



RuRAD Rural Real Ale Drinkers

In The Sticks

January 2005

Free Copy

Welcome to this month's edition of "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

To receive your copy electronically e-mail Billy at billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk

Number Crunching

In this issue we bring you news of 58 pubs in 28 different locations, 1 Brewery and 37 Beer Festivals.

Beer and Pub News

The **Spanker** at **Neather Heage** had out going guest Wye Valley Hereford Ale 4.0% with Jennings Redbreast 4.5% coming on next alongside regulars Bass & Pedigree on Thursday 16th December.

The **Pattern Makers Arms Duffield** had three regular real ales Bass 4.4%, Pedigree 4.5% and Deuchars IPA 3.8% with Wadworth 6X 4.3% as the guest as well as regular Cider Westons Old Rosie 7.3%.

At the **Lord Scarsdale Duffield** was regular Pedigree 4.5% with Deuchars IPA 3.8% as the guest, which was being served from the jug.

Didler advises that the **Ilford Club's Ilkeston 2nd Beer Festival** will be held on the 18th to 20th February.

Rumour has it that the **Thomas Sykes** on Anglesey Road **Burton up on Trent** is to be changed to a restaurant.

Hardy's and Hansons have bought the **White Cow Ilkeston**.

Nigel & Mo are replacing Marstons Pedigree with Hartington IPA as the regular at the **George Inn** on Lowes Hill **Ripley**.

Half pint reports that the guest beers on at the **Three Horse Shoes** in **Morley** on Tuesday 21st December were Marstons Christmas Ale 5.8% at £2.24 and Adnams Broadside 4.7% with Marstons Pedigree 4.5% as the regular. Local farm eggs at £1.20 a dozen are also available.

Whilst on a recent football excursion to **Stafford**, Park Avenue Fan advised that the GBG 2005 listed **Kings Arms** and **Tap & Spile** both on Peel Terrace were "excellent". The GBG 2004 listed **Stafford Arms** on Railway Street had reopened with regulars Titanic Iceberg 4.1% and White Star 4.8% plus two other guests.

All Change

The Christmas and New Year has seen the following changes in our area: -

Geoff Fisher left the **Railway** on King Street **Belper** before Christmas the new licensee is **Angela McAuley**.

Paul and Tina White are leaving the **Duke of Devonshire** in **Belper** during the second week of January the new licensee, **Mary Claire**, is from Northampton.

Nigel and Jenny Bould are leaving the **Imperial Vaults** on King Street **Belper** on Wednesday 12th January the new licensee is **Jane Askew**.

John and Miriam Stanley are leaving the **White Hart Bargate** on the 25th of January.

Craig Sales is the new licensee at the **Devonshire Arms** on **Pentrich Lane End**.

Philip and David of the 2005 GBG listed **Old Yew Tree South Wingfield** have advised a change of opening hours, the new opening times are Mon 5 - 11; Tues to Fri 12 - 2.30 & 5 - 11; Sat 12 - 2.30 & 6 - 11; Sun 12 - 3 & 7 - 10.30.

Beer Monster thought we might like to know that the **Travellers Rest, Kilburn**, permanently stocks **Greene King Abbot** and **Tetley's Draught**, and currently has **Timothy Taylors Landlord** and **Hook Norton Old Hooky** as 'semi permanent' guest ales. As a seasonal bonus, **Wendy and Terry** are also offering **Morland Old Speckled Hen** as the Christmas guest. All draught beers are, needless to say, served in top condition. A second visit found "a rarity" (according to the latest CAMRA newsletter) **DBA - Draught Burton Ale**. A mighty fine drink it is too!

The **Bulls Head Openwoodgate** has been highly commended by Hardy's and Hansons Pubs In Bloom initiative, our congratulations go to **Les and Marlene** who have been in the pub for nine years. The pub has three real ales available **Kimberley Bitter** 3.9% at £1.95, **Olde Trip** 4.3% and a seasonal guest which on my visit was **Rocking Rudolph** 5.0%.

