



# RuRAD Rural Real Ale Drinkers

In The Sticks

November 2004

Free Copy

Welcome to this months edition of "In the Sticks"

## Beer and Pub News

Welcome to the latest issue of "In the Sticks" the newsletter of RuRAD Rural Real Ale Drinkers. We hope you enjoy reading it. To receive your copy electronically e-mail Billy at [billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk)

## Number Crunching

In this issue we bring you news of 50 pubs in 29 different locations, 5 Breweries and 28 Beer Festivals.

The **Railway** at **Cowers Lane** had regulars Marstons Pedigree 4.5% and Bank's Bitter 3.7% available on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The pub saw a change of licensee on 15<sup>th</sup> September when Phil Clarke took over the helm.

Applications to fill vacant positions, posted in the window of the **Black Swan** on **Belper Market Place**, advice that the pub is due to re open this month.

The **Queens Head** on High Street **Riddings** had two guest ales on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October Leatherbritches Hairy Helmet 4.7% and Acorn Barnsley Bitter 3.8%. Next on was Leatherbritches Belt-n-Braces 4.4%.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October the **Horse & Jockey** on Leabrooks Road in **Somercotes**, had regular Real Ales John Smiths Cask 3.8% and Theakstons Best Bitter 3.6% and one guest Palmers Copper Ale 3.7%.

On the same day the **Old English Gentleman** on Somercotes Hill **Somercotes** had guest ale Warwickshire Lady Godiva 4.2%.

The **New Inn** on Birchwood Lane **Somercotes** has just started selling real ale in fact I was lucky enough to try their first one on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Morland Old Speckled Hen 5.2%.

The **Jolly Colliers** in **Horsley Woodhouse** was still boarded up on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Del & Rod report that the **Royal Oak's** 5<sup>th</sup> beer festival in **Ockbrook** was a great success.

All the beers were from Devon breweries; and it was very well attended although I did notice the absence of one Billy One Mate, I assume he didn't apply early enough to get his pass stamped? Anyway back to the festival, there were only a few pints of one beer left on Sunday night Cavalier 4.0% from the Clearwater Brewery.

Our mate smiling Steve's comment was STEADY. Next year the Beer festival will be held from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and the beers will be coming from breweries in Cumbria, apply for your pass now Billy!

Laura Bartholomew from South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive sent me information on a new rural bus "Ale Trail" to pubs in North West Sheffield and the Peak District. The booklet details 10 pubs including the 2005 Good Beer Guide listed **Strines Inn** in **Strines**.

Also included are details of the pub opening and food serving times, access for the disabled, if there is a beer garden, if dogs are welcome and which bus you can take. For more information about rural bus services in South Yorkshire visit [www.rurallinks.co.uk](http://www.rurallinks.co.uk) or email [rural@sypte.co.uk](mailto:rural@sypte.co.uk) call 0114 2211360.

Helen Holmes of the **Greyhound** in **Belper** will be introducing a range of guest beers starting in November with one per week. The pub currently has regular real ales Greene King Abbot Ale 5.0% and Fullers London Pride 4.1%.

The **Old Poets Corner Ashover** has been voted Chesterfield CAMRA pub of the season for Winter 2004.

Darren Blaunt took over as the new licensee at the **New Clock Inn** on Alfreton Road **Codnor** on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Colin's "Brewery of the Month" for November at the **Cross Keys Belper** continues with, beers from the Abbeydale Brewery and includes Devotion 4.4%, Absolution 5.3%, Moonshine 4.3% and Black Mass 6.6%.

Other forthcoming attractions for the remainder of November are: Bateman's Jewel in the Town 4.0%, Derby Brewing Co Triple Hop 4.1%, Burton Bridge Golden Delicious 3.8%, Clarks Rams Revenge 4.6% and Cains Bitter 4.0%.

Available at the **Thorn Tree Belper** on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October were Greene King IPA 3.6%, Abbot Ale 5.0% Old Speckled Hen 5.2% and seasonal guest Suffolk Summer 4.3% all at £2.10 a pint.

Bob and Susan Starman, formerly of the **Gate Inn Lower Hartshay**, recently took over from Yvonne and James Unstead. Bob told me he was looking to re introduce Draught Bass in the near future.

