



Paral Real Ale Drinkers

In The Sticks

September 2004

Free Copy

Welcome to this months edition of "In the Sticks"

Beer and Pub News

Last month saw the first anniversary of "In the Sticks" which was produced as a two-page newsheet and distributed to a small group of interested enthusiasts. It's hard to believe that just one year later we now distribute over 1000 copies in the pubs and clubs locally. Here are just a few of your comments and feedback.

"Picked up a copy of *In the Sticks* at the **King William, Milford**. Good read - plenty of useful info".

"I picked up the July edition of *In the Sticks* from the **Cross Keys in Belper** last Friday and found the content of great interest".

"Hi there, Picked up a copy of *In the sticks* whilst doing a crawl around **Denby, Holbrook, Makeney and Milford**. It is an excellent publication and very informative".

"Congratulations on an excellent newsletter".

To receive your copy electronically e-mail Billy One Mate on billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk

Number Crunching

In this issue we bring you news of 38 pubs in 20 different locations, 3 Breweries and 34 Beer Festivals.

Belper is the place to be if you are a fan of real ale.

We have just completed a survey of all the pubs in and around Belper including, Openwoodgate and Bargate, and can confirm that real ale is available at all of the pubs which is good news for real ale lovers. Our survey took place between June and August of this year and covered 29 pubs.

For anyone interested in the list of the pubs surveyed, together with the range of beers available at the time of the visit, please e-mail Billy One Mate.

The **Horse & Jockey** in **Ripley** will see a change of Landlord on 20th September.

On Friday 20th August, whilst on a mini crawl round Belper, the **Railway** on King Street had regular **Green King IPA** 3.6% at £2.20 and guest **Somerset Sizzler** 4.6% at £2.20 a pint from **Cottage**. Geoff the Landlord told me that the guest beers, which are changed between 2 and 3 times a week, normally alternate between **Leadmill, Cottage, Shardlow** and the **Beer Seller's** list. The **Railway** can be easily reached from **Derby** on Central Trains and **Midland Main Line** or by **Trent Barton Buses**.

On the same evening the **George & Dragon** on **Chapel Street** had regulars **Green King Abbot Ale** 5.0% at £2.30 and **Tetley Bitter** 3.7% at £2.10 with guest beers **Falstaff Fist Full of Hops** 4.5% at £2.30 and **Elgood's Pageant** 4.3% at £2.30 a pint.

The **Hill Top Inn** on **Belper Lane** had regulars **Kimberley Bitter** 3.9% at £2.00 and **Olde Trip** 4.3% at £2.15 with seasonal guest **Frolicking Farmer** 4.2% at £2.15.

Further down the road The **Bulls Head** on **Belper lane End** had two regulars **Fullers London Pride** 4.1% at £2.10 and **Draught Bass** 4.4% at £2.10 a pint.

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We understand that the landlord of the **Moss Cottage** in **Ripley** has acquired the **Gate Inn** at **Lower Hartshay**.

The **Hollybush Inn Makeney** will be holding a beer festival from Thursday 28th October to Sunday 31st October. There will be live music on Friday night with **Kick & Rush** and **Kev & Jim**, a local **Derby band**, on Saturday night.

A passing visit to **Ye Olde Packhorse Inn** at **Kings Newton** near **Melbourne** on Saturday 14th August found **Nimmo's XXX** 4.4% from **Cameron's Lion Brewery** in **Hartlepool** available as the months 'guest beer' at £2.25 a pint.

Colin from **The Cross Keys Belper** is introducing "Brewery of the Month" where, starting with September, beers from **Brewster's Vale of Belvior Brewery** will include **Roxanne** 4.8%, **Rutterkin** 4.6% and **Marquis** 3.8%.

Other forthcoming attractions for the remainder of September are: - **Sharpe's Eden Ale** 4.4%, **Bateman's Combined Harvest** 4.4%, **Titanic Olympic** 4.3%, **Marstons Old Empire** 5.7% and **Castle Rock Harvest Pale** 3.8%.

At **Yvonne and James** leaving do, which was held on Saturday 25th August, at the **Thorn Tree Belper** **Green King Abbot Ale** 5.0%, **Timothy Taylors Landlord** 4.3%, **Deuchars IPA** 3.8% and **Bass** 4.4% were all available at £1.75 a pint.

