IPA from Blue Monkey but what surprised me was how popular the Guinness was, as that was the choice of most people drinking in the pub. The real ales were very reasonably priced at £4.00 a pint. The opening hours are...

Mon-Thur: 5.00-11.00 pm Fri: 4.00-11.00 pm Sat: 2.00-11.00 pm Sun: 12.00-11.00 pm

Marie is hoping to put pub grub on in October, and is currently sourcing local suppliers. I got reminded that I missed the beer festival at the Horse & Jockey at Selston, another one of Shaun's pubs. Charisma Bypass.

# 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

After a period of closure, the former Draycott Tap in Draycott opened on Saturday 24th August under its new guise, the Hoptimist-Draycott, sister pub to the Hoptimist-Spondon. The premises has had an extensive refurbishment with a new bar, flooring and chill room area along with that "Hoptimist" touch of inviting fixtures and fittings. Three cask ales on the bar (pale, brown & dark) plus 4 keg taps. Opening times are yet to be finalised but updates can be found on the Hoptimist-Draycott facebook page. Sooty.

The Wicked Pissah micro-pub in Alfreton, formerly the Prospect Street Micro-pub, which closed towards the end of 2023, is set to re-open on Thursday September 6th as yes, you've guessed it, the Prospect Street

## Free Copy

Micro-pub. It is the latest venture by Tom Soar, owner of the Tom Said micro-pub in Ripley. Refurbishment is currently being carried out inside and out in readiness for opening - expect an interesting range of cask, keg and cider etc. Sooty.

According to a Facebook post dated 25th August, the Crich Brew Co. Campbell Street Tap House in Belper will open on 8th September (12 noon-6.00 pm). Expect to find 2 cask ales, 8 keg lines and a range of locally brewed cans.

## 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

The craft beer outlet which opened as the **Bank at Belper** on King Street, Belper in August 2022, has closed its doors but is due to re-open as the **Bottle Bank** in September. According to WhatPub, two cask ales will be available plus food options to follow in due course.

It appears that the former Silver Brewhouse brewery, which ceased trading in April, has been bought and relaunched as the Boston Brewery, based in the same location on the Ireland Industrial Estate in Staveley. They had a launch party at the Henley Park Wild Camping site on Holestone Moor outside Tansley on the week-end of the 19th-21st July. The brewery web-site includes the following paragraph...

"The heart of Derbyshire's newest brewery lies in its unique approach to beer-making, skillfully intertwining the time-honored techniques of brewing real ales with the innovative flair of modern craft brewing. This harmonious blend of tradition and modernity is evident from the very start of the brewing process, where meticulously sourced ingredients meet cutting-edge equipment to create a diverse array of flavours and

styles."

They currently offer a range of 9 beers and the distinctive pump clips feature drawings of dogs, mainly Boston Terriers.

When Charisma Bypass visited Whitby recently, he was told about a new brewery called the Monkey Puzzle Brew Co. which is based in Whitby, by a staff member at the Beer O'Clock micro-pub who knew, or knew something about, the owner. It transpires that the company was set up in November 2022 - they even have a Facebook page although nothing has been posted since the company was registered. However, the "person in the know" told our roving reporter that beer would be brewed and distribution would start in December this year.

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

Following a report that Steve Cresswell at the Groovers Arms on Peasehill Road, Ripley

had commissioned a beer from the Crich Brew Co, I called in to find out more. This is to be a 6.0% "juicy bomb" brewed using Steve's favourite hops, Mosaic and Idaho. In addition, Steve told me that local breweries (eq. Crich, Shiny and Pentrich) will always be represented at the Groovers Arms plus other favourites such as Brass Castle based in Malton, North Yorkshire. He is also hoping to acquire some Spingo Special (6.6%) brewed at the Blue Anchor Inn in Helston, Cornwall which may even arrive ready for the beer festival in October. Steve has also had a marquee (big top?) erected over the garden and stage area of the pub which will stay in place until October when the live music events will move indoors (solo artists rather than bands in the main). Snug Dave.