Toby Manser and Chrisie Oliver who took over from Jonathan Ford and Clare Davies as the new licensees of the **Lord Nelson** in **Belper** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Jonathan Kriek and myself paid a visit on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November to find two real ales on offer these being Courage Directors 4.8% and Hancocks HB 3.6% the latter at £2.20 a pint.

Across the road at the **George and Dragon** we found the guest ales as Wye Valley Autumn Delight 4.4% and Hampshire Bewitched 4.5% both at £2.30 a pint.

Half Pint advised that Sam Smiths Old Brewery Bitter 4.0% was available at the **Abbey** in **Darley Abbey** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October for £1.30 a pint.

Pathfinder Inns Brewing Company has taken over the **Boundary** at **South Normanton**.

The **Bulls Head Denby Common** had two regular real ales on offer on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October Marstons Pedigree 4.5% and Morland Old Speckled Hen 5.2% with Davenport's 4.4% as the guest.

**Nigel** and **Mo Eadie** have left the **King William** in **Milford** to take over the helm at the **George Inn** on **Lowes Hill Ripley**. **Andrew Brett**, formerly of the **Boundary South Normanton** has taken over at the **King William**.

The second issue of the **Nottingham Beer by Tram** guide is now out with an additional pub the **Turf Tavern** on Upper Parliament Street.

The guide includes seven pubs, which appear in the 2005 Good Beer Guide as well as different views of the **Orange Tree** on Shakespeare Street (without the scaffolding) the **Frog & Onion** on Noel Street and **Horse & Groom** on Radford Road.

**Simon Taylor** of the **Queens Head Belper** will be holding an "Animal" theme beer festival from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October the **Tiger at Turnditch** had regulars **Burtonwood Bitter** 3.7% **Top Hat** 4.8% with two guests **Brains Reverend James** 4.5% and **Everards Original** 5.2%.

Down the hill at the **Cross Keys** were two regular real ales **Mansfield Cask** 3.9% and **Marstons Pedigree** 4.5% with **Adnams Bitter** 3.7% as the guest.

The **Blue Bell Inn at Farnah Green** had **Timothy Taylors Landlord** 4.3% at £2.40 a pint as its regular real ale available on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

On the same evening the **Puss in Boots** at **Windley** had **Draught Bass** 4.4% and **Pedigree** 4.5%.

The **Jug & Glass** at **Lea** had two regular real ales were available on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November namely **Marstons Pedigree** 4.5% and **Mansfield Cask** 3.9% the next guest ale on was **Highgate Black Pig** 4.4%.

On the same day the **Yew Tree Holloway** had one guest ale available **Charles Wells Bombardier** 4.3% at £2.40 a pint which had just replaced **Marstons Pedigree** 4.5%.

## Brewery News

### Leadmill-Denby

**Firebird** 5.0% was spotted at the **Crown & Sceptre** in **Babbacombe** **Torquay** during early October. Is this the furthest south sighting of a **Leadmill** beer?

**Richard Crieghton** of **Leadmill** brewed two special beers to celebrate **Halloween Park Hall Prowler** 4.3% & **Hallow' ale** 4.3%, the later of which was available at the **King William Milford** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Funfair Brewing Company**-**Holbrook** **Dodgem** 4.7% and **Ghost Train** 5.0% were present at both the **Nottingham** and **Old Poets Corner Ashover** beer festivals.

### Falstaff-Normanton

**Wyatt Earp** 4.5% and **Tombstone** 6.0% were both available at the **Nottingham** beer festival with **Wyatt Earp** 4.5% being on at the **Old Poets** beer festival in **Ashover**.

### Tower- Burton upon Trent

The latest beers from the **Tower Brewery** include **Walsitch Green Barrel** 4.5%, **Tower Mild** 4.0%, **Dark and Dangerous Stout** 6.0%, **Summer of Strength** 6.0% and **Burton Premium Ale** 4.9%.

### Derby Brewing Company-Derby

**Harris Hawk** 4.4% and **Old Intentional** 5.0% were represented at beer festivals in **Nottingham**, the **Old Poets Corner** in **Ashover** and the **Cross Keys Belper**.

### Crown-Hillsborough Hotel Sheffield

**Crown** are brewing a special one off beer called **OPA (Old Pisonian Ale)** 3.9% to mark the opening of the new clubhouse at the **Belper Rugby Club** later this month.

## Visit reports

**Nitdad** went to the **Burton Beer Festival** few weeks ago and picked up a leaflet for **The Plough Inn**, **Ford Street**, **Stapenhill**, **Burton on Trent**.