The **Black Swan** on **Belper Market Place** was having the outside sandblasted over the Bank Holiday weekend in readiness for it's re opening hopefully the 24th of September.

Scaffolding was erected outside the **Thorn Tree Woodlinkin** towards the end of August.

The planned beer festival at the **Ilford Club Ilkeston** has been put back to the last week of November we will publish the exact dates when known.

Les the Landlord of the **Bulls Head Openwoodgate** has come up with a novel idea to help you get served quicker during busy periods such as special functions etc.

He has introduced a token system with different coloured tokens for different drinks, which you can buy at the bar when it's less busy. We believe this to be the first pub in our area to try this idea. Does anyone know of any others?

The **Bulls Head** is on **Trent Barton Bus** route **R71** and **XR6** from **Derby**

Brewery News

Leadmill-Denby

The **Old Stables Bar** had four guest beers on over the August Bank Holiday weekend which included St Austell's Tribute 4.3%, Wadsworth 6X 4.3%, Vale Special Biter 4.5% and Osset Silver King 4.3%.

Forthcoming guest beers at Leadmill's pubs include:-Frankton Bagby Squabblydob 4.1%, Milk Street Storm Force 4.3%, Tring Hockers Ale 4.3%, Red Squirrel IPA in the USA 4.5%, Blackwater White Snake 4.5% and Holdens Quarry Basher 4.9%.

Funfair Brewing Company-Holbrook

Dave and Andrea, of the **Wheel Inn Holbrook**, report their August Bank Holiday beer festival to be a great success with 18 beers on offer. These included three of Dave's own brews being The Big Wheel 3.9%, (hope I've got the gravity right this time Dave) Ghost Train 5.0% and his latest Dodgem 4.7%. The later being complemented by a full sized dodgem car next to the serving hatch.

The Big Wheel was also available at the Peterborough Beer Festival.

Dave can be contacted at the Funfair Brewery on 0797 1540186.

Falstaff-Normanton

Falstaff beers continue to appear in Belper with Outlaw Josey Ales 4.8% and Phoenix being on at the **Queens Head** over the bank holiday weekend. Whilst next door in the **Thorn Tree** A Fist Full of Hops was clearing in the cellar. The previous week saw the same beer on at the **George and Dragon** on Chapel Street.

Visit reports

One Mate wanders round Worcester on Saturday 7th August 2004.

I caught the 10.09 Central Train from Derby, which was over forty minutes late due to having no Driver or receiving fitter's attention in Nottingham or something like that.

Once in Worcester I had planned to take a circular route, which meant turning right outside Worcester Forge Street station for a 10-minute walk to the Tything and my first pub the **Dragon Inn**. Here there were no fewer than seven guest beers including Oakham Helter Skelter 5.0% at £2.20, Tripple FFF Dazed and Confused 4.6% at

£2.10, Hobson's Town Crier 4.5% at £2.10, Malvern Hills Black Pear 4.4% at £2.00, Millstone Windy Miller 4.1% at £2.00 and Otter Bitter 3.6% at £1.80.

After a 5-minute walk I arrived at my next pub CAMRA's National Inventory listed **Paul Pry Inn** on the Butts. As there was no real ale available I had to make do with a half of Ansells Mild whilst admiring the pubs architecture.

It was then another short walk to the **Plough Inn**, which is just round the corner from the fire station on Fish Street. Here three guest beers were on including Wye Valley Hereford Pale Ale 4.0% at £2.10, Hook Norton Best Bitter 3.4% at £2.00 and Shepherd Neame Spitfire 4.5% at £2.30.

After leaving the Plough I took the path to the left of the Cathedral, turning right on to Severn Street and passed the Royal Worcester factory on the left for **The Salmon's Leap**. Here four real ales were available including St Georges Paragon Steam Bitter 4.0% at £2.20 Eccleshall Slaters Premium 4.4% Woods Shropshire Lad 4.5% and Marstons Pedigree 4.5% I was unable to establish the prices of the beers as there wasn't a tariff and the Landlord was busy taking meal orders.

Next I visited the **Olde Talbot Hotel** on Friar Street, a previous good beer guide listed pub, which had three regular real ales and one guest beer including Green King IPA 3.6% at £2.10, Morland Old Speckled Hen 5.2% at £2.40, Green King Abbot Ale 5.0% at £2.03 and Green King Triumph 4.5 at £2.30.

