

## 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 <u>snugdave@outlook.com</u>.

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.



#### Beer & Pub News

According to a Facebook post dated 31st July, Lorraine and Dave Mountford will be leaving the **Boat Inn**, Cromford on 23rd September after 13 years "at the helm". They are very pleased to announce that the pub will be taken on by Nicola and Dave Briggs from the **Greyhound**, also in Cromford, "whose love of community pubs stands alongside ours".

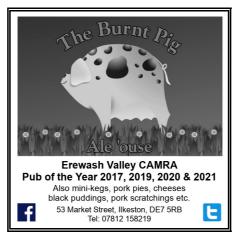
The Derbyshire Times (27th August) also reported that Lorraine and Dave plan to focus their efforts on running the **Jug & Glass** at Lea which is owned by former Derby County footballer Jake Buxton and which they have also managed since spring 2024. Dave himself is an active campaigner for pubs and publicans and is quoted as saying that "Governments have taxed and red-taped this industry to death. I have very little faith in the current Government doing a great deal different".

After having been closed for about 5 years, the **Abbey** pub in Darley Abbey it set to reopen on 26th September. The pub is owned by Samuel Smith Brewery, and despite consistent efforts to get it re-opened, chief



### OCTOBER 2024

amongst the campaigners being Derby City Councillor Martin Repton, the brewery have seemingly refused to cooperate. According to a Facebook post dated 15th September, Martin Repton has met the new licensees, whose identities have mysteriously not been revealed [Since it's a Sam Smith's pub, I'm kind-of imagining a couple like those depicted in the painting American Gothic by Grant Woods? Ed], and added a menu of mostly traditional pub food which they hope to be offering at some point in the future. Mike Wood originally bought the building as a ruin in 1977 and spent two years transforming it into a pub, which he ran with his wife Vivian for 10 years before selling it on.



A new micro-bar called Inn Uendo's is set to open on Saturday 21st September on Station Street (between Sainsbury's and the Gurkha Curry Lounge) in Burton-on-Trent. It is being run by Richard Peace and his partner Jason. Both men have experience in the licensing trade with Richard having worked at both the Devonshire Arms and the Burton Bridge Inn. The choice of drinks is wide with cocktails being a main feature but 2 cask ales are promised. Opening hours (to start with) are Thur: 4.00 pm, Fri-Sat: 1.00 pm. See the Inn Uendo's Facebook page for updates. Thanks go to Ian Webster whose article in The Beertonian (thebeertonian.com) provided some of these details.

It has been reported that the tenants of the **Cross Keys** on the Market Place, Belper and those of the **Greyhound** at Whitemoor have swapped jobs. It is intended that the **Cross Keys** will continue to offer 5 real ales, mostly local and independent, and the **Greyhound** offering is expanding to be similar to the **Cross Keys**. Happy Days. **Stingo**.

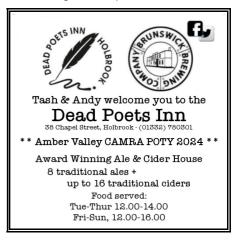


# Free Copy

T h e Muirhouse Brewery, established by Richard and Mandy Muir in about 2011 and based in Ilkeston, has closed. The following is personal statement posted on Facebook (2nd September)...

"It is with a heavy heart we make this announcement. We've enjoyed the last 13 and a half years but all good things come to an end. Unfortunately we've made the decision to close our brewery. A choice that has been extremely difficult to make. We'd like to Thank You all for supporting us and importantly enjoying our MULTI award winning ales. We've made some amazing friends along the way too. The Weighbridge Inn is NOT affected by this decision and will continue to serve you good quality ales and laughs. Richard & Mandy".

The story also appeared in the Derbyshire Times on the same date and in which it was pointed out that Muirhouse's Magnum Mild scooped a Gold Award (Red, Brown, Old Ales and Strong Milds category) at CAMRA's East Midlands Regional Competition in 2024.



Lost Industry Brewing based in Sheffield have announced their closure (due to "rising costs etc"), according to a Facebook post dated 20th August.

The **Real Ale Corner** micro-pub on the Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield has been put up for sale. Although Dan Smith and Laura Jobes have only been in charge for about a year, a Facebook post dated 3rd September, stated that they had "new projects outside of the pub starting after Christmas". Interested parties should contact them at hello@realalecorner.com. The micro-pub originally opened in 2009, and celebrated its 15th birthday this summer. The **Real Ale Corner** is the oldest micro-pub in Derbyshire and among the oldest across the UK.

