



RuRAD Rural Real Ale Drinkers

In The Sticks

March 2006

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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.

If you want to receive a copy electronically e-mail billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk

Or for back issues log on to

<http://www.leadmillbrewery.co.uk/Rurad.html>

Number Crunching

In this issue we bring you news of 51 pubs in 30 different locations, 4 Breweries and 40 Beer Festivals.

Beer and Pub News

Congratulations go to Pauline and Steve at the **Hill Top Belper** on achieving the Cask Marque accreditation for their range of Hardys & Hansons ales. - *Midshiresman*

A visit to the GBG listed **Dead Poets Inn Holbrook** on Saturday 18th February found Woodford Wherry 3.8% at £2.20, Abbeydale Absolution 5.3% at £2.40, Lancaster's Blonde 4.5% at £2.20, Shepherd Neame Spitfire 4.5% at £2.30, Taylor's Landlord 4.3% at £2.40 and Leatherbritches Hairy Helmet 4.7% at £2.40 a pint. Additionally being served from the jug was Abbot Ale at £2.40 and Pedigree at £2.35 as well as Weston's Old Rosie Cider 7.3% at £2.60.

On Friday 17th February I took a walk down the A6 in **Belper** to call in at the **Tavern**, formerly the Railway Tavern.

The pub is a free house and run by Belper's longest serving landlord William Brady whose previous pubs have included the Cross Keys in Belper and the Hanging Gate at Shottle. One real ale was available in the shape of Marstons Pedigree at £2.30 a pint.

The **Queens Head Little Eaton** is to let (Tenanted), according to Hardys & Hansons website www.hardysandhansons.plc.uk

Simon and the team will be holding a "no bells no whistles and no t-Shirts" mini Beer Festival from the 17th to the 18th of March at the **Queens Head in Belper**.

The list of guest beers includes Exmoor Gold, Taylors Landlord, Robinsons Best Bitter, Bradfield Farmers Stout, Young's Waggledance and Marstons Pedigree.

The competition to name "Rural man", the character on the top left of our newsletter, is now closed. The list of entries is being drawn up and will be submitted to Richard Creighton, the head brewer of the **Leadmill Brewery** for him to choose the most appropriate entry. Once selected and the lucky winner will be invited to help brew a commemorative beer by the same name at the recently refurbished Park Hall Brewery.

The details will appear in next month's newsletter.

Doveridge Village Club near Sudbury

Staffordshire on are holding a beer festival from Friday 20th to Saturday 21st October 2006 which is a 15 barrel event in the village club, membership I am told is not required during the festival period. I was on a Caravan Rally last year and was able to attend and had a great time if you any one is interested to what was on offer I still have the list of beers. - *Nomadic Rex*

The **Red Lion Ripley** had an impressive range of real ales on offer when Half Pint & I called in for lunch on Saturday 25th February. The regular real ales on offer included Marstons Pedigree, Burton Bitter, Courage Directors, Old Speckled Hen and Theakstons Old Peculiar the guests were Spinning Dog Oat Meal Stout 4.4% at £1.75, Arundel Stronghold 4.7%, Coach House Innkeepers 4.5% and Ironside 9G 4.2% together with Westons Old Rosie Cider 7.3%.

On Saturday 25th Feb Half Pint, Jonathan Kriek and I met up with other specially invited guests at Curad HQ (the **Falstaff** on Silverhill Road **Derby**) as part of one of our columnist 55th Birthday celebrations.

To commemorate the occasion Jim had brewed a one off special called "Still Very Much Alive at Fifty-Five" a 5.5% a dark rich tasting beer which went down well accompanied by the usual range of Falstaff beers, good music and an excellent buffet of hot and cold food.

On Sunday 5th March the **Blue Bell Farnah Green** had Black Sheep Bitter replacing Fullers London Pride from previous week suggesting that the pub now has a rotating guest beer policy. - *Old Horse*

Colin's "Brewery of the Month" for this month at the **Cross Keys Belper** continues with beers from the Mordue Brewery in Tyne & Wear and will include:- Millennium Bridge 3.8%, Geordie Pride 4.2%, Black Midden 4.4%, Workie Ticket 4.5% and IPA 5.1%.