Real Ale has returned to the **Royal Tiger** in **Somercotes** in the form of Hardy's and Hansons seasonal guest **Rocking Rudolph** 5.0%. **Julia Broadhurst** the licensee told me, during my visit on Monday 20th December, that there is a possibility of having a seasonal guest to accompany the regular **Kimberley Bitter** 3.9% in the New Year.

Tomatoman called in at the **Old Poet's Corner Ashover** on Thursday 30th December, a genuine public house, to enjoy a couple of pints of **Cairngorm Nessie** 4.4% and a half of **Tower of Strength** 7.2%.

Colin's "Brewery of the Month" for January at the **Cross Keys Belper** continues with, beers from **Sharp's Brewery** in **Wadebridge Cornwall** and includes **Doom Bar Bitter** 4.0%, **Cornish Coaster** 3.6%, **Sharp's Own** 4.4% and **Will's Resolve** 4.6%.

On Thursday 23rd December we took over **CAMRA's Derbyshire pub of the Year** the **Old Stables Bar** in **Denby** for what is hoped will become an annual event and **Christmas Social**.

A range of 9 **Leadmill** beers were available, all at £1.70 a pint, including one specially renamed by **Richard** in honor of yours truly called **Billy's Bonce Blower** 6.7%.

One guest **Wye Valley Butty Bach** 4.5% and the regular **Cheddar Valley Cider** 6.0% were also available

A buffet was laid on with the entertainment being provided by the **Borrowwash** contingent.

Draught Bass 4.4% has become one of the regular real ales at the **King William Milford**.

The **Victoria Beeston** will be holding a Beer Festival over the **Easter Bank Holiday** weekend.

Brewery News

Leadmill-Denby

We have just learned that Lorna Turner from Hilo Hawaii visited the **Old Stables** in **Denby** earlier in the year, which just goes to show what lengths people will go to try Leadmill's beers!

Apparently investigations are about to take place on the feasibility of having Leadmill beers on a permanent basis at the **Red Lion** in the **Tramway Village** at **Crich**.

Del & Rods Real Ale Rambles

On Sunday 19th December 2004 along with two guests, Trigger & Uncle Albert we started our walk from Hartington, first visit was the cheese shop where we collected our Christmas cheese and then set off towards **Longnor**. On arrival we called in at **The Horseshoe** to find one real ale on offer, which was Mansfield Cask 3.9% at £2.00 per pint, a guest ale is available during the summer months. With no other choice we tried the Mansfield and not a bad drink. On leaving we walked straight across the road and into the **Crewe & Harper**, here we found two real ales, Marstons Bitter 4.0% at £1.80 per pint & Pedigree 4.5% at £2.10 per pint, we tried the bitter, reasonable drink, reasonable price. The next call was going to be **The Grapes** which was once again straight across the road but we were told it had been closed for three years so we decided to give it a miss and walk on to **The Cheshire Cheese**, this being a Robinson's pub we expected a couple of real ales, but no, just the one, Unicorn 4.2% at £1.86 per pint. Uncle Albert wasn't very impressed he thought it tasted a bit like mouthwash, very disappointing. Getting rather desperate for a good Christmas drink we decided to move on to **Crowdecote** where we visited **The Packhorse** and to our surprise three real ales, Timothy Taylors Landlord 4.3%, Worthington Cask 3.6% & Wychwood Festive Spirit 5.0%. At last a festive drink and at £2.10 per pint a reasonable price and a very nice drink.

The Fantastic Fours Magical Mystery Tour 6th November 2004

We arrived at Liverpool Lime Street station early in the morning, had a good breakfast, and then set about doing a hectic football and drinking session before Trigger & Julie went to the Marine F.C v Whitby F.C game. We set off and walked through **Liverpool** city centre for a good ten minutes before arriving at **The Lion Tavern**, which is

opposite Moorfields railway station. This pub is on CAMRA's National Inventory and has wonderful tile work around the bar and a beautiful stained glass dome in the lounge which has been restored to its original condition. The beers on offer were Highgate Dark Mild 3.4% £1.80 a pint, Hereford Pale Ale 4.0% and Robinson's Best 4.2%, both at £2.05 a pint. Well worth a visit.

