



RuRAD

In the Sticks

LEADMILL BREWERY
and BOTTLE BROOK
BREWERY.
Producers of Traditional
Hand Crafted Real Ales.

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 uplonkerr Rodney2006@yahoo.co.uk

Or for current & previous issues log on to <http://www.mansfield.camra.org.uk>

BEEHIVE

151 Peashill, Ripley
Tel: 07510431414

Mandy & Dave would like to invite customers old and new to the Beehive/Honey Pot.

Selection of 3 real ales at the Beehive and 6 real ales at the Honey Pot as well as various ciders and perrys.

Darts, Dominoes and Skittles on weekly.

Quiz night Fridays plus card bingo.
Everyone welcome.

Beer and Pub News

Firstly, the RuRAD Christmas gathering will again be in Sheffield on December 17th. The plan is to depart from Sheffield bus station stand D4 on the 12pm No57 Stocksbridge bus, which means anyone travelling by train will need a Sheffield Plus Bus ticket (obtainable when purchasing a train ticket). The Horse & Jockey, Stancill Brewery tap - with 10 hand pumps - at Wadsley will be the first stop before moving on to the Hillsborough Hotel, Gardeners Rest (where HH has arranged for some snacks at a small charge), Fat Cat, Kelham Island Tavern.....and the like. The 11.16 train from Derby gets to Sheffield at 11.44 and the bus station is a 5-minute walk away. E-mail uplonkerr Rodney2006@yahoo.co.uk if you have any queries

Steve and Angela have taken over at the Talbot in Ripley, the new opening hours are Monday to Thursday 2 - 10.30, Friday & Saturday 12 - 11.30 and Sunday 12 - 10.30. They offer five ever-changing casks Monday to Wednesday and up to 8 from Thursday. Fresh cobs and pork pies now sold, dogs on leads and well behaved children welcome and there is a real fire

Charisma called at the newly opened Cock Inn at Muggington where he found 3 ales on handpumps, this should have been 6 but due to high demand 3 had run out. There were two beers from Boot Brewery in Repton, which were Burkeley Bitter

December 2016

and Burkeley Porter alongside Pedigree. Jaipur, Blacksheep Bitter and Sharps Atlantic were the beers that had sold out

It looks as if Ilkeston is set to have another micro bar, situated in an old cafe just around the corner from the Burnt Pig, on South Street. It will sell bottled and keg beer. It also appears likely that the Tap on South Street (previously Muirhouse) will be springing back into life

Mike James, of Landlocked Brewery, has opened his new venture, the Handle Bar (being in an old bike shop), on King Street, Alfreton. At the moment it is only open at weekends. Good Luck to Mike with his new venture

The Didler reports "On November 18th I called in the first night of the Feather Star at 15 St John St, Wirksworth's new micro pub opposite the Hope and Anchor in ex antique shop. Very small and compact with 4 ales on handpumps, which were Shiny New World, Wrench and 4 Wood, and my choice Black iris Madagascar Porter 4.8% at £3.20p pint and nice drop indeed. The pub also has a small upstairs room but neither big enough to swing a cat around in but well worth a visit"

The Burnt Pig
Ale'ouse
53 Market St,
Ilkeston DE7 5RB
Tel: 07538 723 722
Open
Thursday to Sunday
11 til 11

The Spotted Cow, Holbrook

Community shares are a new way of raising investment capital from communities. Local people are encouraged to buy shares in the enterprise and become part owners. As shareholders they are more likely to do everything they can to ensure the success of the business by becoming loyal customers,

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Tracy and all the staff welcome you to the