Other forthcoming attractions will be Derby Oberburgermeister 5.2%, Castle Rock Elsie Mo 4.7%, Burton Bridge Top Dog Stout 5.0%, Highwood Lincolnshire Legend 4.2% and Hadrian & Border Centurion 4.5%.

Westons Old Rosie 7.3% and Herefordshire Perry 4.5% are now available on a regular basis with the perry being an incredible £1.80 a pint.

This month sees the trial of a new idea the "Friday Five Pub Crawls" (borrowed from our friends in York Camra) where we meet up in a pub in a chosen location for a pub-crawl of five pre selected pubs in the area.

(We don't necessarily stick to five pubs it's just that it rhymes nicely with Friday).

What better way to visit new pubs and keep up to date with what's happening on the Real Ale scene? The first Friday Five starts in **Milford** on Friday 31st March at the recently Cask Marque accredited **New Inn** on Hopping Hill at 7pm we then move onto the **Mill House** for 7.45pm, **Strutt Arms** for 8.15pm, the **King William** for 8.45pm finishing up at the GBG listed **Hollybush** in **Makeney** at 9.15pm. Suggestions for future Friday Fives are welcome.

Word on the street is that the **Miners Welfare** in **South Wingfield** is planning a Beer Festival later in the year. Discussions are at an early stage.

The **Midland Railway Centre** at **Ripley** is planning a couple of Real Ale Trains to celebrate their silver jubilee. Dates are May 6th and Sept 2nd. No times as yet.

Edward of the Leathbritches Fenny Bentley fame was spotted serving behind the bar of the **Green Man** in **Ashbourne** on Shrove Tuesday. On offer were Up'ards Ale, a 5.2% IPA (my beer of the year so far) and a 4.0% Down'ards Ashbourne style Ale. For the confused reader, Ashbourne hosts the centuries old "Royal Shrovetide" football match between Ashbournians born on the Up'ards side of the River Henmore and those born on the Down'ard side of the river. These 2 Ales were brewed especially for this year's battle. - *Wheatcroft Wanderer*

Ripley Round up

Thursday 2nd February

The **Prince of Wales** had Marstons Pedigree £2.20, very good. Also Shepherd Neame Spitfire available.

Friday 4th February 2006

The **Hippodrome** had one real ale on offer in the shape of Courage Directors 4.8%.

We were treated to a look in the old cinema, which still has the screen and projection room, but alas, not all of the seats were in place.

A two minute walk found us at GBG listed **Pear Tree** where Kimberley Bitter, Kimberley Mild 3.5% at £1.90, Olde Trip and seasonal guest Fata! Distraction 4.5% were all available.

From here we set off on a 10-minute walk past the hospital enroute to the **Woodman** on Maple Avenue, another H&H pub, with Kimberley Bitter and Kimberley Mild at £1.99 a pint.

There must have been some sort of celebration going on because there was a large buffet set up in the corner.

Next we walked down Norman Road to the **Horse & Jockey** on Cromford Road, which on my last visit had at least three real ales on, however tonight we had to make do with Marstons Pedigree 4.5% at £2.20 a pint and a loud Karaoke session.

Undeterred we pressed on to the **Red Lion** the spoons pub which by this time was about 9.30 pm and the place was absolutely packed out. Another disappointment as it had only Abbot and Herold Swartzbier 5.2% at £1.76.

From here we crossed the road to the **Three Horse Shoes** where the music was booming and a pair of door technicians on the door who insisted I remove my hat on the way in for security reasons?

One real ale was on offer Deuchars IPA at £2.26 a pint, which was served to us by the bar staff who were all wearing schoolgirl uniforms. -*Billy & Jed*

The list of beers for the **Grapes Beer Festival** in **Belper** which runs from the 23rd to the 25th of March is as follows: - Jennings Golden Host 4.3%, Adnams Explorer 4.3%, Archers Crystal Clear 5.0%, St Austell Tribute 4.2%, Highgate Beezone 3.8%, Tom Woods Old Timber 4.5%, Springhead Charlie's Angel 4.5%, York Yorkshire Terrier 4.2%, Deuchars IPA 3.8% and Hop Back Odyssey 4.0%. Regular beers on the bar will be Marstons Pedigree and Burton Ale plus one other guest. There will also be Irish music on the Friday and Saturday nights.