The classic unspoilt Yew Tree pub in Cauldon, just off the road between Ashbourne and Leek, has recently closed since the sad passing of landlord Alan East. The pub had been run by Alan's stepson Dan Buckland since 2013 but Alan was always pottering around or serving on the bar, chatting to customers and showing them around his unique pub with its vast collection of antiques, bric-a-brac, penny-farthings and old slot machines - I'm sure many of you will know about it. It would be tragic if we lose this gem and I'm just hoping Dan will be able to re-open in the near future. The Didler.

The Bang In Belper (in Belper obv.) which

closed in June due to flooding, will now not be re-opening according to a message posted on Instagram dated 30th July.

Billy and Elly at the **Crossroads Tavern**, Alfreton will be leaving the pub on 25th August with new licensees reported to be taking over two days later. The pub has a reputation for live music so hopefully that will continue.

A planning application was received by the Amber Valley Borough Council (ref: AVA/2024/0400) on 22nd July to convert the Fishermans Rest on Broadholme Lane, just outside Belper, to housing. A decision is expected in September. The pub closed its doors on 18th February when the licensees Nick & Andy retired.

The **Dead Poets Inn**, Holbrook has been awarded Gold (Gold! Always believe in your soul, tra-la-la etc.) in the Spencer Memorial Pub Garden competition run by **Everards**.

Contributors: Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, the Didler, the Jedi, Rodders, Snug Dave, Sooty, Tram Inspector

# Angels Micro Pub

29 Market Place Belper DE56 1FZ Serving eight or more real ales from the barrel and a similar number of ciders & perries

Derbyshire South CAMRA POTY Winner 2023 Amber Valley CAMRA Cider POTY Winner 2020 & 2024 Amber Valley CAMRA Mild Trail Winner 2019

#### Beer Festivals

The 2nd Loughborough Pub Trail of 2024 will take place from 19th to 29th September which coincides with Cask Ale Week. As in April, the event will run for 10 days across 2 weekends, to make it easier to visit all the venues which are as follows: Cask Bah Rocks, Moonface Brewery & Tap, Needle & Pin, Organ Grinder, Swan In The Rushes, Three Nuns, Wheeltapper and White Hart.

The George & Dragon in Belper are presenting Roktober Fest from 26th to 29th September. 20 real ales and ciders are promised plus lots of loud music from Manpant, Moon Bullet and DC Done Dirt Cheap.

And over the same week-end and just up the road, Angels Micro Pub off the Market Place will be hosting a gluten-free beer festival. A reliable source - OK then, Katy's dad, Steve-has indicated that the beer list will include Abbeydale Black Mass, Alter Ego Incognito, Brass Castle Bad Kitty, Thornbridge AM:PM, an Abbeydale/Saltaire collaboration called Mill Around Saltaire, a new beer from Little and something from Shiny - 10 beers in total. The bar will be open from 12.00 noon every day.

Make a note of beer festivals in the first week of October:

2nd-6th Oct: 37th Annual **Brunswick** (Derby) Reer Festival

3rd-6th Oct: **Groovers Arms** (Ripley) 1st Birthday Beer Festival

3rd-6th Oct: **Beer Under The Clock** (Retford) ClockFest

5th Oct: 9th Annual Wirksworth Beer Festival

More details in the next issue.

#### In The Papers

The ongoing saga about the **Corner Pin** in Chellaston continues with a report on Derbyshire Live (1st August) stating that "conversations have started over the possibility of Derby City Council buying the pub". The **Corner Pin** closed in 2018 and is currently boarded up but there have been a number of stories since then saying that Star Pubs & Bars are promising investment once a new licensee can be found. [Very elusive these licensees, it seems or maybe it's just the Ts & Cs? Ed]. The council are talking about compulsorily purchasing the building but Star Pubs & Bars say they have no plans to sell.

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



#### Out & About

Trips this month to Congleton and Doncaster. The editor has reduced the word count slightly but you haven't missed anything, honest.