OLD OAK INN

176 Main Street
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East Midlands Pub of the Year 2016
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Sat 12 - 11, Sun 12 - 10.30
Serving a wide selection of beers
from BOTTLE BROOK and
LEADMILL plus Guest Beers
RuRAD Bar Open Fri, Sat & Sun

volunteers and supporters of the enterprise. Community shares have been used to finance shops, pubs, community buildings, local food schemes, football clubs and even renewable energy initiatives. Most community shares offers are made by enterprises registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. This legal form provides limited liability status, just like company law. But unlike companies, shares in societies are non-speculative and democratic. Holbrook Community Society is a Community Benefit Society and has been set up to purchase The Spotted Cow. The shares you buy will make you a member of the society, with an equal vote regardless of your shareholding. Your involvement can be as much or as little as you wish. You can vote at Annual General Meetings, stand for election to the Board of Directors, volunteer skills for the refurbishment or just give The Spotted Cow your custom. You need to be over 18 years to invest. Shares will be sold at £1 each with a minimum investment of £250. You can buy in batches of 250 shares up to a legal maximum of £100,000. Our share offer opens on Friday 25th November and will close on Saturday 21st January. To get an e-mail brochure contact holbrookcommunitysociety@gmail.com

Amber Valley CAMRA Update

1st - 8pm, branch meeting, the Poet & Castle, Codnor (apologies for the incorrect date last month - Ed)

The short list for the CAMRA National Pub of the Year has been finalised with the George & Dragon at Hudswell, the Salutation Inn at Ham, the Stanford Arms at Lowestoft and the Swan With Two Necks at Pendleton in the running

RuRAD supporting local beer festivals

On October 27th I went to the opening night of the Hollybush beer festival at Makeney where

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I found 24 festival beers complemented by a choice of ciders and not forgetting 6-8 beers on the bar. I started with Man Up from Manning followed by Welsh Pale from Glamorgan and Pump House Pale from Sambrooks. Also sampled was Session IPA from Hop Stuff, Naked Ladies from Twickenham and finally Plough from G2. The better half had Mercy from Great Heck, Back Sack & Quack from Dancing Duck and Shagweaver from North Cotswold Brewery. These were followed by Voodoo from Salopian and IPA of the Dead from Kelham Island. Another great selection of beer, which was much enjoyed. On the following day I looked in at the Arkwright festival in Belper and was not disappointed - finding a selection of 20 ales and 10 ciders/perrys as well as a selection of craft keg beers. The beauty of this festival was that the beer was sold in thirds meaning that I could sample more of the ales! I started with Octava from G2, followed by Hop Conspiracy from Dhillons and Blonde from Quirky at 3.8%. These were followed by Roosevelt from Ridgeside, Incredible Pale from Reunion, European IPA 5.2% from Mad Squirrels and finally Join the Kew 5.7% from Kew brewery. I also had a taste of Nelsons Revenge from Landlocked at 9.1%, which tasted to me a lot like cream soda! Glad to see that Emily's first beer festival was a success, with very little beer left at the end - Charisma

On the morning of November 19th I met up with Chris P Duck at Derby bus station where we got the 11.05 Comet to Alfreton. We'd got a few minutes to kill before our connection and half-heartedly tried to find the new micro pub but gave up and rushed back to jump on the 9.1. By the time we'd got to Leabrooks I realised that we were on the right bus but travelling in the wrong direction! Fortunately we managed to jump off that bus and straight on to one going in the right direction meeting up with LemonHead and Simon. We got to the festival at about 12.30, procured our glass and tokens and promptly bumped in to The Chair and had a chin wag, good to see him mobile.....ish. There were 32 beers in the festival programme from Abstract Jungle, Black Market, Brass Castle, Brunswick, Drone Valley, Gaol, Hairy Brewers, Hopjacker, Langwith, Lenton Lane, Lincolnshire, Littleover, Moody Fox, North Riding, Priors Well, Shiny, Thorley & Son and Torrside, an excellent selection. Of those, I tried Abstract