The **Old Crown** at Cavendish Bridge **Shardlow** is holding a Beer Festival on Friday evening the 24th and all day Saturday 25th March with approx 15 beers some from Highgate, Highwood, St Austell, Hopback, Caledonian, Springhead, Archers & York among others; Music & Burger Bar also Available.

Whilst out walking from Matlock on Friday 3rd of March JB called in at the **Miners Standard** in **Winster** to find regular Marstons Pedigree and sample a refreshing pint Flowers IPA at £2.18.

The **Talbot Hotel** on Bridge Foot **Belper** had regular Pedigree and guest Hydes HPA 4.5% at £2.40 a pint available on the 11th of February.

Some interesting beers have been appearing on Friday and Saturday nights at the GBG listed **White Post** at **Stanley Common**; a selection of those noted recently includes Lancaster Flamin Nora 4.8%, Derby Heritage 5.1%, Falstaff 12th Night 6.5%, Great Oakley Tailshaker 5.0%, Falstaff Step to the Right 6.5%, Milestone IPA 4.0%, Tower Gone for a Burton 4.6% and Falstaff Oh Mummy 10.0%.

On Friday 10th of February Del Boy & I accompanied Steady Steve on a visit to **West Bridgeford Hockey Clubs Beer Festival**. The winter beers were Arundel Chillli Willi 4.6%, Atlas Blizzard 4.7%, Brakspear Brass Monkey 4.0%, Cotliagh Snowy 5.0%, Dent Frosty Weather 4.5%, Mauldon Mid-Winter Gold 4.5%, Oakham Black Hole Porter 5.5%, Phoenix Snowbound 4.3%, Titanic Iceberg 4.1% & Young's Winter Warmer 5.0%. There were also 3 Summer beers (a notice said "for those dreaming of steamy summer days chasing chickens.....?"), these were Hopback Summer Lightning 5.0%, RCH Steam Sale 4.5% & Roosters Leghorn 4.3%. Between the three of us we managed to try all except the Hopback and Steady Steve once again managed to pick the runt (Brass Monkey). Good beer and a nice friendly atmosphere. -*Rodders*

Down Under with Me Owd Conker

I took a visit to the "Victorian Microbreweries Beer Festival" at Federation Square in **Melbourne** yesterday 8th February. 54 beers from 16 microbreweries were available from around the state of Victoria. Not quite at the scale we're used to but nevertheless it's a good start. Entrance was \$20 (about £8.50), which included 20 beer samples (1 sample was 65ml, so 20 x 65ml = 1.3liter, about 2.5 pints).

Friday 24th Feb decided to try **Matlock** for a change. Started from the train station about one o'clock with a good climb to the **Sycamore**. On offer, Black Sheep 3.8%, Adnam's Bitter 3.7% and Draught Bass 4.4%. More climbing, then the **Thorn tree** with Adnam's and Black Sheep again, TT Landlord 4.3% and Everards Tiger 4.2%. Didn't try the **Duke of Wellington**, but the usual H&H array was visible through the window. Down now to the **Gate** No real ale, but pumps on the bar ready, and should be starting a couple soon, probably including Pedigree. Next the **Horseshoe**, offering Wells Bombardier 4.3% and a very peculiar Old Peculiar 5.6% - not quite off, but definitely not on. Next door(ish) the **Red Lion** had Courage Director's 4.8% and Peak Ales Bitter 4.2%, the best pint so far. Finally, the **Crown** had the usual abundance, including Spitfire 4.5% and Abbot 5.0%. A change, but no real excitement. -*Midshiresman*

Did some serious wandering last month.