Another pub up for sale is the Royal Oak in Ockbrook, multiple winner of Derby CAMRA's Country POTY, Locally famous for having been in the same family for over 70 years, the pub, formerly run by Olive and Lew Wilson, is now kept by their daughters Jean Hornbuckle and Sally Parrott and Jean's husband Steve. An advert for the pub can be found on RightMove (www.rightmove.co.uk) under the title "Award Winning Traditional Public House For Sale Derby Area" with a price tag of £1.25m. For some reason, the photo illustrating the pub is a stock image of a "traditional pub" with three customers and no bar staff but I'm pretty sure this isn't representative of the Royal Oak.

And yet another pub which is set to change hands is the **Redemption Real Ale House** in Heanor, according to a story on Derbyshire Live dated 11th September. Opened in 2016 by Bernadette Lawley and her son James, they have decided that they would like to "spend more time with their families". An advert can also be found on RightMove with offers over £100k considered.



Fantastic Beer Garden right next to the river

The licensees of the White Swan in Ockbrook have left the pub and posted a message on the front door in late August as follows...

"Unfortunately we have had no choice but to close our doors for good due to the continued lack of support from Star Pubs & Bars. Due to constant price rises over the last two years we have now run out of money to be able to keep open. The Lewis Family".

An advert for new people to run the pub is now being posted on the Star Pubs & Bars web-site with minimum ingoing costs given at £11,388 (estimated total ingoing costs £32,015) and an annual rent of £34,058.

Nottingham CAMRA announced that its 13th annual "LocAle" Pub of the Year for 2024 is the **Old Green Dragon** in Oxton. There are over 150 pubs that have been awarded "LocAle" accreditation in the Nottingham CAMRA area which are required to stock locally brewed beer or cider of good quality. The **Old Green Dragon** offers an everchanging selection of six real ales from breweries both near and far as well as at least two real ciders. The pub has previously been voted Nottingham CAMRA Village POTY and Cider POTY. Thanks go to Andy Sales of Nottingham CAMRA for sending the press release to "In The Sticks".

Contributors: Andy Sales, Bald Eagle, Big Al, Charisma Bypass, Chris P Duck, Jamie Still, the Jedi, Rodders, Snug Dave, Stingo



#### **Beer Festivals**

October is a busy month for beer festivals. These are some of the local ones...

**2nd-6th October**: 37th **Brunswick Inn** (Derby) Annual October beer festival. This year's theme is Midland Mainline Railway Stations with all the beers on the stillage being sourced from within 5 miles of stations on the EMR network. 40+ real ales, 16 traditional ciders & perries, barbecue on Friday & Saturday (weather permitting) with locally sourced sausages and burgers, 4pm-7pm.

**3rd-6th October:** Groovers Arms (Ripley) 1st Birthday Beer Festival. 50 different products - cask, keg & cider - including about 21 cask ales. Expect some specials and some favourites.

3rd-6th October: Beer Under the Clock "Clock Fest 2". Beer Under The Clock is a micro-pub (formerly **BeerHeadZ**) located in Town Hall Yard, Retford, just 15 minutes from the railway station and 5 minutes from the bus station. Russ Dunstan from the pub informed "In The Sticks" that the festival will feature 17 cask beers of which 12 are one-off festival specials, including exclusive cask beers from Ticking Clock Brew Co. Also on the list is a beer from Drone Valley brewery brewed using Pineapple Express CBD (Cannabidiol, derived from a plant related to the hop), a first pour of a brand new beer from **Resting Devil** and a new honeycomb porter which is a collaboration between Magpie and Lenton Lane. On the keg lines there will be a beer from the new Cornish brewery **Bluntrock** while cider drinkers will find offerings from Sneinton Cider Company. Snack food (filled cobs & sausage rolls) will also be available. Opening hours are are 12 noon each day of the festival except Saturday when the doors open at 11.00 am.

**4th-6th October:** Crich Brew Co. Craft Beer Festival, Campbell Street, Belper (12 noon-6.00 pm). Over 20 beers will be on offer from some of the UK's top breweries: Verdant, Polly's, Bang The Elephant, Emperor, Neon Raptor and more. The range of styles will include everything from Lagers to Imperial Stouts plus sours and ciders. A range of cans will also be available.