Tried it few days later and thought it a real gem. They had about five real ales available and the place was traditional and comfortable. First visit we had our favourite **Woodford's Wherry** 3.8%, followed by **Nelson's Revenge** 4.5%. At a follow up visit we chose **Palmer's Poison**, **Jennings's Cockerhoop** 4.6% and **Marstons Wicked Witch**, all off the barrel and also a nice bitter one called **Crouch Red** (did not get the brewer) Reminded us of **Red Cullin** 4.2% we found in **Skye (Isle of Skye Brewery)** this year. In addition there was **Pedigree** and **Bass**. We'll be back!

## Visit reports continued...

### Del and Rods Real Ale Rambles.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October we started our walk from **Ellastone** on the **Derbyshire Staffordshire** border. The first pub we visited was **The Crown at Marston Montgomery**, definitely a food orientated pub. There were 2 real ales on offer, **Bass & Pedigree** we tried the **Pedigree** at £2.25 per pint, there were no prices on show so we don't know the price of the **Bass**. The **Pedigree** was not up to standard so not being impressed we moved on.

Next we came to a small Hamlet called **Roston** here we visited **The Roston Inn** were there was one real ale on offer **Pedigree**. I must admit it was a far nicer drink than the last at about the same price but I don't think we will be returning.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October we started our walk from the village of **Wetton** after walking for a couple of hours we came to the village of **Oncote**, here we visited the local pub called **The Jervis Arms**. A nice pub serving six real ales, **Titanic Iceberg** 4.1%, **Titanic Golden Age** 4.6%, **Timothy Taylors Golden Best** 3.5%, **Cottage Flying Duck**, **Bass & Worthington Cask**. We tried the **Titanic Golden Age** & the **Taylors Golden Best**, both in good order and only £1.90 per pint, friendly pub, nice drink. We continued walking for another three miles until we came to the village of **Butterton**, here we visited **The Black Lion** were we found five real ales on offer, **Thwaite's Liberation**, **Tower Bitter**, **Wadworths Malt N Hops**, **Ruddles County** & **Theakstons Bitter** which was £1.85 per pint, the rest all being £2.10. I tried the **Liberation**, another nice drink in a very nice pub both well worth a visit.

-0-0-0-0-0-

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September the **Gentle Giant** and I travelled to **Burton** on **Trent** to watch a Conference league football match between **Burton Albion** and **York City**. As we knew that we would have some time to spare before the game we decided to visit some of the **Good Beer Guide** pubs in **Burton**, as well as visiting the Beer festival at the **Town Hall**.

A short walk from the station found us at our first pub the **Oak and Ivy** on **Wellington Street**.

Here we found two regular real ales **Marstons Pedigree** 4.5% and **Thwaites Lancaster Bomber** 4.4% and **Guest Marstons Little Lambswick** 4.5% at £2.20 a pint. Next we called into the **Beer Festival** at the **Town Hall** to try one or two of what was on offer and grab something to eat.

## Visit reports continued...

Here I introduced the *Gentle Giant* and a group of York fans to *Abbeyle Absolution* 5.3% who were most impressed.

We then bumped into the Baron who was also going to the match so after sampling a couple of others, and being entertained by Martin Atterbury on his *Giant Wurlitzer* organ, we decided to visit one or two pubs before the kick off starting with the **Coopers Tavern** on Cross Street, which coincidentally also had a beer festival on Bonus!

Here we tried the Archers *King George* 4.3%.

Next we visited the **Albert** on Derby Road a Burton Bridge pub selling *Festival Ale* 5.5%, *Golden Delicious* 3.8%, *Porter* 4.5%, *Knot Brown Ale* 4.8% and monthly guest *Dublo Diamond* 4.5%.

Continuing down Derby Road towards the football ground we called in at the **Derby Inn**, which had *Marstons Pedigree* 4.5% at £2.18, a pint. We thought it was little on the cold side but otherwise a well kept pint.

With just 15 minutes to go before kick off we made our way to the ground for the match hopeful of a better result than on previous weeks.