Stumbled into South Africa's only Micro Brewery in **Cape Town**. Down on the superb Victoria and Albert Docks is **Michells Brewery**. They have a dark beer, Raven. Imagine a good home brewers attempt at Theakstons Old Peculiar and you're there. Bosun Bitter at 3.8% is good & John Smiths-ish, their lager, called 'Draught' at 5% is an excellent thirst quencher in the hot climate. And for the head bangers, a 7% 'milk & honey' ale. I'll give you honey but no milky tastes. A pint and a half costs £1:90!!!- *Wheatcroft Wanderer*

On Saturday 28th January I travelled by train up to West Yorkshire to meet the Gentle Giant for a tour of the Good Beer Guide pubs in **Wakefield**. We had arranged to meet up at **Henry Boons** on Westgate which is about 5 minutes walking from Wakefield Westgate station.

The GG had arrived some time before me and had introduced himself to Gareth the Landlord who was very obliging offering the chance to sample the beers before buying them.

My last recorded visit to this pub was in February 1985 so I was well overdue another visit.

Four real ales were on offer including regulars Clark's Classic Blond 3.9% and Taylors Landlord with Clark's Rams Revenge 4.6%, Wakey Wakey 4.4% £2.12 as the guests.

We then proceeded to systematically knock off the rest of the pubs in the GBG including the National Inventory listed **Redoubt Inn** on Horbury Road.

Unfortunately due to space constraints we are unable to print the full report, however If anyone would like the full report please email Billy.

Brewery News

Bottlebrook-Kilburn

As we go to print we understand that brewing is imminent and Richard hopes to have the first two brews, one a 4.7% the other around 5.3%, both available for the Leicester Beer Festival later this month.

Danelaw-Chellaston

www.danelawbrewery.co.uk

Improvements were being made to the copper in early March, which involved replacing the wooden jacket with stainless steel and therefore reducing the fire risk. The work is being carried out by Andy Fairbanks a an experienced sheet metal worker and non ferrous welder in the food and brewing industry for further details contact afairbanks@supanet.com

Falstaff-Normanton

www.falstaffbrewery.co.uk

Jim recently brewed a one off special called "Still Very Much Alive at Fifty-Five" a 5.5% to commemorate one of our columnist 55th Birthday.

The latest beers to appear in the Time Warp theme include Jump to the Left 4.0%, Step to the Right 6.5% and Time Warp 4.5%.

Funfair Brewing Co-Ilkeston

www.funfairbrewingcompany.com

The Showman's IPA 5.3%, which appeared in mid February, is set to be the first in the range of Showman's beers and will include a Mild, Bitter, Stout and Gold.

Showman's Gold 4.4% is set to make its debut later this month at the Leicester Beer Festival.

The traditional pale copper coloured bitter to be brewed for the St Georges day parade in Ilkeston is to be called. Pride of Ilson 4.0%.

Funfair beers could soon be appearing on a regular basis at the Wellington on Bennets Hill Birmingham.

Following requests for the popular seasonal Christmas Cakewalk 6.5% Dave has brewed a slightly lower gravity version at 6.0% called Cakewalk which will become one of the "core range" of beers.

Del & Rod's Real Ale Rambles

On Sunday 12th February we started our walk from Holymoorside, which isn't far from Chesterfield and made our way to Cutthorpe, on the way Del Boy got the mother of all bootys (in fact it was more like a leggy, I was surprised his boot was still on when he got out). We passed the **Royal Oak** at **Brampton** and the 2005 GBG listed **Gate Inn** (now the Gate Inn Restaurant) at **Cutthorpe**, we've been in both and consider neither worth a re-visit instead we decided on the spur of the moment to call in the **Peacock** at Cutthorpe. This is a pub we've walked past a time or two and after this visit I now know why! Though it did have Wells Bombardier 4.3% & Greene King Abbot Ale 5.0% on hand pull it's too much of an eatery for our liking. We carried on through Cutthorpe and just after the **Three Merry Lads** (another eatery) we headed towards Old Brampton via Linacre Reservoirs. At **Old Brampton** we came out at the church, the clock face has got 63 minutes on it ?? (I counted them), and headed straight across the road to the GBG listed **George & Dragon** on Main Road, a Sign outside said "Muddy boots welcome" Del Boy hoped muddy trousers where welcome too. Three real ales were available Adnams Bitter 3.7%, Marstons Pedigree 4.5% & Skinners Best Bitter 3.8% (and we saw the pump clip this time) the other guest beer had gone and was going to be replaced with Jennings Cumberland 4.0%. This is a wonderfully friendly pub and is well worth a visit, the only thing missing was a roaring fire to help dry Del Boys trouser leg. There is a beer festival on the 19th May.