After a short walk we came to Dale Road which had four pubs on which we were going to visit, the first being **Thomas Rigby's**, a nice pub with wooden floors & benches, beers on offer were, Fullers Mr Harry 4.8%, Greene King I.P.A 3.6%, Hampshire Bewitched 4.6%, and Ossett Warrior all at £2.10 a pint also Okells Bitter 3.7%, Doctor Okells 4.5% and Okells Wheat Beer 4.4% all at £1.90 a pint, another nice pub well worth visiting.

The next pub was the **Vernon Arms** this also had nice wooden floors and modern décor, the beers on offer were, Coach House Gunpowder Mild 3.8%, Archers Hares Revenge 4.2%, Archers Best Buddies 4.3 %, Millstone Windy Miller 4.1 %, Millstone Three Shires 4.0%, Cains F.A 5.0% and Herald 1036 3.7%, no price list available. From here we were going to call in at the **Excelsior** but this was closed and up for sale, not to worry just around the corner was the **Ship & Mitre**, for ales this had got to be the best pub of the day, the following beers were on offer! Outlaw Crystal Maze 3.9%, Jekyll's Gold 4.3%, Hydes Bitter, Hydes Mild 3.5%, Weetwood Best 3.8%, Dorothy Goodbodys Big Bang 5.0% & Wholesome Stout 4.6 %, Salopian Golden Thread 5.0%, Westwood Ambush 4.8% and to finish Sarah Hughes Ruby 6.0%. If this choice wasn't enough there was also German & Belgian bottled beers on sale. The landlord did inform us he was holding a beer festival between 17th & 20th November, as there was such a good choice we didn't care what the prices were!

After the match we had a quick half in **The Lion Tavern** then walked to Cumberland Street to the **Poste House**. It has been said that Charles Dickens used to drink here but we didn't see him on this occasion. On entering it was like walking into a house with one room downstairs and another bar upstairs, the pub had been saved from demolition with scaffolding on either side of it. A very old world place full of character with selotape holding the wallpaper on, the beers on offer being Cains Mild & Bitter & Cameron's Bitter.

MAB's Penzance & Scilly capers-Part 2

During our 11 nights on Scilly I managed to visit most of the alehouses but failed to get to St. Agnes where the **Turk's Head** is the most westerly pub in England and usually has Burton Bitter on. Although I went to **St. Martin's** I didn't get near the **Seven Stones** pub. However a check of the barrels on the quay showed that I wouldn't have missed much as it seemed that there had recently been St. Austell Tribute 4.2% and Skinner's Betty Stog's 4.0% on at this the only pub on the island. Likewise I never had time to visit the **Hell Bay Hotel** on **Bryher** but similar investigations on the quay showed that the hotel obtained its beer from the St. Austell Brewery.

So what of the pubs we did get to. Well the **New Inn** on **Tresco** (a former GBG entrant) was probably the best. Here the bar man clearly loved his job and was pleased to answer questions about his ale, which included Skinner's Green Hop 4.2% and Betty Stogs, along with Ales of Scilly Natural Beauty. He also informed me that there would be two beer festivals here next year, featuring 25 ales and live music. They are over the weekends of 14th May and 10th September (and late boats are available back to St. Marys as staying on Tresco is extortionate).

