



# RuRAD Rural Real Ale Drinkers

In The Sticks

October 2004

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Welcome to this months edition of "In the Sticks"

## Beer and Pub News

Welcome to the latest issue of "In the Sticks" the newsletter of RuRad Rural Real Ale Drinkers. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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## Number Crunching

In this issue we bring you news of 54 pubs in 34 different locations, 6 Breweries and 32 Beer Festivals.

Kim and Jackie Beresford will be holding their first beer festival at the **Old Poets Corner Ashover** between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of October with up to 25 beers being available. We understand that at least two beers will be from Trevor Harris's newly launched Derby Brewing Company. For more information visit

[www.oldpoets.co.uk](http://www.oldpoets.co.uk)

Rumour has it that Chesterfield CAMRA has nominated the Old Poets Corner as its pub of the season.

Dave and Andrea of the **Wheel Inn Holbrook** are holding a Halloween party on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October with Dave brewing a special "one off" red beer called Roller Ghoster at 4.5% to mark the occasion. Other guest beers will also be available in keeping with the Halloween theme.

MAB reports that the Mini beer fest held at the Market Hall Assembly Rooms in Chesterfield between the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of September was very good, 25 beers on with a good range including four festival brews, a couple of first outings for new brews and several strong ales such as Wentworth Rampant Gryphon 6.2% and Abbeydale Absolution 5.5%. Only one stout though. Still a good effort and at only 2 quid to get in commendable. Congratulations to those behind it.

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A new pub called the **Angel** opened in **Ripley** on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. The building, a purpose built Gentleman's only club built in 1888 and formerly the Jubilee Club, is situated on the corner of Crossley Street and Wellington Street.

The new Proprietor is Peter Clay formerly of **Victors** on Grosvenor Road **Ripley** and the Red Admiral (now the **New Clock Inn**) on Alfreton Road in **Codnor**. The pub is managed by Patrick and Andy and has two hand pumps one dispensing Draught Bass 4.4%.

The Bar, bar back, brass poles, tub seats, down stairs tables and an 8ft high gold angel, which stands over the entrance door, are all from the set of Carlton TV's Crossroads.

The opening hours are 11am to 3.30 pm and 7pm to 11pm Mondays to Saturdays and 12am to 3.30pm and 7pm to 10.30pm Sundays.



The Angel Ripley

Zee-Zee's BEARD sent me a text from the 2004 Good Beer Guide listed **White Hart** in **Buckfastleigh** on the 21<sup>st</sup> September to advise that regular real ales Green King IPA 3.6% and Teignwothy Beachcomber 4.3% were on with guests White Hart Best Bitter, Princetown Jail Ale 4.8%. Coming soon were Dreckly 4.8% and Bodmin Boar 4.3% both from the Ring "O" Bells Brewery.

Colin's "Brewery of the Month" for October at the **Cross Keys Belper** continues with, beers from the Fernandes Brewery in Wakefield West Yorkshire and will include Empress of India 6.0%, Ale to the Tsar 4.1% and To be Joyful 4.3%.

Other forthcoming attractions for the remainder of October are: -Brewster's Sunshine 4.2%, Green King Abbot Ale 5.0%, Broadstone Two Water Grog 4.0%, Bateman's Victory 5.9% and Tom Woods Old Timber 4.5%.

Bed and Breakfast with en suite rooms are now available at the **King William Milford** Telephone Nigel and Mo on 01332 840842 for more details.

A flying visit to the **Spanker at Neather Heage** on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September revealed two regular real ales Draught Bass and Pedigree plus one guest from Belhaven Sandy Hunter's Traditional Ale 3.6%.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September **Ripley's** only 2005 Good Beer Guide listed pub the **Pear Tree Inn** (You may remember we told you of its nomination back in May) had Hardys and Hansons Kimberley Mild 3.1% at £1.82, Kimberley Bitter 3.9% at £1.90 and Olde Trip 4.3% at £2.04. The seasonal guest was Swallows Return 4.1% at £2.04 a pint.

On the same evening the **Woodman** on Maple Avenue had Hardys and Hansons Kimberley Mild 3.1% £1.84 and Kimberley Bitter 3.9% at £1.94 a pint. Neil the Landlord told me, whilst I tried the Mild, which was in excellent condition, that he had been in the pub since December last year.