Finally I continued down Friar Street to the **Cardinals Hat** which is reputed to be the oldest pub in Worcester and on my last visit in 1993 was a Jolly Roger Brewery pub selling Shipwrecked and the like.

The pub now serves Austrian Lager such as Hainfelder Export 5.0% at £2.80, Hainfelder Zwickl 5.0% at £3.20, Hainfelder Pils 5.2% £3.20 and Hainfelder Highlander 5.1% at £3.40.

It was then time to walk back to Worcester Forge Street and catch the train back to Derby.

Del and Rods Real Ale Rambles.

Friday 6th August Shardlow and Thulston
Our original idea was to do this pub survey on a lovely summer evening on our bikes but the great British weather soon put an end to that and Delboy was the delegated driver. We started at the **Old Crown** at **Cavendish Bridge**, which is now a Burtonwood pub (the current landlord has been there since January) where there were 6 real ales on.

Burtonwood Bitter at £2.10; Pedigree, Olde Trip & Top Hat at £2.25; Bass at £2.20 and Summer Lightning £2.30. The Crown is a lovely little pub with loads of character and well worth its place in the Good Beer Guide. Our next stop was the **Navigation** just down the main road, a large pub with a reasonable selection of ales. On our visit there was Pedigree, Wadsworth 6X, Abbot, Flowers Original & Adnams Bitter unfortunately we couldn't see a tariff to check the prices.

From there it was down to the wharf and the **New Inn** an Enterprise Inns pub serving 3 real ales. Bass & Pedigree at £2.15 and the guest was 1744 at £2.25. Quite a busy place but fortunately the rain had eased off enough for us to stand outside. Next was a short walk across to The **Malt Shovel** where there was Pedigree available & Banks Bitter at £1.94 yet another nice little pub with lots of character.

Our next stop was almost overlooked as we traveled down the main road, the **Clock Warehouse** is a huge Mansfield's pub, which is totally food orientated. The only real ale available was Pedigree at £2.14.

The **Shakespeare Inn** was our next port of call where Denzel narrowly beat me at darts. Two real ales were on offer, Ruddles Bitter (which you don't see much of these days) at £2.00 and Pedigree at £2.20. The barmaid pointed out to us that the pub has won the best kept cellar award for the last 2 years from the pub estates company.... well done! The **Dog & Duck** was our final pub in Shardlow. It is another food-orientated pub and as is usually the case Real Ale takes a back seat. There were 2 real ales available Marstons Summer Ale & Pedigree we were going to try the Summer Ale but unfortunately it went off so we had to settle for the Pedigree at £2.30.

Finally we called in at the **Harrington Arms** at **Thulston** where Denzel finished off their supply of scampi fries (that will teach him to come out without any tea). Three real ales were available here Landlord at £2.30 and Bass; the guest beer (which changes on a weekly basis) was Shardlow Platinum Blonde, which was a bit too strong for us to try after such a long evening.

Sunday 15th August 2004

Whilst out walking in the Peak district we came across a small village called **Sheldon**. The village pub is called the **Cock and Pullet** and was opened in 1995 serving real ale. Which on this occasion were Timothy Taylors Landlord, Bass and Black Sheep Bitter. Del and Trigger tried the Landlord and Rodney tried the Orange and Water, as he was worse for wear from the previous

Visit reports continued...

night. As there was no price list we think the beer was about £2.00 a pint, nice pub and a nice pint. We then walked a few miles further to the village of **Over Haddon**; here we visited the **Lathkil Hotel** serving five real ales including Pedigree, Wards Bitter, Hartington IPA plus two guest beers Theakstons Black Bull and Cottage Going for Gold. Del tried the Cottage, Trigger tried the Theakstons and once again Rodney tried the Orange and Water. Prices were between £2.00 and £2.20 a pint.

Sunday 22nd August 2004

The next Sunday we were out walking in Leicestershire and passed through a small village called **Swithland**, the local pub is called the **Griffin** and served six real ales including Everards Original 5.2%, Tiger 4.2%, Beacon 3.8% and Adnams Bitter 3.7% with two guest beers Elgood's Black Dog 3.6% and Everards Sunchaser. We tried the Black Dog although a nice drink we thought quite expensive at £2.36 a pint, nice rural pub, friendly bar staff.