That's the off Islands covered so back to the main Island of St. Mary's where we were based. Our frequent early evening watering hole was the **Scillonian Club** where St. Austell Tribute was the only regular beer, although Wad worth's 6X came on whilst we were there. We ate there several times as the food was good (and cheap) and that was the centre of the main reason for us being on the island. This club used to be free of ties but now the former steward is a tenant of St. Austell Brewery and it shows, so Ales of Scilly can no longer showcase their brews here as they did in the past. Our late evening drinking took us to the **Atlantic Hotel** where St. Austell HSD, IPA 3.4% and Tribute were on offer and occasionally we called into the **Bishop & Wolf** where HSD, Tribute and St. Austell Tinnars (Thinners?) 3.7% were regularly dispensed. One night we visited the **Mermaid**, a pub with a distinct nautical feel to it, where Ales of Scilly Scuppered, Greene King IPA and Bass were on whilst the **Porthcressa Inn** had just Tribute available. The Scillonian Club, Atlantic, Porthcressa Inn and Bishop are all owned by St. Austell Brewery, I'm not sure about the Mermaid but the one true free house on St. Mary's is the **Old Town Inn** where Ales of Scilly

Visit reports continued...

Scuppered and Natural Beauty was on along with Doom Bar.

So ended a very convivial trip to the southwest. Whilst the variety of ale on the Scillies is never good the islands are well worth a visit just for their beauty and Tresco for a beer festival does sound appealing. If staying in Penzance then the Star at Crowlas and the Alexandra are the two pubs to aim for with perhaps the Pirates Inn and Mexico Inn worth a quick look. Failing that there's always Helston and the famous Spingo Ales, which we missed this year.

-o-o-o-o-o-

On Sunday 11th November we were walking in Leicestershire and started from the village of **Appleby Magna** where the local pub is **The Old Crown**, as it was only 9.45am it was closed so we will save it for another day. We set off for the village of **Shackerstone** where on arrival we visited the local pub **The Rising Sun**. A very nice village pub with a wood paneled bar area, pool room and a separate eating area, and serving three real ales, Hampshire Brewery's Good King Censlas 5.0% at £2.50 per pint, Pedigree 4.5% and Timothy Taylors Landlord 4.3%, we tried the Good King Censlas a very nice drink but at £2.50 a pint rather expensive for 5.0%. On leaving the Rising Sun we set off for the village off **Newton Bergoland** to visit the G.B.G entry **The Belper Arms** and we were not disappointed as five real ales were on offer. Two regulars Hook Norton Bitter 3.4% & Pedigree 4.5% both at £2.25 per pint plus three guest ales, Greene King IPA 3.6%, Robinson's Double Hop 5.0% & Ushers Winter Storm 4.0% all at £2.30 per pint, we tried the Winter Storm a very nice drink in a pub full of character and well worth a visit. It was very hard to pull ourselves away from here but we decided to make for the village of **Snarestone** where just outside the village we came across a pub called **The Odd House**, not knowing what to expect we decided to call in and were pleasantly surprised. Three ales on offer Pedigree as a regular plus two guests, Jennings Redbreast 4.5% & Bateman's Rosey Nosey 4.9% both at £2.30 per pint Del tried the Redbreast; Rod the Rosey Nosey, The Redbreast was a bit bland but the Rosey Nosey very nice. **Del & Rod**

The Bald Spot

This month sees the start a regular feature by the Bald Eagle.

On Saturday 27th November Fly South & myself attended the **George & Dragon**

Beer festival at **Old Brampton** and attempted the Brampton Mile. Fly South had done the mile before (well some of it) but when he suggested adding a beer festival I jumped at the chance. We caught the Red Arrow in to Chesterfield on a £3.50 Zig zag and then caught Sulleys Bus No 170 to Brampton which runs at 5 minutes past the hour from bay 12. We bought a £2.40 return ticket. We asked the Driver to drop us off near the George and Dragon; he said that there was no problem as the bus stop was right outside the door.

The first thing we saw on entering the pub was the rack with several barrels on it. Several other beers were on hand pumps in both bars and others were available from the cellar. I can't remember all the beers we tried (six I think) however Banks & Taylors Black Dragon Mild, Kelham Island Pale Rider, Burton Bridge Porter, a lemon & Ginger beer were all served in top condition by the landlady who certainly knows how to run a beer festival. Before we left we tried the beef and the cheese and pickle cobs, good value at £1 each, however onward! The Mile beckoned so it was back on the bus from opposite the pub and headed into Brampton. Our first port of call was the **Rose & Crown** a large open plan pub with a snug, which was sadly, closed.