The **Horse & Jockey Ripley**, had regulars Green King IPA 3.6% at £2.00 and Marstons Pedigree 4.5% at £2.10 with one guest from Leadmill Curley Blond

4.6% at £2.10 a pint. Fresh hens eggs at £1.80 for 30 were also available.

The **Dog Inn at Pentrich** had two regulars Pedigree 4.5% and Bass 4.4% with one guest Shepherd Neame Master Brew Bitter 3.7% on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

On the same evening the **Shoulder of Mutton** on Hallfieldgate Lane **Shirland** had John Smiths Bitter 3.8%, Thwaites Lancaster Bomber 4.4% and Cottage Whippet Woods 4.5%.

**Matt Redburne** left the **Greyhound** on Friar Gate Derby on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September to take over at **Nags Head at Hulland Ward**.

The **Severn Wells**, Heage Lane, **Etwall** had regular beers available Hardys & Hansons Olde Trip 4.3% at £2.09 a pint, Kimberley Bitter 3.9% at £1.99 a pint with the guest beer which is usually changed about every 4 weeks Hardys & Hansons Frolicking Farmer 4.2% at £2.08 a pint on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

The **Hilton Brook, Hilton** had two regular real ales Marstons Pedigree 4.5% and Draught Bass 4.4% on the same day.

The guest beer at the **Olde Packhorse Inn, Kings Newton**, nr Melbourne, Derbyshire on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September was Hopback Summer Lightning 5.0% at £2.25 a pint.

A visit to the **Nags Head, Mickleover**, Derby on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September found regular beers Marstons Pedigree 4.5% at £2.10 a pint, Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3% at £2.14 a pint with guest beers Badger Tanglefoot 4.9%, Cairngorm Wildcat 5.1%, Morland Old Speckled Hen 5.2% and Adnams Bitter 3.7%. The guest beers range in price from £1.96 upto £2.30 a pint and are usually changed about every 4 weeks.

The Heritage Pub Company, owners of the **Royal Oak Belper**, is bringing in a holding Company until a decision is made on the pubs future.

Mark and Carol the current licensees will be leaving the pub on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October to take over the **Nags Head at Birdholme** on the A61 near Chesterfield.

## Brewery News

### Leadmill-Denby

Richard Crieghton of Leadmill will be brewing two new beers for Christmas. Relocation of the Brewery to another site is part of Richard's long-term plans for the future.

### Funfair Brewing Company-Holbrook

Modifications were made to the brewing plant in late September to raise capacity to a 5-barrel output.

The Big Wheel 3.9% was one of the 25 beers available at the Chesterfield mini-beer festival held on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of September at the Market Hall Assembly Rooms.

### Falstaff-Normanton

Jim Stern advised us, during his celebration of beers to mark cask ale week that the Spaghetti Western theme for his beers would probably continue to the end of the year. His latest creations are Wyatt Earp 4.5% and Tombstone 6.0%.

### Ufford Brewery-Ufford Cambridgeshire

Will Fry the Landlord of the **Periwig in Stamford** and three colleagues are to set up a new microbrewery at **Ye Olde White Hart** pub in **Ufford**. The Ufford Brewery which has a five-barrel plant, should be up and running by January next year, and will supply the **Periwig** and the **Crown Hotel in Stamford**, the **Smith's at Bourne** and the Brewery Tap **Ye Olde White Hart**.

The first brew described as a 4.0% "quaffing beer" will be named following a competition, which will run in the local newspaper.

The Brewing plant has been bought from The Parish Brewery in Somerby who are moving back Burrough on the Hill.

### Ashover Brewery-Ashover

We understand that Ashover may soon see its own microbrewery at the Old Poets Corner. Enquiries are in the planning permission phase.

### Kelham Island-Ashford on the Water

It has been reported that the Kelham Island Brewery are setting up a second brewery in refurbished out buildings at Thornbridge Hall at Ashford in the Water near Bakewell with plant purchased from the Malton Brewery in North Yorkshire.

## Visit reports

On Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August the Gentle Giant and I traveled to Kent to watch a Conference league football match between Gravesend and Nothfleet and York City.

We had stayed over night in London so all we had to do on Saturday morning was to make our way by tube to London Bridge for a South East train forward.