#### Congleton, 27th June, 2024

On this train trip led by Mythical John and accompanied by Pothole Ady, Activity Mike and the Krankies we changed trains at Stoke for the short journey to Congleton. A brief walk over the railway bridge took us to the Wonky Pear micro-pub which offered three cask ales all from Beartown. All were sampled by the group and well received; I had Sunburst IPA, the others being LIT and Kodiak. Seemed a nice friendly place but difficult to judge as we were the first in at opening time. Back over the railway to the GBG Queen's Head for an interesting ale selection in this large free house. I stayed on IPA with Storm Isobar, with Spitting Feathers Oatmeal Stout and a house ale from Beartown more interesting options than Abbot or Landlord. A

good old style pub with food options and the friendly landlady advised on other pubs.

It was then a fairly long walk to the town centre and firstly in the market area we found the Foundry which is a very modern industrial style building. Only opened last year end by Bollington Brewery it had five cask ales with more keg taps and by way of a change I selected Oat Mill Stout. It had a very large interior with a cavernous ceiling plus an outdoor seating area adjacent to several independent food businesses. Due to later opening of other target pubs we returned for a further drink - I chose Bollington Best over White Nancy, Eastern Nights or Long Hop . In between these visits we visited the close by R&G's Tap House which held 14 ales on keg. of which about half were continental or lagers (or both). The best known brews came from Anspach & Hobday, Cloudwater, Glasshouse, Polly's and Vault City with prices from £5.00 to £6.80 a pint.

By now the GBG BarleyHops micro-pub had opened on the High Street and we found three cask ales available with the local Merlins The Wizard my choice here. There was also a real cider from Holmes Chapel with Hop Kettle (Swindon) Western Star and Bristol Beer Factory Everytime IPA from further afield which were strangely cheaper. Our next call was at the GBG Beartown Tap, a very good traditional pub but not operated by Beartown despite all six ales coming from them. We had two drinks here and I selected Skinful and Crème Bearlee; the former was enjoyable but the latter a bit sweet for me albeit decent quality. The enthusiastic barman also offered Kahuna, LIT, Kodiak and Glacier on the bar.

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

On next to the **Prince Of Wales** which is a **Joule's** pub. I noted the standard fare of *Slumbering Monk*, *Pale* and *Blonde* so opted for their *Batch 1021 EPA* that was quite good. It had a typical **Joule's** interior with plenty of history, a green tiled frontage and an enthusiastic landlord. We had to do a lot of walking to and fro between pubs as some did not open until late afternoon and next up was the *GBG Lord Mountbatten*. This was another good pub with local brewery ales and I sampled **Wincle Indian Runner**, rather than *Silk of Amnesia*, *Bosley Cloud* or *Summer Breeze* from **Storm Brewing**.

The Little Street Cellar was now open and we found an enthusiastic bar manager offering four cask ales here in this atmospheric bar with a low vaulted wine cellar type ceiling. Fairly local ales again with two from RedWillow of which I went Feckless rather than Shameless, Marble Atlas and Mobberley Small Town. More walking brought us to Den which is the bar at Beartown Brewery, located up a staircase overlooking the brewery in an industrial unit. It was strangely deserted and we had a quick half, noting that all three ales were the same as we had already seen elsewhere. Our last visit was to the furthest out target pub, the Throstles Nest, a recently re-opened friendly community pub serving five cask ales. These included Abbeydale Daily Bread, Bass, Oakham Citra, Titanic Plum Porter and my choice of **RedWillow** *Headless*. The latter was very good and concluded our trip to Congleton with good or very good beer in all of the eleven pubs visited, so an excellent venue for ale drinkers. Chris P Duck.