Sunday 19th of February saw us start our walk from Oxton in Nottinghamshire, this is new territory for us and I had to buy a map of the area which cost me £7.49....robbing gits. We headed off up Windmill Hill and passed Loath Hill, which apparently affords one of the best views in the county (on a clear day you can see parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Lincolnshire, on a foggy day you can see bugger all), and joined the Robin Hood Way which took us on it's meandering and undulating way to the village of **Halam** and the GBG listed **Waggon & Horses** on The Turnpike. At this Thwaite's eatery muddy boots

are definitely not welcome so we donned our boot bags and entered to find Thwaite's Original 3.6%, Thoroughbred 4.0% & Lancaster Bomber 4.4% and all except one of the tables set for dining. Del tried the Thoroughbred and I tried the Bomber (in corresponding glasses) both were in good order but at £2.50 a pint we thought a tad overpriced but there were bowls of pigs nipples on the bar. From there it was a short walk to **Edingley** where we called in the **Old Reindeer** on Main Street (which for some insane reason has got a Red Deer on the pub sign) and had a choice from Mansfield Cask 3.9%, Cameron's Creamy 3.6% & Strongarm 4.0%, Marstons Sweet Chariot 4.8% & Red Brick Double Barrel 4.3%. Having not heard of Red Brick and the landlord couldn't shed any light on it either, we gave it a whirl and it was ok but not worth £2.50 a pint....maybe it's the going rate in these parts. We then got on to the Southwell Trail which lead us to **Farnsfield** and the GBG listed **Red Lion** on Main Street where we had a choice from Marstons Pedigree 4.5%, Mansfield Cask & Jennings Cocker Hoop 4.6% which we tried and didn't think much to. On the way back we stopped for a bite at a memorial that marked the site where Halifax Bomber MZ519 LK-U of 578 squadron crashed in 1944 after returning from a raid on a V1 site at Croixdelle. All crew members, who were aged between 20 and 24, were killed....it makes £2.50 a pint seem so trivial.

On Sunday 26th of February we started our walk from the car park at Middleton Top near Wirksworth. We walked a short way along the High Peak Trail before cutting down towards Carsington Reservoir then making our way up the other side via Callow & Moorside to **Kirk Ireton** and the magnificent **Barley Mow**. If you haven't been in this GBG & NI listed pub WHY NOT???? It is an absolute classic where all the beers, which on our visit were Burton Bridge Damson Porter 4.5%, Hartington IPA 4.5%, Cottage Ernie Ales 4.5%, Storm Silk of Amnesia 4.7% & Hook Norton Old Hooky 4.6% all priced between £2.05 & £2.20, are served straight from the barrel as nature intended and always in good order. There was also Thatcher's Cider at £1.80 but the most reassuring thing was that the lager was the most expensive drink at £2.50...there's one in the eye for the fizz drinkers. Del Boy found a small ball in the road so we amused ourselves by kicking it all the way down Wapentake Lane and Dark Lane 'til we got fed up. It did try to snow on several occasions but failed miserably we hoped it was saving itself for our trip to the Lake District next week.-*Rodders*

The Ex Adman Column

This month, we visit Lancashire and the **Black Horse at Preston**, a true classic in every sense of the word. The pub can be found on Friargate, in the town's main shopping area, and is only a few minutes walk from Preston Railway Station. Grade II listed, the pub consists of 4 rooms connected by a corridor. On entering from Friargate the two rooms on either side of the corridor, featuring pictures of old Preston, are well worth seeing but it is further back, in the heart of the pub, where the true riches are to be found. To the right of the main servery is a magnificent ceramic bar in cream and light green, and beautifully tiled floor and walls. The room on the left has a timber counter base and sash windows containing Art Nouveau glass. Deeper into the pub there is an alcove with fixed seating, and abundant coloured glass design. The Black Horse is, deservedly, a recipient of an English Heritage/CAMRA pub refurbishment award. It is a Robinson's pub, a regular in the Good Beer Guide and one of only three Lancashire pubs in the National Inventory. If you are intending to visit this classic pub, and it is more than worth it, the telephone number is 01772 252093 if you need to check the opening hours.