Jungle Casual, Black Market Illicit, Brunswick Cocoa Loco, Drone Valley Dronny Bottom, Gaol Jailbreak, Hairy Brewers Blonde Bombshell, Langwith Stumpy's, Moody Fox Cub and Thorley & Sons Pale and Interesting.....all the right beers, not necessarily in the right order. With CPD being a South Normanton virgin we did a few pubs after leaving the festival. Firstly was the Clock where we had a choice from Peak Ales Swift Nick, Tiger and Lincoln Green Hood, then it was on to the Devonshire, which has had a significant face-lift since I last visited. Moody Fox Cub, Pentrich Death Valley, Absolution, Theakston XB and Sarah Hughes Ruby Mild were on hand pump of which we tried the Pentrich, when we eventually got served as one of the people behind the bar was more interested in engaging the clientele rather than serving them. Sooty and The Old Fowl also put in a very brief appearance. Finally it was round to the Villager where we tried both the Spitfire and Harvest Pale. Then it was the bus back to Alfreton where we eventually, after walking past it twice, found the Handle Bar, which really does need some signage off King St. This new Landlocked micro pub seems very much a work in progress and I'm sure it will be very nice when it's finished. Three landlocked beers were on offer, Bernard's Barrow, HB Pale & Nelson's Secret, of which the latter 2 were sampled and found in good order. Then it was time for the Comet back to Derby where there was just enough time for a swift one in the Tap before we went our separate ways.....til next week anyway-Ed

Nicky & Pete Foster
welcome you to the

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A cold November morning saw four of us gather at Derby station for a trip to Reading. With GBG 2017 in mind we started at the Alehouse, just off the Market Place. A great start. 9 pumps had 3 West Berkshire ales plus 6 micros. I sampled Mad Dog I See Dead People and Shadow of the Beast from Elusive, both in good nick. Next on to the Great Expectations Hotel home of

the in house Dickens Brewery. There were four Dickens Ales on offer and I sampled the Sikes and Chuzzlewit. Both were pale ales but I was disappointed with them both. Probably caught them on a bad day! Next a short walk to the Hop Leaf, which is owned by Hopback Brewery. Hopback Winter Lightning and Citra were both enjoyed. Then to the Purple Turtle, which the GBG says is the longest established independent pub in Reading. The first one sampled was sour and quickly removed from sale. This left Molson Coors Doom Bar 2016 Special Reserve weighing in at 6%. Very nice. Onwards to the Castle Tap which offered a choice of four. Vibrant Forest Flying Saucer and Itchen Valley Pure Gold were both enjoyed. Next was the Nags Head, which had the largest selection of the day. Understandably busy it had a dozen or so pumps with LocAles prominent. I tried Hopcraft March of the Giants, Hopcraft Grudge Match and Triple fff Hunky Dory and all were on good form. Last but not least was Greyfriar where the Redwillow Heartless Chocolate Stout was a fitting end to a good day - Trainman

Tracey & Dave welcome customers old
and new to the

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Regular theme nights - see facebook page
Skittles - Tuesday night.

Darts and dominoes planned for winter.

Vinyl night - 1st Friday of the month

Function room available.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Last month I took up the option of a lift into the Peak District and chance to visit some difficult to get to pubs. After the Old Fruit's helicopter trip we went for lunch at the GBG Church Inn at Chelmorton. I opted for Abbeydale Moonshine then Leatherbritches Hairy Helmet in this commercial yet pleasant pub. The former was very good with Arbor Light, Pedigree and Thwaites Original also available on my first visit to this village in many years. Slightly less time had elapsed since I was in the Bull I' Th' Thorn near Hurdlow, which is around 550 years old. With thick walls, solid wood fittings and suits of armour it is a charismatic place. On arrival I donated an oil painting formerly of my mother's house (of the pub not of me) to their collection and had Robinsons Wizard, which I always prefer to Unicorn. Next to another pub I had never visited; the Cock & Pullet at Sheldon. This time I selected Peak Ales Swift Nick ahead of Landlord and Doom Bar. This is a community local, which I personally found disappointing in atmosphere. Continuing my tour of reminiscence we then arrived at the superb viewpoint at Monsal Head. In the Stables Bar which is part of the Monsal Head Hotel there were only 2 ales, both from Ashover, on the 6 available sticks which was less

than anticipated. I settled for Poet's Tipple over Elderflower with another shock ahead at £3.90 a pint. You may be paying for the view here but the view into a beer glass is the same wherever you are. Our last call was the **Packhorse** at **Little Longstone**, until recently in **GBG**. Another pub that has become very commercial with meals but understandably so in these remote areas. They had Thornbridge Wild Swan, Peveral, Jaipur and Lord Marples plus Black Sheep available; my choice was Lord Marples, which was the best drink of the day. After this it was off home as my driver called time, so a few more up there still to do-Chris P Duck