As we knew that we would have some time to spare before the game we decided to visit some of the Good beer Guide pubs in **Gravesend**, which was three minutes down the line from Northfleet where the match was to be played.

All of the pubs we visited are quite close to the station so we set off walking to our first, and the furthest away, the **Windmill Tavern** on Shrubbery Road where the regulars Green King IPA 3.6% Shepherd Neame Master Brew 3.7%, Fullers London Pride 4.1% and one guest Young's Bitter 3.7%, our choice, Green King IPA a refreshing pint after our 15 minute walk. Next we walked back down the hill towards town stopping off at the 2003 Good Beer Guide listed **Jolly Drayman** on Wellington Street.

Here the one regular real ale was Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3% and three guests Skinners Cornish Knocker Ale 4.5%, York Brewery IPA 5.0% and Hop Back Crop Circle 4.2%, as the Gentle Giants favorite beer is Bombardier you can guess which one we tried!

Next it was a two-minute walk to our next pub the **British Tar** on Milton Road where the three regulars were Young's Bitter 3.7%, Gales HSB 4.8% and Everards Tiger 4.2% we both tried the HSB but I must say I have tasted better.

Finally having left the British Tar we turned right at the clock tower into Harmer Street for our last pub, and undoubtedly the best of the day, CAMRA's National Pub of the year for 2003 the **Crown & Thistle** on the Terrace.

Here one regular Gravesend Shrimpers 4.1% at £2.00 a pint was along side four guests Riddleys IPA, Black Sheep Special 4.4% £2.20, Stonehenge Great Bustard 4.8% £2.30 and RCH East Street Cream 5.0% we tried the Shrimpers a good choice.

It was now time to set off on the short walk back to the station and catch our train back to Northfleet for the match.

## Visit reports continued...

**Post match note:** On reflection we should have stayed in Gravesend as we were treated to a four-goal feast all of which were in our net!

### Del and Rods Real Ale Rambles.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August we visited two pubs in **Leicestershire** both in the *G.B.G.* The first was in the small village of **Swinford** a nice pub called the **Chequers** serving three real ales, Bass 4.4% at £2.35 per pint, Adnam's Bitter 3.7% at £2.15 per pint + a guest, unfortunately the guest was not available so we tried the Adnam's nice drink, friendly bar staff. The next pub the **White Swan** which was a couple of miles away was in the village of **Shawell**, a very nice rural pub with lots of character serving two real ales, Greene King IPA 3.6% & Greene King Abbott 5.0%. We tried the Abbott at £2.40 per pint perhaps a little expensive but a very nice drink. This is a pub well worth a visit but is only open evenings 7pm to 11pm and Sunday Lunch 12.00 to 2.30.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September we started our ramble at Ashbourne, not the best place for real ale so we headed back towards **Osmaston** passing the **Shoulder of Mutton** and continued on to **Shirley** where we passed the **Saracens** both before opening time. We then came to **Ednaston** spot on 12 o'clock so decided to try a pint in the **Yew Tree** a very nice pub but not very adventurous for real ale serving Bass & Pedigree both at £2.40 per pint Del tried the Pedigree Rod the Bass against his better judgment, both reasonable. We then continued walking for another hour or so and came to **Wyston** ready for another pint we visited **The Shire Horse**, where we found Bass & Pedigree, there had been a guest Wadsworth 6X but unfortunately for us it was off, so once again we tried the Bass at £2.15 and the Pedigree at £2.35, slightly cheaper and a nicer drink. We then walked back across Darley Moor, watched the last six motorcycle races and then back to Ashbourne.

On Sunday evening 26<sup>th</sup> September Del & Rod, along with the skittles team from the **Royal Oak Ockbrook**, were invited to play a friendly match at the **Nunsfield House** in **Alvaston**, on arrival we were very impressed with their selection of six real ales, these were Bass 4.4%, Pedigree

4.5%, Tower Bitter 4.2%, Everards Autumn Equinox 4.8%, Cairngorm Sheepshagger 4.5% and Bateman's XXXB 4.8%. I tried the Sheepshagger and the Tower Bitter both in perfect order and even better only £1.78 per pint; Rod was once again on the Orange & Water after a very heavy weekend watching motorcycle racing at Oulton Park. Nunsfield House have held a beer festival for the last 2 years usually in November but up to now this year are not sure what is happening, will try to keep you posted on this one. I must add that the Nunsfield House made us very welcome, very nice food at the interval, good beer & a good laugh. By the way the Royal Oak won!! Del, Rod & the Whole Skittles Team.