I know it's hard to believe but York actually won 2 nil and the Baron enquired, "Shall we go for a drink to celebrate"? We though why not! So we set off for the nearest pub the **Great Northern** on Wetmore Road, which unfortunately was closed so we continued until we passed the **Burton Bridge Inn** and crossed the bridge over the river Trent then turned right onto Stapenhill Road. After about another 5 minutes we found the **Elms Inn**, which was Burton and South Derbyshire CAMRA's pub of the year for 2003. Here there were three real ales including regular *Draught Bass* 4.4% and two guests from the Tower Brewery *Malty Towers* 4.4% and our choice *Pale Ale* 4.8%.

We decided after chatting to the landlady our next pub had to be the **Burton Bridge Inn** on Bridge Street so we retraced our steps over Trent Bridge and within no time were ordering our next beer Burton Bridge's monthly guest *Dublo Diamond* 4.5% at £1.96 a pint. Also available were *Golden Delicious* 3.8% at £1.76, *Porter* 4.5% at £1.96, *Bridge Bitter* 4.2% at £1.86 and *Festival Ale* 5.5% at £2.16.

We then made our way back towards town and, after saying goodbye to the Baron who was catching the next train back to Derby, called in at the **Lord Burton** a JD

Wetherspoons pub on High Street. Here no fewer than seven real ales were on offer including three regulars from Marstons *Pedigree* 4.5%, *Old Empire* 5.7% and *Burton Bitter* 3.8% with *Greene King Abbot Ale* 5.0%, *Shepherd Neame Spitfire* 4.5% and two guests *Hanby Cascade* 4.5% and *Titanic White Star* 4.8%.

Next we headed back towards the station and called in at the **Devonshire Arms** on Station Street. Here we found four regulars from Burton Bridge including *Bridge Bitter* 4.2% at £1.85, *Golden Delicious* 3.8% at £1.75, *Porter* 4.5% at £1.95 and *Stairway to Heaven* 5.0% at £2.05 and the guest from Hook Norton *Old Hooky* 4.6% at £2.05.

Finally we called in at the **Old Cottage Tavern** on Byrkley Street to sample the *Oak Ale* 4.0% which was along side other regulars *Stout* 4.7%, *Halcyon Daze* 5.3% and *Resurrection Ale* 4.5% the *Pastiche Ale* 5.2% had gone earlier in the evening also available was one guest from Shardlow *Stedman Tipple* 5.1%.

It was now time to re trace our steps back to the railway station for our Virgin Train Back home after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

## The Exadman Column

For this month's classic pub feature we once again visit the Manchester area, with yet another pub in CAMRA's National Inventory. The **Mawson**, which can be found in **Chorlton on Medlock**, is a real classic. It comprises three rooms around a central bar area, and the lower part of the walls of each room are covered by superb wood paneling, whilst the upper half is tastefully decorated. It is a comfortable, welcoming pub with a friendly atmosphere, and a couple of real ales. *Tetley Bitter* and, my personal choice, *Coachhouse Dick Turpin Bitter* were on offer on my visit, the *Dick Turpin* being on good form at only £1.50 a pint. The pub has a lunchtime menu, with a decent meal being on offer for about £2.50, and is open all day from 12 noon. It's not the easiest pub to find, but if you leave Manchester Piccadilly station and turn left along London Road, carrying on along Downing Street South in the direction of Stockport, you will come to Brunswick Street.

Turn right along there and you can't miss it - it's on Francis Street, and stands out because, whilst the rest of the area consists of fairly new houses, the Mawson stands alone as a testament to what it was originally like. All in all, a pub very much worth visiting.

## MAB's Northeast Derbyshire Roundup

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November the **Horse and Groom** at **Scarcliffe** had *Sky Rocket* 4.2%, *Rite Spooky Brew* 4.4%, *Best Buddies* 4.2% and *Headbanger* 6.3% the latter very morish!! all from Archers.

A week later there was Archer's *Crystal Clear* 5.0%, *Village* 3.9% and *Special* 4.3% as well as *Greene King Abbott Ale* 5.0%.

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November the **Arkwright Arms** at **Sutton cum Duckmanton** had Archer's *Sky Rocket* 4.2% and *Kelham Gold* on.

The same evening **The Pebley** (next to Woodall services on the M1) had *Clarke's Udder's Henchmen* 4.5%, a special brew. Clarke's are knocking out one off's for each depot and this is clearly from the Huddersfield depot-very nice too. Also had in *Timothy Taylors Landlord and Stones* and coming soon there is *Acorn Summer Ale* and a new winter beer (name not known).