With the benefit of a 2-night stopover at **Great Meols** on the **Wirral** recently I had more time than usual to look around some different pubs. We walked to Meols Station and got the very convenient train to **West Kirby** with the first call at the **Dee Hotel** (Wetherspoons). The Peerless Oatmeal Stout was particularly good here although the overall range was not that good considering it was supposed to be 'spoons beer festival. There was also Hanlons Yellowhammer, a Camerons special and GK Old Golden Hen plus the usual offerings. At least this former grand hotel has been saved from oblivion. We twice tried the **GBG West Kirby Tap** but it was too busy for eating the first time and too busy for drinking on the return with Sat night hordes around the bar, although I was not too worried as I had been in on a previous visit. We then walked up to the **White Lion** where I selected Coach House Best Bitter, which was very good, after also sampling Plassey's Offa's Dyke offered by the barman who was rather hard work. It was incredibly hot in here so we sat outside in the pleasant beer garden. After a longish walk we came to the **GK Ring O' Bells** which featured 4 GK ales including one called Oompah. We had a decent chat with a friendly barman who informed us that our next target, The Hilbre, had closed down. Whilst waiting for the return train the Peerless stout was deemed worthy of a repeat dose in 'spoons. On the next day we visited the **GBG Lazy Landlord** in **Liscard** for the first time. Quite large for a micropub, we enjoyed good chat with the landlord and other locals at the bar. The house beer was surprisingly brewed by Wentwell in Derby and apparently George who knew the landlord of old had delivered earlier that day.

Olive, Sally, Jean & Steve
welcome you to the



ROYAL OAK

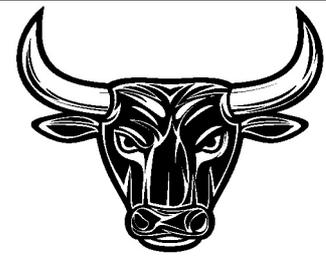


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Sorry George but I did not try it as I was driving and the Coach House Gunpowder Mild was both good and lower strength. The other 2 ales were Salopian Oracle and Nethergate Saxon Glory. After dropping the car back at the B&B we took a 25-minute power walk to **Hoylake**, straight into **Hoylake Lights**, Spoons again for a quick bite to eat. I had a beer called 'Braddon' but no idea what it was with the only other notable ale being (I think) Castle Rock Phoenix Red. We then moved a short distance to the **GBG Ship Inn** where I had an excellent Brimstage Trappers Hat. A very loud band was just finishing playing and a few of the local lads appeared rather the worse for wear. The other beers were fairly predictable with Rat White Rat the best over Bombardier, Doom Bar, Landlord and Purity Gold. Walking on we found by looking from outside the Lake was NRA so just around the corner we arrived at the **Plasterers Arms**. This is a very cosy corner local with a great atmosphere and proper pub layout with engraved beer mirrors on the ceiling. I had Purple Moose Glaslyn with Spitting Feathers Thirst Quencher, TT Golden Best and Bombardier also available. The beer was excellent and it is hard to understand why this is not a **GBG** pub. Returning home on the Monday saw us visit the **GBG Red Fox** at **Thornton Hough** in central Wirral. I was alarmed at the stately appearance of this country mansion as we drew in through the gated entrance and up the drive through the grounds. It appeared to be far too posh but when inside we were made very welcome and offered a table in the snug where we had a meal that cost less than expected. It is a Brunning & Price establishment; the beer range was great and I settled for low strength Facer's Sunlight Blonde which was a good match with the meal. There 8 ales in total at the bar from Phoenix, Monty's, Cheshire Brew Bros, Dunham Massey, Celtic Marches and Great Orme (Snowdon Lager). A must visit if in the area. That was the end of this trip but I look forward to trying out the eastern Wirral next time-Chris P Duck