We then walked a few miles further to the village of **Woodhouse Eaves** visiting the **Pear Tree** one of three pubs in the village. Here we had a choice of two real ales, John Smiths Bitter 3.8% and Skinners Cornish Knocker 4.5%, we tried the Skinners, once again a nice pint but at £2.40 a pint rather expensive.

Billy and the Gentle Giant go to Aldershot.

On Saturday the 14th of August the Gentle Giant and I traveled to Hampshire to watch a Conference league football match between Aldershot and York City. The plan was to meet up in London with the GG traveling down from York on GNER and yours truly catching the Midland Main Line from Derby then go forward together. As I have come to expect when traveling on trains these days delays are common place and it came as no surprise that my train got to St Pancras some 30 minutes late due to some sort of technical fault with one of the power cars at Leeds earlier in the day. Having slightly modified our plan we arranged to meet up in The **Head of Steam** at **Euston Station**.

I thought that I had read somewhere that there was a beer festival on however this was not the case but, never the less, five real ales were on including Hop Back Summer lightning 5.0%, Cottage Going for Gold 4.4%, Holts Bitter 4.0%, Phoenix Double Dagger 5.0% and my choice Robinson's Hatters Mild 3.3% at £2.00 a pint.

We then made our way by tube to London Waterloo for our brand new South West train forward. As we had some time to spare before the game we decided to visit some of the Good Beer Guide pubs in **Aldershot**

All of the pubs we visited are close to the station and can be reached by crossing the foot bridge over the main line, which brings you out at the rear of the station.

We set off walking to our first pub the **Red Lion** on Ash Road where the regular Courage Best Bitter 4.0% and three guests Stonehenge LTS 2.5%, our choice, Springhead Level Best 4.0% at £2.20 and Summer Hog 3.8% were available. I asked the lad behind the bar who brewed the Summer Hog but he didn't have a clue, something that confirmed my suspicions as he was wearing an Arsenal shirt.

Next we walked towards the football ground stopping off at the **Royal Staff** on Mount Pleasant Road. Here there was one real ale available being Fullers London Pride 4.1%. After playing a quaint little guessing game with the Landlord, on how much it was, he proudly revealed it was £2.60 a pint.

Another hand pump on the bar had Fullers Chiswick Bitter 3.5% but had the pump clip turned round the Landlord commented that it was like coloured water anyway and asked me where my thermometer was? Before the GG could show him we decided to sup off, exchange pleasantries and leave. I couldn't help wondering if the pub had been full of people buying beer, who had read an article such as this, would our welcome have been somewhat different.

Time was now getting short so we decided to resume our survey after the match either by celebrating or crying in our beer, my money was on the latter.

After the match there was just enough time to visit our last pub the 2003 Good Beer Guide listed **Garden Gate** on Church Lane East. Here two regular real ales were available Green King IPA 3.6% and Ruddles Best Bitter 3.7% accompanied by seasonal guest and our choice Green King Suffolk Summer 4.3% at £2.50 a pint.

It was now time to set off back to the station and catch our train back to Waterloo.

Oh yes I nearly forgot to mention in all the excitement York got beat 2 nil.

The Exadman Column

This month sees the start, of what hopefully will turn out to be, a regular feature on historic pubs with an article on one of CAMRA's National Inventory of pub interiors of outstanding historic interest, The **Bartons Arms** in **Aston**.

The Bartons Arms is undoubtedly one of the finest pubs featured in CAMRA's National Inventory. Built in 1901 at a then staggering cost of £22,000, it is an imposing building indeed, with its wonderful clock tower, which looms up in the distance as one travels along the main Birmingham to Walsall road, but impressive as it is from the outside, it is the internal fittings that have drawn pub lovers from all over Britain to see. The interior of the pub features snob screens, rarely seen nowadays, murals and finely - detailed hunting scenes, all in hand crafted tiles, as well as a magnificent spiral staircase and picture window, which just HAS to be seen. Minton tiles, again very rare, cover many of the walls nowadays, and apart from a few breakages, which occurred whilst the pub was empty a few years ago, the original 1901 windows are largely still intact. Since February 2003 the award winning Oakham Brewery has owned the Bartons, whose beers, as well as some interesting guests, are available at the bar. The Bartons has hosted several themed Beer Festivals since it's re-opening, and the beer quality is always good. Thai food, something of an Oakham speciality, is served at lunch and evenings, including Sundays. The pub itself is easy to reach as it is on several bus routes from the centre of Birmingham - the 33, 34, and 51 services all pass by it. Any pub-crawl of the West Midlands needs to include this truly magnificent pub on the itinerary - if you don't go there, however good the rest were, you've missed the best! Make the effort to go and see this wonderful pub - you will not regret it.