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On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Trigger & Postman Pat travelled to Mossley to watch a Unibond Division One football match between Mossley and Gresley Rovers.

After a hectic morning we eventually arrived at **Stalybridge Buffet Bar** around lunchtime, where we had a selection of 9 hand pumps to choose from including Titanic Mild 3.5%, Flowers IPA, Boddingtons, Bass, Archers Evil Joker 4.1%, Archers Red Admiral 4.0% & Lloyds Plum Crazy Porter 4.5%. All beers under 5.0% were £1.90 per pint. The saying "Like kids in a sweet shop" comes to mind, a pub well worth a visit. If you want to know the forthcoming ales for the week at the Stalybridge Buffet Bar as well as loads of other interesting stuff visit [www.buffetbar.co.uk](http://www.buffetbar.co.uk)

After a short train ride we arrived at Mossley station. The first pub of four was a 200yds from the station, called the **Britannia Inn**, the choice of beer was Lancaster Bomber 4.4%, Pedigree & Burton Bitter all £2.20 per pint. The landlord informed us he was holding a mini beer festival from the 1st October for a couple of days.

The second pub was a 15-minute walk uphill past the station this brought us to the **Church Inn** on Stockport Road which has been a Thwaite's pub for the last 3 months, there were 4 real ales on offer Lancaster Bomber 4.4%, Craftsman 4.2% & Thwaite's Bitter 3.6% all at £1.85 per pint the other beer was Thwaite's Dark Mild 3.3% at £1.75 per pint.

From the Church Inn we walked along Stockport Road for about five minutes and came to The **Rising Sun**, three real ales on offer including Black Sheep Bitter, Hardys & Hansons Bitter, and Greenfield Brewery Delph Donkey 4.1% all at £1.90 per pint.

The last pub we visited was a downhill walk for about 30 minutes onto Manchester Road which brought us to the **Tolle Marche Arms**; this was a Robinson's pub serving Double Hop 5.0% Unicorn 4.2% & kick-Off 4.2% all at £1.76 per pint.

On the way home we stopped off at **Sheffield** and called in at the **Rutland Arms**, on Brown Street near the station, and finished the day with a pint of Jennings Cumberland Ale 4.0%. An excellent day out with 10 men Gresley winning 1-0.

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Eddy Warriner and Karon Walker, formerly of **Moss Cottage Ripley**, have taken over the **Gate Inn** at **Lower Hartshay** real ales available on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October were regulars Abbot Ale 5.0%, Olde Trip 4.3% and Pedigree 4.5% with one guest Black Sheep Bitter 3.8%. Opening times are Monday to Saturday 11.30 to 3pm then 6pm to 11pm and 12 noon to 10.30pm Sunday.

The **George Inn**, further down the road, had regulars Olde Trip 4.5% and Kimberley Bitter 3.9% on the same evening.

The beer list for the **Cross Keys** beer festival in **Belper** from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October includes Harris Hawk 4.4% and Old Intentional 5.0% from the Derby Brewing Co. The other beers are Evensong 5.0%, White Bishop 4.8% and Black Abbot 5.3% all from Durham, Fernandes To Be Joyful 4.3%, Humpty Dumpty Claud Hamilton 4.1%, Titanic Wreckage 7.2% and Williams Brothers Froach 4.1%.

The **Boot & Slipper Swanwick** had Marstons Pedigree 4.5% and monthly guest Little Lambswick 4.5% on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

On the same evening the **Steam Packet** had regulars Adnams Bitter 3.7%, Black Sheep Bitter 3.8%, Young's Bitter 3.7% and Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3%.

## Visit reports continued...

On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September a group of 10 of us met at Derby Rail station for a day out by train to some of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide listed pubs in Stamford, Oakham and Melton Mowbray. With our group travel tickets, costing just £6.55 each for a group of four, we made our way to platform 2A for our train to Leicester.

I remember being quite impressed to find a brand new Meridian Mainline train waiting for us; all we needed now was the train crew.

With the departure time of 10.20 looming and still no sign of the train crew we were starting to wonder if our trip was going to fail at the first hurdle.