BLACK BULLS HEAD
2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate,
Belper, Derbyshire
DE56 0SF

Friday, I met up with HH at Derby station for our delayed 10.30am train to Totnes eventually arriving in **Falmouth** at 5.48pm, it was then a short walk uphill to Lugo Rock our excellent B&B for 2 nights. We were soon out and short stroll down the quayside to the **GBG 'Front** small single room ale house cellar pub with 10 ales. They had Rebel Eighty Shilling 5% at £3.70 and top quality then Skinners 7 Hop 5% another good drop. Then it was just across into **Chain Locker** for St Austell Harvest Moon 4.3% £3.75 a superb drink in this dark alehouse type boozier. We then made our way up to the quaint cobbled High St, and just off in small alleyway to **Beerwolf Books** up the staircase to find book shop to left and bar to the right, A basic wooden interior with around 6 changing ales here had Wild Beer Bible 4.2% at £3.40 excellent and well worth a visit. As snap time calling it was back down to quayside into **Stable Restaurant Bar** for food and half Black Rock Deep 5% £2.10 food good, ale crap. We then returned to the 'Front for quick night cap. Saturday, after breakfast we made our way just below to Princess Pavilion and joined very small queue for the beer festival with over 200 ales, met tickers and friends from Nottingham, Wakefield, Retford and Plymouth just great how you meet up with Beer festival cronies? Festival consisted of marquee dedicated to Cornwall beers plus inside main building beers from the north and surrounds. I sampled Tremethick Pale 4.3%, Camel Blisland Gold 3.6%, Fishkey Hop 2 it 4%, Black Flag Amarillo and Galaxy IPA 5%, Blue Anchor Jubilee IPA 4.5%, Penpont Shipwreck Coast 4.4%, Bays Pure Gold 4.3%, Harbour New Zealand Gold 4.2% and St Ives XPA 4.8%. A thoroughly good festival with good company. HH got a taxi booked to take us to the **Boathouse** and had Dynamite Valley Goldrush 4\$ £3.60 in decent but a quiet pub, then short walk downhill to the classic **Seven Stars**, which was absolutely rammed they'd got choir type singers performing in the bar. Had Padstow Windjammer 4.3% £3.40, excellent! We had to make do supping at hatch in passage here, nowt wrong with that eh! A corker. We then a few yards into the 'spoons **Packet House** a massive come down from last pub I had half Banks Gold Ingot 4.3% £1-23p at least the price was good and HH had to have small bite to eat here? Away and my turn for food at Gem chippy restaurant O.A.P special here, which

Mark and Dawn welcome you to

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sorted me out. We moved across to **Masons Arms** for half a Rebel Surfbum IPA 3.5% good drop away onto **Grapes**, pub very quite, had Tintagel Cornwall's Pride 4% £3.80 nice ale. We then made our way again to 'Front best beer pub in Falmouth had Skinners - Penny Come Quick 4.5% £3.50 again great ale. We then called it a day and made way to digs. Sunday after breakfast we on our 9.38am train and heading back were we stopped off at **Bristol** and headed to rear of station to find the **Barley Mow**, a Bristol Beer Factory pub don't be fooled by GBG saying its very near the station, it took us half an hour to find via a park and back streets! I had half of Stroud Baughan to Ride 4.2% £1.95, a good drop, then half of Siren Protzus 4% £1.90. We decided to treat ourselves to Sunday roast lunch for £10 but after long wait I have to say the lamb was as tough as HH's old boots but I suppose it filled a

gap. We then got directions to a bar recently opened by Moor Brewery we arrived it looked like a prefab type building and all crafty keg so it was a quick retreat and HH booked taxi to **Seven Stars**. Half a Kiln Boardwalk 4.5% £1.75, unfinned and poor in this dead and scruffy pub. A short walk then to the classic unspoilt **Kings Head** where a half of Harveys Sussex Best £2 was had, pricey but enjoyable and a must in Bristol. Then a short walk to **Cornubia** very small basic interesting boozier here half Prescott Super 6 5% £1.75 good ale, Just a few minutes walk to station and we were homeward bound - The Didler