This year's annual beer festival will be held from 30th September to 2nd October.

If you want to learn more about The Bartons Arms visit www.bartons-arms.co.uk

Proposed Trips

Train trip to Oakham and Stamford on Saturday 18th September for Grainstore Brewery Tap in Oakham and Good Beer Guide Pubs in Stamford including The Green Man Beer Festival. Depart Derby on 10.20 Midland Main Line train to Leicester.

Real Ale Rail Trail trip to pubs in Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Marsden and Stalybridge Station Buffet date to be advised but possibly on Saturday 9th October to coincide with the Huddersfield Oktoberfest. Depart Derby on 09.42 Virgin Trains to Leeds.

Beer festival Diary

9th to 11th September Tamworth Beer festival Assembly Rooms Corporation Street-Tamworth.

10th to 12th September The Thorn Tree-Waingroves.

11th to 12th September The Peacock Inn Chatsworth Road-Brampton.

16th to 18th September Birmingham Beer Festival Aston Students Guild, Gosta Green-Birmingham.

16th to 19th September 10th Severn Valley Railway Real Ale Festival Bridgenorth Station-Bridgenorth.

17th to 18th September Chesterfield Beer Festival Market Hall Assembly Rooms-Chesterfield.

17th to 19th September The Green Man Scotgate-Stamford.

17th to 19th September Coalheavers Arms Park Street-Woodston Peterborough.

17th to 19th September 2nd Melton Mowbray Beer Festival Cattle Market Scalford Road-Melton Mowbray.

23rd to 25th September Burton Beer Festival Town Hall-Burton on Trent.

23rd to 26th September Scunthorpe Beer Festival Crosby Hotel Normanby Road-Scunthorpe.

24th to 26th September Mild Only weekend at the Prince of Wales-Foxfield.

24th to 26th September the White Cow Nottingham Road-Ilkeston.

24th to 26th September Hand and Heart Beer Festival-Peterborough. (Note change of Date).

29th September to 2nd October St Albans Beer Festival Albran Arena Civic Centre-St Albans.

30th September to 3rd October The Brunswick Inn-Derby.

30th September to 2nd October 30th Steel City Beer Festival-St Philips Social Club-Sheffield.

30th September to 2nd October Bartons Arms Annual Festival High Street-Aston.

1st to 2nd October Solihull & District Beer Festival Solihull British Legion Union Road-Solihull.

1st to 3rd October 3rd Autumn Oktoberfest Clock Inn-South Normanton.

4th to 17th October JD Wetherspoons Beer Festival-All pubs in Wetherspoons chain.

6th to 9th October Bedford Beer Festival Corn Exchange St Paul's-Bedford.

7th to 10th October Royal Oak-Ockbrook.

9th to 10th October Oktoberfest The Irish Centre Fitzwilliam Street-Huddersfield.

13th to 17th October Bolton Beer Festival Howcroft Inn Pool Street-Bolton.

14th to 16th October Quorn Beer Festival village green-Quorn.

14th to 16th October 14th Wakefield Beer Festival Light Waves Leisure Centre-Wakefield.

15th to 17th 24th Stoke Beer Festival Kings Hall-Stoke on Trent.

21st to 24th October Nottingham Beer Festival Victoria Leisure Centre-Nottingham.

22nd to 23rd October Barnsley Beer Festival Keel Inn Canal Street-Barnsley.

22nd to 24th October Worth Valley Folk and Beer Festival-Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Haworth.

25th to 30th October 27th Norwich Beer Festival-Norwich.

28th to 31st October The Hollybush Inn-Makeney.

28th to 31st October Cross Keys-Belper.

16th to 19th December The Old Oak-Horsley Woodhouse.

In the next issue of "In the Sticks" look out for more Del & Rod's Real Ale Rambles, Billy and the Gentle Giant go to Gravesend, the Exadman's column on historic pubs and MAB's North East Derbyshire pub update.

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, Two Gallon Man, Me Owd Conker, Delboy, Rodney & Trigger and Exadman-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.