**5th October**: 9th Annual Wirksworth Beer Festival (12 noon-11.00 pm). The following is an extract from the Press Release sent to "In The Sticks" by Steve Johnson...

"The beer festival returns on 5th October 2024 at The Maltings, by the Church Yard, St Marys Gate, Wirksworth. A fully covered venue with plenty of space to get together with friends and family for a beer, good chat and live music. Entry is free and while cash is accepted, contactless is preferred. As always there will be a wide selection of beer from breweries from across Derbyshire, a selection of food and live music from local bands throughout the day. For those who are not so keen on beer, we will be running a bar serving other drinks. This independent festival is not for profit and any money raised will go to a local charity, this year being MusicWirks, to support the work they do for local musicians. See the Wirksworth Beer Festival Facebook page for more details."

As an aside, and there are some readers who are not going to like this, but I noticed in the latest Derby Drinker that for non CAMRA endorsed beer festivals, they will only be listed if the organisers pay for an advert in the Derby Drinker. And there was me thinking that CAMRA's whole raison d'etre was to "promote and advocate the production, availability and consumption of quality real ale". Forgive me if I'm wrong but I thought that beer festivals played a significant role in that process whether approved by CAMRA or not. Snug Dave.



#### **RuRAD Snippets**

On 8th September, I visited two newly opened establishments in Belper. I started at the Bottle Bank, formerly the short-lived Bank at Belper on King Street. Following a hasty but effective internal renovation, this place has a very smart interior with a courtyard garden to the rear. There are two changing cask ales along with a large keg selection and the new proactive hosts, Kirsty and Sam Jackson, offer a welcome to an eclectic mix of customers in a pleasant environment. Chris P Duck. Around the corner is the **Crich Brew Co. Taproom** and was extremely popular to the extent that both cask ales and all keg beer sold out. The bar is accessed by passing alongside the brewery kit and is fairly similar in layout to that of their predecessors, **Campbell Street Brewery**. It is hosting a beer festival in October and should be open Fridays and Saturdays from November. **Chris P Duck**.



#### In The Papers

As was widely reported in the local Cumbria media, including the BBC, the owners of Hawkshead Brewery in Staveley, Halewood Artisanal Spirits, closed the tap room on 10th September "with immediate effect" and plan to move the production of Hawkshead beers to a Halewood-owned site in Flookburgh, about 20 miles away. The reasons given by Halewood are that the Staveley brewery is leased and is not energy efficient, and the site landlord, David Brockbank, introduced parking charges which has deterred visitors. This, of course, is contested.

Hawkshead Brewery was founded in 2002 in a barn in the village of Hawkshead and moved to the Staveley site in 2006. Halewood bought the brewery in 2017 and opened a site in Flookburgh the following year.

#### Out & About

#### Irwell Works BreweryTap, Ramsbottom

It has always been a wish of mine to revisit Ramsbottom and the **Irwell Works Brewery Tap**, which impressed me several years ago. So when Hawkes coaches were running a trip to Bury market, which they do every month, I was on it as it is only a short bus journey on to Ramsbottom. After a brief trip around the impressive market and a look at the JDW **Art Picture House** - a former 1920's cinema, which is stunning and well worth a visit - it was straight opposite to the bus station. As far as we could see there were 3 buses that took you to Ramsbottom: 472, 474, & 477.

We took the scenic 477 which finally got us there, and after some directions from a young lady on the bus, we arrived at the **Irwell Works** tap, which was just in front of Morrisons. We went upstairs to the bar and were greeted by a full range of their beers, some 8 in all. I had the Costa del Salford and the Mad Dogs and Englishmen while Bald Eagle stuck to the darks with Tin Plate dark mild and Marshmellow Unicorn, well worth the visit and one of my favourite places. About 100 yards away we found Casked Ramsbottom (sister pub to Casked Rawtenstall), serving an array of keg beers and 5 real ales. We found 2 from Big Trip plus Ossett Butterley and Brewsmith Citra which was my tipple, and there was also a house beer brewed by Reedley Hallows.

It was then back to Bury on the 472 to catch the bus home. If you were wondering why we didn't go to the award winning **Trackside**, according to the internet it was closed until further notice for building maintenance. As it was a priority to visit it along with the **Broad Street Social** (the **Brewsmith** tap) we will have to come back again with Hawkes travel. **Charisma Bypass**.