Del & Rod's Real Ale Ramble

Sunday 5th we started our walk from Rosliston and headed off on the footpath to

Caldwell. We continued down Sandy Lane and took a footpath beside the train line, gaining a large following of bullocks - which we managed to lose before we stopped for a coffee - and came out on the main road at Castle Gresley. A short walk got us to the **Drum & Monkey** at **Church Gresley**, we had to wait for it to open and there wasn't even a church for us to have a look around! Pedi was the only ale on offer so we partook. We retraced our steps a short way and took the Tunnel Wood path, which deposited us at the **Mount Pleasant Inn**. Quite a busy pub, again only Pedi on offer but we both thought that it was a good job there was no one playing a piano when we walked in! We continued on the footpath to **Linton** and called in the **Red Lion**, which had Pedi on offer plus Purity UBU, another busy pub - the only one in the village - and slightly more welcoming. From there we had a couple of miles back for a 7.7 miler

Beer Festival Diary - Near and Not so Near

1st to 4th December Steampacket Beer Festival, Derby Rd-Swanwick

27th to 28th January Old Volunteer Beer Festival, Burton Rd, Carlton-Nottingham

10th to 12th February Hucknall Beer Festival, John Godber Centre-Hucknall, Nottingham

15th to 18th February Derby Winter Ales Festival, The Roundhouse, Pride Park-Derby

29th November to 3rd December 33rd Pigs Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road-Hackney, Gtr London 200+ Ales

30th November to 4th December Dove Street Inn Beer Festival, 76 St Helens Street-Ipswich, 60+ Ales

1st to 4th December Falcon Tap Beer Festival, Micklegate-York 35+ Ales

2nd to 4th December White Hart Beer Festival, St Andrew's Rd-Headington, Oxfordshire

3rd December Huddersfield Giants Beer Festival, Greenhead Masonic Lodge, Huddersfield

8th to 11th December 21st Suddaby's Winter Beer Festival, 12 Wheelgate-Malton, North York's 26 Ales 4 Cider's

16th to 17th December Portsmouth Beer Festival, Portsmouth Guildhall

26th December to 1st January Cricketers Arms Winter Beer Festival, Peter St-St Helens

13th to 14th January Exeter Festival of Winter Ales, Exeter City FC, St James Park Way-Exeter

18th to 21st January Manchester Beer & Cider Festival, Manchester Central, Windmill St, Petersfield-Gtr Manchester

27th to 28th January 8th Elysian Beer Festival, The Maltings, Ship Lane-Ely

27th to 28th January Salisbury Winter Festival, Royal British Legion Club, Endless Lane-Salisbury

27th to 29th January Rose & Crown Beer Festival, Market St-Charlbury, Oxfordshire

3rd February to 4th March Clachaig Inn FebruaryFest-Glencoe, Argyll

8th to 12th February Brood At The Prince Of Wales, Coventry Rd-Hinkley 25 - 30 Stouts, Porters and Milds

15th to 18th February Chelmsford Beer Festival, King Edward VI Grammar School-Chelmsford

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

Well that's all for this issue folks however if you have any info or news which could be included in a subsequent issue of "In the Sticks" please contact Charisma Bypass on 07891 365887 or Rodders on uplonkerrodney2006@yahoo.co.uk by the 23rd of the month.

Edited by Rodders

Other contributors and helpers for this issue of "In the Sticks" (not credited elsewhere) Charisma Bypass, Jedediah Trippe, The Baron, BigFoz, The Tweedles, Sooty, Del Boy, Trigger, Don Pedro, Two Gallon Man, Nora Harper, Billy One Mate -Apologies if I've missed anyone.

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