The two beers on offer were John Smiths Cask and Brains SA (which for the uninitiated stands for Skull Attack) two SA's were bought- Fine the only problem was the fag smoke, which lay in a fog around the room. The bloke behind the bar listened to our complaints and put the extractor on (why wasn't it on from the start?). Next stop was the **Britannia** a pub with several interconnecting rooms, all different. There were three ales on, Stones Bitter, Deuchars IPA (Yum) and one of Fly's favourites Fuller London Pride. Again the beers were very well kept. Next a short stroll to the **Victoria** (probably my favourite pub on the circuit). The Landlord met us with a friendly greeting and the sight of several hand pumps wasn't bad either, Adnams Bitter, Black Sheep, Green King IPA, Tetley and guest Hereford Pale Ale (HPA) from Wye Valley. Two halves of HPA were had in excellent condition in this very comfortable two-roomed pub.

The Landlord recommended the Taylors Landlord at the **Star**, our next pub, we thanked him and left as it was getting near to 4pm and some of the pubs close in the afternoon on the mile.

As we neared the Star we passed the Peacock, which boasted several real ales including Titanic Iceberg. Still we went to the Star first. I went with the Taylors Landlord whilst Fly South had the guest Jennings Robin Red Breast both were in fine fettle.

The Landlord at the Vic was right. We then returned to the **Peacock** where we were told it was closed. To be fair it was five past four but other people were drinking full pints and there is supposed to be 20 minutes supping up time, surely enough time to serve up two halves? Still rules are rules.

We then passed one or two pubs, which we didn't go into as there wasn't any real ale or the choice was poor.

I think, hic, the next pub we went into was the **Barrel Inn** if I'm wrong I heartedly apologise, it did, however have three real ales on our choice being the Deuchars IPA which we drank whilst watching the football results coming in on the large screen. Our final pub was the **Royal Oak**, which had the widest selection of real ales available including three from Whim in Hartington, Arbor Light, Hartington Best Bitter and the seasonal Columbus, Theakstons Bitter and Old Peculiar, and a great marketing ploy, O'Hanlons Royal Oak served in a pub with the same name-brilliant idea! Two other beers were on the other side of the bar. This was a brilliant day out which we would recommend to anyone. Please note there are other pubs on the mile these were just our favourites.

The Exadman Column

Another visit to the Manchester area this month, this time to **Stalybridge Buffet Bar**, a truly wonderful building dating back to around 1895, and one of only 3 left of its kind in Britain. It comprises 3 rooms, with a no smoking area and has retained many of its original features. It is situated on Stalybridge Railway Station, and on entering the bar there is the conservatory to the left and another room to the right, which is where the no smoking area can be found. Pictures, posters and other railway memorabilia adorn the walls of the bar, as well as 8 hand pumps serving a variety of guest beers, often from local microbreweries and always in excellent condition. There are bar snacks available, including black peas, a local delicacy rarely seen elsewhere. The Buffet Bar is a long time Good Beer Guide regular, and can be easily reached from either Manchester Piccadilly or Manchester Victoria Railway Stations, just look for trains to

Huddersfield or Stalybridge itself they are fairly frequent from either station. The Buffet Bar is in CAMRA's National Inventory Appendix section and should you venture out that way you will be assured of a

warm welcome, both from the bar staff and the customers. The opening hours are 11 - 11 Monday to Saturday and 12 - 1030 Sunday, so make it a point to get up there next time you are in the Manchester area, if you do

you will not be disappointed. For more information Stalybridge Buffet Bar visit www.buffetbar.co.uk

Proposed Trips The Brampton Mile Real Ale pub-crawl, date to be advised: Contact Charisma on 07974 171243.