#### Lincoln, 7th Sept, 2024

Arriving quite early on a coach trip, I went to the GBG Morning Star which is early opening and close to the coach drop-off point. There were six cask ales on offer in this old fashioned boozer although the range was somewhat routine with St Austell Proper Job, Milestone Shine On, Pheasantry Best Bitter, Sharps Solar Wave and Doom Bar, my choice being TT Boltmaker which was very good. It is famed for its garden but the rain unfortunately prevented its use at this time. I was too early for GBG **Beerheadz** so I took the Old Fruit to Cask Kitchen, near the castle and a place I had not visited before for an early brunch. There was only one cask hand-pull which was empty, thus ridiculing the bar name. After being seated the waitress forgot to return to take our drinks and food order but when my Full English eventually arrived it was particularly good and substantial, making up a bit for drinking keg Brewdog and a glass of water.

I then set off to the GBG **Strugglers** but it was too full of Morris Dancers to get inside and even worse they were singing, so we went around the corner to the **Victoria** but that too was overrun by Morris Dancers. At the bottom of the hill I arrived at the GBG **Joiners Arms** to find just the landlord and Gary, the local beer ticker and regular visitor to Derby, *in situ*. The latter failed to interest me in a tick list but in here the ale was the best drink of the day. They certainly have some less usual beers here and I had a pint of **Front Row ESB** with **Buntingford** Eldorado and **Tydd Steam** Maelstrom also on, with clips behind the bar showing several more interesting ales to follow. I also met the landlady for an interesting chat as she came originally from Allestree. An excellent corner pub, just like how they used to be.

It was then a very long walk through the town towards the far end of the High Street. My target was the Imp & Angel micro-pub but I initially walked past it because it stood back from the road with fairly insignificant signage. A one-roomed bar where I received a good welcome and selected Liquid Light Day Tripper over Ossett Talus. There were a couple of empty pulls which was disappointing but I did get another encounter here with Gary. The GBG Tiny Tavern was my next destination where there were surprisingly few people in and I had to ring the doorbell to gain admission. Whilst engaging with a lone local drinker, I had a rack of three thirds comprising **Beermats** Pragmatic Best Bitter, Three Brothers A Slice Of Sunshine and Pig Barn Haxey IPA of which the latter was the best to me. Other ales were from Three Brewers, Welbeck Abbey and another from Beermats. Within a row of 17th century cottages it was another really good pub with very enthusiastic bar service.



a visit to the striking black and white timbered and Grade II listed GBG Cardinal's Hat. In this busy historical pub with numerous rooms there were eight cask ales available, the regulars being Moonshine, White Rat, Landlord and a house ale. Of the guests I had Bristol Beer Factory Vibelake and JW Lees Phoenix Glow from their Boilerhouse range. The latter was an excellent white chocolate stout but to my surprise extremely pale in colour. Off to my last pub next which involved a brisk walk up Steep Hill involving frequent stops pretending to look in shop windows but in reality I was pausing for breath. I joined several fellow coach travellers at the GBG Beerheadz and it's there too, so I knew that I would not be late for the bus. Before departing I had a couple

always good to see that the organiser was of guick drinks here of a Saltaire and Abbeydale collaboration named Mill Around, American Sniper from Wilde Child and

Rooster's Capability Brown. Overall a good day out but some strenuous walking is required. Chris P Duck.