Big Foz's Travels with (and without) his Dad

1st February 2006

Lathkill Hotel, Over Haddon

Cottage Gone with the Whippet, Cottage Great Eastern, Whim Hartington IPA

BigFoz says: what do you think?

BigDave says: I think the clientele are top hole, old bean!

BigFoz says: I meant the ale.

BigDave says: it's very good but can we go somewhere else now?

George Hotel, Youlgreave

Peak Bakewell Ale, Old Speckled Hen, John Smith Bitter, Theakstons Mild

BigDave says: I'm going to have to make a complaint here.

BigFoz says: what about?

BigDave says: there's too much food and it's too nice!

2nd February 2006

Royal Oak, South Normanton

Cottage Double Century, Castle Rock Curlew, Brewster Marquis Bitter

BigFoz says: nice enough pub; friendly staff; good beer...that's about it, really.

16th February 2006

Three Crowns, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire
Kelham Island Kelham Gold, Titanic White Star,

Nottingham Rock Mild, Landlord, Adnam's Bitter

BigFoz says: nice pub; good ale. I suppose I should be grateful you didn't fall down coming in.

Dad says: ah, but I could always fall down going out

Star, West Leake, Nottinghamshire.

Bass, Deuchars, Fuller London Pride, Landlord BigFoz says: beer's so-so, but there's something that doesn't work about the pub.

Dad says: probably because they're more concerned about the food.

Horse and Groom, Linby, Nottinghamshire

IPA, Theakstons Mild, Hart Nemesis the Goddess of Revenge, Slaters Supreme

BigFoz says: nothing new to report here except I've

just drunk some of, what must be the longest titled beer in the world.

17th February 2006

Alexandra Hotel, Derby

Castle Rock Elsie Mo, Fine Leg, Harvest Pale, Rudgate Battle Axe, York Centurion's Ghost Ale Archer Pie Eater, Pedigree, Milestone

Loxley BigFoz says: looks a lot cleaner now it's reopened but that's about it.

Dad says: new landlord tries too hard.

28th February 2006

La Corte, Campo San Polo, Venice, Italy

Tennent Super, Forst Blonde, Forst Sixtus,

Maisel Weisse

BigFoz says: excellent atmosphere; excellent ale; excellent food in the restaurant next door.

BigJoan says: and no dad to fall in the canals.

BigFoz says: always a plus point.

Proposed Trips

Saturday 17th March bus trip to Old Poets Corner Spring Beer Festival Ashover. Contact Charisma on 07974 171243.

Saturday 1st April "RoRAT" (Rodney's Real Ale Tours) by train visiting GBG & NI pubs in Birmingham city centre & Digbeth. Contact Rodney on 01332 726604.

Friday 19th May bus trip to Rail Ale Festival, Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Contact Charisma on 07974 171243.

Beer Festival Diary - 3 Month Look Ahead

12th to 19th March Light & Dark Beer Festival The Bell, Angel Row, Old Market Square-Nottingham. www.thebell-inn.com

15th to 18th March Leicester Beer Festival, The Charotar Pitidar Samaj, off St Margaret's Way-Leicester. www.camra.org.uk/leicester

16th to 18th March Leeds Beer, Cider & Perry Festival, Civic Hall-Pudsey. www.leedsbeerfestival.co.uk

16th to 19th March Old Poets Corner Spring Beer Festival-Ashover. www.oldpoets.co.uk

16th to 19th March Anchor Inn St Patrick's Day Beer Festival, Bradford Street-Digbeth. www.the-anchor-inn.fsnet.co.uk

17th to 18th March Queens Head Mini Beer Festival, Chesterfield Road-Belper. www.thequeenshead.net

17th to 18th March Bingham Beer Festival, Bingham Rugby Club, Brendon Road-Bingham.