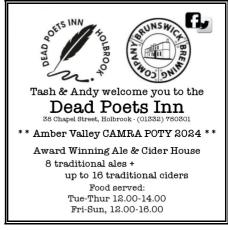


#### Doncaster, 18th July, 2024

Doncaster is easily accessible by train and on arrival we headed into the GBG Draughtsman Alehouse, right on the station platform with pristine Victorian wall tiles revealed during restoration. We had a choice of Chin Chin Tunnel or Luda Black Mass, the latter a new brewery to me. We were soon joined by our local guide Kevin, and then it was a short walk to the GBG Leopard, a very distinctive building featuring a green tiled exterior and a corner entrance. It was due to host a tap takeover by Thornbridge in the evening and several of their ales were already available; I started with Lord Marples then went for Cats Eyes which was new to me. They also had AM:PM and I was tempted by DDH Jaipur but it was a bit early for that. Other ales were Siren Lumina and Ossett White Rat, bringing up a good selection but it was alarming to hear that this pub is in danger of closure by the owners

On to the GBG Little Plough where we found four cask ales on the bar: a special from Little Critters, Acorn Barnsley Bitter, Ossett White Rat and Welbeck Abbey Baroness. A few of us had the latter and all found it to have a very strange taste. We then sat outside in the sunshine at the White Swan with Jolly

Boys Blonde as it was the only cask offering. It was OK but I can think of other blondes I would rather sit outside with.



On arriving at the Market Place we found three pubs worthy of merit next to each other. In the middle was the Masons Arms which had a lacklustre selection of Landlord, Titanic Plum Porter and Rudgate Jorvik but at least the latter was decent quality. I was disappointed that we did not visit Market Street Alehouse but the third of these pubs, the GBG Queen had a good range to choose from. Here I had Brass Castle Bad Kitty, a really good drink whilst one of us tried a third of Five Towns Psychomodo (7.8%). Other ales were familiar in our area - Black Iris Endless Summer and Shiny 4Wood plus their Sacred Geometry also on.

Close by in the Wool Market indoor complex is the Don Valley Tap, unsurprisingly offering four cask ales from Don Valley, namely Best Of You, Atomic Blonde, Kiss Of The Sky and Gangsta's Paradise. All were deemed reasonable ales but nothing too special. We then ventured into the JDW Red Lion which had few guest ales but they included Beermats Team Mates and Thornbridge Wild Swan, but my choice of Green Jack Gone Fishing ESB was one of the best beers of the day.

A longer walk brought us to the GBG Hallcross, which looks like a national chain pub from outside with garish signage but fortunately is not. Formerly home to the infamous Stocks Brewery, which our local friends thought at the time was generally atrocious. Now brewed by Welbeck Abbey to the original recipes the Stocks ales are of decent quality and their go to ale is Old Horizontal, a 5.3% dark ale which I nominated as beer of the day. The other Stocks ales were Select, a best bitter and St Ledger Gold which needs no explanation. The guest ales were Ossett Yorkshire Blonde and Industrial Ales Coal Face Stout, the latter no longer produced since the brewery closed.

A bit further out is the **Salutation**, a traditional coaching inn and apparently the birthplace of Doncaster Rovers FC. Here I had an excellent **Welbeck Abbey** Fiery Fox with other ales being from **Black Sheep**, **Stancill** and a couple from **Thornbridge**. Back towards the city centre we visited the later

opening GBG Doncaster Brewery Tap with the brewery located behind the old shop building tap house. By this time the familiar theme of vague recollections had kicked in but I did note four of their ales on cask as Cheswold Bitter, 1196 Charter Porter, Pithy Speeches IPA and an experimental tropical pale. These were well received and concluded a great day out. Chris P Duck.

#### Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

5th-7th Sept. 30th Tamworth Beer Festival. Assembly Rooms, Corporation Street, Tamworth. 75+ ales, cider/perry 5th-8th Sept. Burton Ale Trail. 11 pubs. Bee www.burtonaletrail.com 6th-7th Sept. Road Rail & Ale Festival. Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre, Ruddington, Notts. 40 ales 6th-7th Sept. Shirley Lions Beer Festival. Shirley British Legion, Parkgate Shirley, Solihull 6th-8th Sept. Peaktober Beer Festival. The Peak Hotel, How Lane, Castleton, Derbyshire. Local & German beers 6th-8th Sept. Parfest Beer Festival. Parwich Village Hall, Parwich. Local beer & cider, BBQ 6th-8th Sept. Tollgate Beer & Sausage Festival. The Milking Parlour, Staunton Lane, Calke, Derbyshire 7th Sept. 12th Yardley Charity Beer Festival. St Edurgha's Church Hall, Kitts Green, Yardley. 20 ales, 20 cider/perry 12th-14th Sept. Ashbourne Beer Festival. Ashbourne Town Hall. 40 ales, 12 ciders/perry 12th-14th Sept. Cannock Beer Festival. Prince of Wales Theatre, Church Street, Cannock, Staffs. 45 ales, 10 ciders 19th-22nd Sept. The Smithfield Derby Pudding Parlour Kitchen Keller Event. 8 puddingy beers 19th-29th Sept. Loughborough Pub Trail. 8 venues. See Beer Festivals section for more details 20th-21st Sept. Marchington Beer Festival. Village Hall, Marchington, Derbyshire 20th-21st Sept. Oktoberfest Craft Beer Festival. The Grand Pavilion & The Fishpond, Matlock Bath. 30+ ales/German 20th-22nd Sept. The Old Hall Inn & Paper Mill Inn Beer Festival. Whitehough, Chinley, Derbyshire. 200 ales 20th-22nd Sept. Great Central Railway Beer Festival. Loughborough, Quorn, Rothley & Leicester North Stations 26th-28th Sept. 12th Samaritans Beer Festival. Royal British Legion, 44 Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester 26th-29th Sept. George & Dragon Roktober Fest. George & Dragon, Bridge Street, Belper. 20 ales/ciders, loud music 26th-29th Sept. The Angels Micro Pub Gluten Free Beer Festival. Market Place, Belper. 10 ales 27th-28th Sept. Sedgley Charity Beer Festival. Jubilee Scout Hall, Ladies Walk, Sedgley, Dudley. 36 ales, cider, gin

3rd-7th Sept. Chappel Beer Festival. East Anglian Railway Museum, Chappel STation, nr Colchester 5th-7th Sept. Bridgnorth Beer Festival. Severn Valley Railway Station, Bridgnorth 6th-7th Sept. 11th Crewe Rail Ale Beer Festival. Crewe Heritage Centre, Vernon Way, Crewe. 50+ ales + cider 6th-7th Sept. Indie Beer Scotland. Edmiston House, Edmiston Drive, Glasgow. 200 cask & craft keg beers 6th-8th Sept. Sambrooks Beer by The River. Ram Quarter, Wandsworth High Street, Wandsworth 7th Sept. East Malling Beer & Cider Festival. East Malling Research, New Road, East Malling, Kent. 70+ ales, 30 ciders 13th-14th Sept. 14th Moreton Beer Festival. Moreton Cricket Club, Moreton-in-Marsh 13th-14th Sept. Loddon Brewery Oktoberfest. Loddon Brewery, Dunsden Green Farm, Church Lane, Reading 14th Sept. 13th Newbury Beer Festival. Northcroft Playing Fields, Northcroft Lane Newbury. 200+ ales, craft beers, cider 18th-21st Sept. York Beer Festival. St Lawrence Church Community Church, Lawrence Street, York. 200+ ales 19th-21st Sept. 20th Abbfest Beer Food & Music Festival. Fermoy's Garden Centre, Totnes Road, Newton Abbot, Devon. 150+ beers & ciders 20th-21st Sept. 21st Melton Mowbray Beer Festival. The Stockyard, Melton Mowbray Market, Scalford Road. 50+ ales, keg & cider 20th-21st Sept. Docktoberfest@DocksBeers. The Church, King Edward Street, Grimsby 20th-22nd Sept. 11th Newquay Beer Festival. Hendra Holiday Park, Newquay. 100+ ales, cider, gin, fizz 20th-22nd Sept. Bluebell Railway Beer Festival. Railway Approach, East Grinstead 25th-28th Sept. 32nd Shrewsbury Beer Festival. Church of St Mary, St Mary's Street, Shrewsbury. 100+ ales 25th-28th Sept. 27th St Albans Beer Festival. The Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Peters Street, St Albans 26th-28th Sept. Grantham Beer Festival. St Wulframs Church, Grantham. 70+ 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.