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

2nd-6th Oct. 37th Brunswick Beer Festival. Station Approach, Derby. 40+ ales, 16 cider/perry 2nd-6th Oct. Phantom Brewing Co. Tap Takeover. The Furnace, Duke Street, Derby. 9 craft keg beers 3rd-6th Oct. 1st Groovers Beer Festival. 153 Peashill, Ripley, Derbyshire 3rd-6th Oct. 2nd Beer Under The Clock Beer Festival. Town Hall Yard, Retford. 16 ales keg & food 4th-6th Oct. Quorn Beer Festival. Quorn Village Hall, 64 Leicester Road, Quorn, Loughborough 5th Oct. 9th Wirksworth Beer Festival. The Maltings, Church Walk, Wirksworth. 40 ales 9th-12th Oct. Nottingham Beer Festival. Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham. 750+ real ales, craft, 150 ciders 9th-20th Oct. Wetherspoons Real Ale & cider Festival. All Wetherspoon Pubs, www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk 10th-12th Oct. Nuneaton Beer Festival. Nuneaton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road, Nuneaton 10th-13th Oct. Mickleover Golf Club Beer Festival. Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby 12th Oct. Bustlers Oktoberfest. The Chocolate Factory, John Street, off Siddals Road, Derby 16-18th Oct. 48th Sheffield Steel City Beer Festival. Kelham Island Museum, Alma Street, Sheffield. 200+ ales 18th-19th Oct. 1940's Campbell Street Beer Festival. Belper, Derbyshire@Tylers & Arkwrights. 20+ ales 24th-27th Oct. Holly Bush Inn Beer Festival. Holly Bush Lane, Makeney, Derbyshire. 20+ ales 31st Oct-1st Nov. 13th Furnace Dark vs Light Beer Festival. Duke Street, Derby. up to 12 dark, 12 light ales

2nd-5th Oct. 46th Bedford Beer Festival. Corn Exchange, St Pauls Square, Bedford. 80+ ales 3rd-5th Oct. Eastbourne Beer Festival. Winter Garden, 14 Compton Road, Eastbourne. 100+ ales, cider/perry 3rd-5th Oct. Potbelly Brewery Winter Beer & Gin Festival. 22-42 Sydney Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire 3rd-5th Oct. 23rd Ayrshire Real Ale Festival. Troon Concert Hall, Troon. 140+ ales, 20 cider/perry 3rd-5th Oct. 28th Carmarthenshire Beer Festival. St Peters Civic Hall, Carmarthen. 40 ales, cider/perry 4th-5th Oct. Ascot Racecourse Beer Festival. 160+ ales, cider/perry. www.ascot.co.uk 4th-5th Oct. Docktoberfest@Docks Beers. The Church, King Edward Street, Grimsby 4th-5th Oct. Gluefest@The Gluepot. 5 Emlyn Square, Swindon 4th-6th Oct. 18th Weymouth Octoberfest. Weymouth Pavilion, Weymouth. 60+ ales, 15 ciders/perry 10th-12th Oct. Oxford Beer Festival. Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates Street, Oxford. 100 ales, 20 ciders 10th-12th Oct. Bolton Beer Festival. Toughsheet Community Stadium, Burnden Way, Horwich, Bolton. 200 ales 11th-12th Oct. Teme Valley Brewery Green Hop Festival. The Talbot, Knightwick, Worcestershire 12th-13th Oct. Isle of Wight Beer Festival. Havenstreet Station, Isle of Wight 17th-20th Oct. Keighley & Worth Valley Beer & Music Festival. KWVR 17th-20th Oct. Spa Valley Railway 13th Anniversary Beer Festival. Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 150 ales, 30 ciders 24th-26th Swindon 36th Swindon Beer Festival. Steam Museum, Kemble Drive, Swindon. 100+ ales, cider/perry 24th-26th Oct. 31st Carlisle Beer Festival. Station Hotel, Court Square, Carlisle. 50 ales 24th-26th Oct. Didsbury Beer Festival. St Catherine's Social Club, School Lane, Didsbury, Manchester. 200+ ales 25th-26th Oct. 26th Worthing Beer Festival. The Room, Guidbourne Centre, Ann Street, Worthing. 105 ales, 25 ciders 30th Oct-2nd Nov. 44th Egham Ale & cider Festial. United Services Club, 111 Spring Rise, Egham, Surrey. 60+ ales 30th Oct-2nd Nov. Le Gothigue Halloween Beer Festival. John Archer Way, Windmill Road, Wandsworth, London 1st-2nd Nov. 25th Poole Beer Festival. St Aldhelms Hall, Branksome, Poole. 85+ ales

We advise confirmation of dates and times before attending the above festivals, as changes may occur.

Well that's all for this issue folks. If you have any info or news which could be included in a future issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07891 365887 or Snug Dave at snugdave@outlook.com by the 23rd of the month.

#### Edited by Snug Dave

Many thanks to all our contributors and the "In The Sticks" distribution team - too many to mention but they know who they are. Thanks also to our advertisers without whom this newsletter would not get published.

Tracy and all the staff welcome you to the

### **OLD OAK INN**

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