23rd to 25th March The Grapes Beer Festival, High Street-Belper.

23rd to 25th March 19th Wigan Beer Festival Robin Park Indoor Sports Centre, Loire Drive-Wigan.

23rd to 25th March 2nd Pendle Beer Festival, Municipal Hall, Colne. www.eastlancscamra.org.uk

23rd to 25th March Preston Beer Festival St. Walburge's Parish Centre, Weston Street-Preston.

23rd to 25th March Walsall Beer Festival Walsall Town Hall, Lichfield Street-Walsall. www.camra.org.uk/walsall

24th to 25th March Old Crown Beer Festival, Cavendish Bridge-Shardlow.

24th to 25th March Coventry Beer Festival, Rugby Football Ground, The Butts Park Arena, Butts Road-Coventry.

24th to 25th March 9th Bristol Beer Festival, the Brunel Shed, Temple Meads Station Approach-Bristol.

24th to 25th March 20th Oldham Beer Festival Queen Elizabeth Hall-Oldham. www.robcamra.org.uk

24th to 26th March Bulls Head Beer Festival, Main Street-Ratby.

1st to 2nd April Derby Rowing Club Beer Festival, Darley Grove, North Parade-Derby. www.derbyrowingclub.com

6th to 9th April Ilford Pub Beer Festival, Station Road-Ilkeston.

6th to 9th April Shovels Beer Festival The Shovels, Common Edge Road-Blackpool.

6th to 9th April 15th Mansfield Beer & Cider Festival, Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road-South Mansfield. www.mansfieldcamra.org.uk

6th to 9th Royal Oak Beer Festival Main Road-Watnall.

9th to 12th April Pump & Truncheon Beer Festival, Bonney Street-Blackpool.

14th to 15th April Out of the Vaults Beer Festival, King Street-Leicester. www.outofthevaults.com

14th to 17th April Boat Inn Easter Beer Festival, Scarthin-Cromford. www.theboatatcromford.co.uk

14th to 17th April Charters Easter Weekend Beer Festival, Town Bridge-Peterborough.

14th to 17th April Wellington Beer Festival, Bennets Hill-Birmingham.

14th to 17th April Harboro' Hotel Beer Festival, Burton Road-Melton Mowbray. www.harborohotel.com

19th to 23 April Bold Forester Beer Festival, Botany Avenue-Mansfield.

20th to 23rd April Steampacket Inn St Georges Beer Festival, Derby Road-Swanwick.

21st to 22nd April Mallard St Georges Beer Festival, Station Approach-Worksop Train Station.

28th April to 2nd May Royal oak Beer Festival, Tamworth Road-Long Eaton.

28th to 30th April Philadelphia Beer & Blues Festival, various pubs in Sheffield. philadelphiabluesfest.hummingbirdsbluesband.co.uk

4th to 6th May Old Oak Beer Festival-Horsley Woodhouse.

10th to 21st May Wetherspoons Beer Festival at participating outlets. www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk

19th to 20th May Rail Ale Festival, Barrow Hill Roundhouse. www.barrowhill.org.uk

19th to 21st May Queens Head Beer Festival, Chesterfield Road-Belper. www.thequeenshead.net

19th to 21st May Needlemakers Arms Beer Festival, Kensington Street-Ilkeston.

25th to 27th May Lincoln Beer Festival, Drill Hall, Free School Lane-Lincoln. www.lincolncamra.org.uk

26th to 28th May Newark Beer Festival-Riverside Park-Newark. www.newarkcamra.org.uk

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 & Rods Real Ale Rambles, the Exadman's column on historic pubs and more Big Foz's travels with his Dad.

Well that's all for this issue folks however if you have any information or news which could be included in a subsequent issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07974 171243 or e-mail: billyonemate2004@yahoo.co.uk by the 8th of the month.

Edited by Billy One Mate

Other contributors and helpers for this issue of "In the Sticks" (not credited elsewhere)

Charisma Bypass, Gentle Giant, Half Pint, Two Gallon Man, Sooty, Wilberforce, Jedediah Trippe & Field Ape. 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.