Beer Festival Diary

21st to 22nd January West Avenue Social Club Mini Beer Festival, Butt Lane-Kidsgrove.

26th to 29th January 2005 National Winter Ales Beer Festival New Century House-Manchester.

27th to 29th January Bent & Bongs Beer Bash (Atherton Beer Festival) Formby Hall, High Street Atherton-Manchester.

27th to 30th January Crescent Beer Festival-Salford.

28th January Nottingham Boat Club Beer Festival Trent Bridge-Nottingham.

28th to 29th January 10th Winter Ales Beer Festival, Town Hall-Burton upon Trent.

28th to 29th January King William Mini Beer Festival-Milford.

4th to 5th February Lichfield Winter Beer & Wine Festival Kings Head Bird Street-Lichfield.

4th to 5th February Out of the Vaults, 1st Beer Festival- Leicester.

4th to 5th February Chesterfield 7th Beer Festival The Winding Wheel-Chesterfield.

4th to 6th February Ashfield Beer Festival, Festival Hall, Hodgkinson Road-Kirkby in Ashfield.

9th to 12th February Derby Winter Beer Festival, Assembly Rooms-Derby.

10th to 12th February Fleetwood Beer Festival Marine Hall Esplanade-Fleetwood.

11th February The Black Horse Beer Festival-Old Bolingbroke.

11th February The Three Horseshoes Archers Brewery-Waddington.

16th to 19th February 13th Rotherham Oakwood "Back to the BAA" Beer Festival, Oakwood Technology College Moor Road-Rotherham.

16th to 19th February Liverpool Beer Festival Ales from the Crypt Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral Crypt, Brownlow Hill-Liverpool.

17th to 20th February Barton Arms 2nd Anniversary Beer Festival Aston-Birmingham.

18th to 20th February Ilford Club 2nd Beer Festival-Ilkeston.

24th to 26th February Bradford beer Festival Victoria Hall-Saltaire.

25th to 27th February Royal Oak Winter Beer Festival, -Watnall, (In the log cabin at the rear of the pub).

4th to 6th March Loughborough Beer Festival the Polish Club, True Lovers Walk, off William Street-Loughborough.

4th to 5th March Lloyds/Fantasy Brewery Beer Festival, (Scottish Micros) -Nuneaton.

5th to 6th March 7th Bristol Beer Festival The Brunel Shed, Temple Meads Station Approach-Bristol.

10th to 12th March Darlington Spring Thing Festival, Arts Centre, Vane Terrace-Darlington.

10th to 12th March Leeds Beer, Cider & Perry Festival Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner-Pudsey.

16th to 19th March Leicester Beer Festival, Charotar Patidar Samaj, off St Margaret's Way, near St Margaret's church-Leicester.

17th to 19th March Wars of the Roses Beer Festival Priory Street Centre, Priory Street-York.

18th to 19th March Coventry City Beer Festival Coventry City Football Ground, East Stand Mall, Swan Lane-Coventry.

19th to 20th March Oldham Beer Festival Queen Elizabeth Hall, West Street-Oldham.

25th to 27th March Mini Easter Beer Festival Suddaby's, Wheelgate-Malton.

25th to 27th March Old Poets Corner Beer Festival-Ashover.

25th to 28th March Wellington, Easter Beer Festival-Birmingham.

7th to 9th April Walsall Beer Festival Walsall Town Hall, Leicester Street-Walsall.

22nd to 23rd April Mallard Beer Festival, The Mallard, Railway Station-Worksop.

29th April to 1st May Philadelphia Blues Festival Participating Northern Quarter Pubs-Sheffield.

20th to 22nd May Rail Ale Festival-Barrow Hill Roundhouse.

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

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, out and about with the Bald Eagle and the Harper family new year ales trip in and around Keswick.

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](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, Didler, Delboy, Rodney, Trigger, Uncle Albert, Postman Pat, Davo, Julie, MAB, Exadman, Bald Eagle, Fly South, Tomato Man, Park Avenue Fan, Beer Monster & Sooty-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.