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November the **Blue Bell Inn Bolsover** had *Marston's Owd Roger* 7.6% a rare outing for this once familiar ale, as well as *Jennings's Cocker Hoop* and *Highgate Black Pig* 4.4%; well couldn't you just tell there was a CAMRA branch meeting on the night we called in!!

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November the **Arkwright Arms** (called for lunch so didn't try everything that was available) had on *Abbeyle Devotion* 4.4% and a new brew apparently, *Woodforde's Norfolk Nog* 4.6% as good as ever, Archer's *Sky Rocket* 4.2%, *Daleside Blonde* 3.9%, *Fuller's London Pride* first outing this year I think in the north-east and *Burton Bridge Golden Delicious* 3.8%.

Keep up the good work, I have distributed copies of "In the sticks" round most of the pubs mentioned so your fame is spreading.

Also look out for the first of my two-part *Penzance and Scilly Isles* report in the December issue of "In the Sticks".

MAB

-0-0-0-0-0-

**The Sitwell Arms Horsley Woodhouse** which, recently saw a change of licensee, had *Adnam's Bitter* and *Timothy Taylors Landlord* on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Next to come on were *Bateman's XB*, *Acorn Barnsley Bitter* and *Barnsley Gold*.

## Proposed Trips

Bowsa (Bolsover) using Public transport on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November including 2005 Good Beer Guide pubs the Blue Bell Inn and the Horse and Groom in Scarcliffe.-Contact Charisma on 07974 171243.

## Beer festival Diary

15<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> November Ember Inns 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Best of British Beer Festival.  
17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November Accrington Beer Festival Town hall-Accrington.  
17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Ship & Mitre Beer Festival-Liverpool.  
18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November Cask and Cutler Beer festival Henry Street-Sheffield.  
18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November Fox & Crown Brewpub-Old Basford.  
19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November Erewash Valley Beer Festival Sandiacre Freisland Sports Centre Nursery Avenue-Sandiacre.  
19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 22<sup>nd</sup> Bury Beer Festival Met Arts Centre Market Street-Bury.  
19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November Olde White Rose Winter Ales Beer Festival 20 Lichfield Street-Bilston.  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November Dudley Winter Ales Fayre Town Hall St James Road-Dudley.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November Luton Beer Festival Drill Hall Old Bedford Road-Luton.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Commercial Beer Festival 107, Station Road-Chapelton.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November Smithfield Hotel Swan Street-Manchester  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November George and Dragon 3<sup>rd</sup> Beer Festival-Old Brampton.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Queens Head Beer Festival Chesterfield Road-Belper.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Cropton Brewery Beer Festival-Pickering.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Ilford Club Beer Festival-Ilkeston.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Prince Of Wales Stout & Porter Festival-Foxfield Cumbria.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November Thomas Sykes Beer Festival Anglesey Road-Burton Upon Trent.  
27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November Old White Horse, 22<sup>nd</sup> Old Ale Festival-Parsons Green, London.  
29<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December Babington Arms 2nd Dark Ales Festival-Derby.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Selby Beer Festival Community Centre-Selby.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December Bartons Arms Midas Touch Beer Festival-Aston.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December The Bell Inn Beer Festival-Nottingham.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December The Star Beer Festival Albert Street-Huddersfield.  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December The Bell Beer Festival Pensax Abberley-Worcester.  
9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December Suddaby's Winter Beer Festival Crown Hotel-Malton.  
16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December The Old Oak-Horsley Woodhouse.  
28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December Paradise Brewery Wrenbury-Nantwich Cheshire.  
26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2005 National Winter Ales Beer Festival New Century House-Manchester.

In the next issue of "In the Sticks" look out for more Del & Rod's Real Ale Rambles, the Exadman's column on historic pubs and MAB's Penzance and Scilly capers.

Well that's all for this issue folks however if you have any information or news which could be included in the next issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07974 171243 or e-<mailto:billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk>

***Edited by Billy One Mate***

***Contributors to this issue of "In the Sticks":***

Charisma Bypass, Gentle Giant, Half Pint, Two Gallon Man, Me Owd Conker, Delboy, Rodney, MAB, Exadman, Sooty, Nitdad & Bald Eagle Apologies if I've missed anyone.

***Disclaimer***

*We try to ensure that the information in "In the Sticks" is accurate but no responsibility can be accepted for errors or omissions. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor.*