We needn't have worried as at 10.16 a flustered trained crew arrived onto the platform, let us onboard made an announcement, and bang on time, we were on our way.

We soon arrived in to Leicester there with enough time to change platforms and catch a Central Train forward.

We arrived some 45 minutes later at Stamford, crossed the river and headed for the Market Place turning left onto Scotgate for a short walk past the old All Saints Brewery and our first pub the **Green Man**.

The pub seemed a little quiet so I enquired "are we at the right place for the beer festival" yes came the reply but its next week! I hurriedly checked a copy of What's Brewing and sure enough the Green Mans Beer Festival was advertised between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September. The stunned silence of our group turned to chants of "Kill Bill" and I was made to sit at the sad mans table alone.

On a more positive note there were seven real ales on offer including Newby Wyke Stamford Gold 4.4% at £2.10, Rooster Maverick 3.9% at

£2.10, Hidden Brewery Hidden Pint 3.8% at £2.10, Young's Golden Zest 4.8% at £2.20, Osset Silver King 4.3% at £2.10 and Slaters Premium 4.4% at £2.10 a pint.



Our Motley Crew at the Green Man

We left the Green man and headed back towards town for our next pub the **Otters Pocket** on All Saints Street where six real ales were on offer including Otters Pocket Session Ale 3.5% at £2.20, Fullers London Pride 4.1%, Taylors Landlord 4.3%, Newby Wyke Kingston Topaz 4.2%, Oakham Bishops Farewell 4.6% and Stonehenge Pigswill 4.0%.

Next we visited the **Periwig** on All Saints Place where regulars Fullers London Pride 4.1%, Oakham JHB 3.8%, Adnam's Bitter 3.7% and a seasonal from Oakham being Helter Skelter together with guests from Oldershaws Sunny Daze 4.0% and Young's Bitter 3.6%.



The Periwig Stamford

Bitter 3.7%, Black Sheep Bitter 3.8%, and Taylors Landlord 4.3%.

The time had now come to re trace our steps back to the railway station for the train back towards Leicester.

After about 15 minutes we arrived in **Oakham**, and crossed the line by the footbridge for the **Grainstore Brewery Tap** on Station Approach.

Here a wide range of Grainstore beers were available including Cooking 3.6% at £2.05, Triple B 4.2% at £2.15, Gold 4.5%, Ten Fifty 5.0% and Rutland Panther 3.4% with Lager beers Hoegaarden White Beer 5.0% and Abbaye de Leffe Blonde 6.6%.

The group seemed mesmerised by two blokes playing darts both after double one; you should have heard the cheer when one of them finally hit the target!



Grainstore Brewery Tap Oakham

We then had a short walk into Oakham for our next pub the **Admiral Hornblower** on High Street where three regular real ales were on offer including Oakham Triple B 4.2% at £2.40, Fullers London Pride 4.1% at £2.40 and Green King IPA 3.6% at £2.25.

Begrudgingly we tried the Triple B wondering why we had just left the Brewery Tap who was selling it at just £2.15.

It was the back to the train station, somehow resisting the call of the chippy, for a 10 minute train ride to **Melton Mowbray** and our first pub the **Crown Inn** an Everards pub, on Burton Road, selling Original 5.2%, Tiger 4.2% and Beacon 3.8% plus one guest from McMullen Country Best Bitter 4.3%.

Next we ventured towards the Market place and the **Mash Tub** on Nottingham Street which had regulars Mansfield Cask Dark Mild 3.5% and Banks Bitter 3.7% with guests Marstons Little Lambswick 4.5% and Lancaster Bomber 4.4% from Thwaite's plus one Cider Westons Old Rosie 7.3%.

Another short walk found us at the Cattle Market for the beer festival which I have to admit was 100% improvement on last year complete with carpeted floors white



The Green Man Stamford

## Visit reports continued...

drapes from the ceiling, plenty of seats and oh yes 52 beers and 5 Ciders to sample.

Time was marching on and Billy wanted to try the last 2004 *Good Beer Guide* pub on the way back to the station the **Boat Inn** on Burton Road.

Here we found two real ales Bitter 3.7% at £2.10 and Top Hat 4.8% at £2.30 from Burtonwood with JW Lees Dambuster 4.0% at £2.20.

We made our way back to the station again for the train to Leicester where there was just enough time to sneak a quick one in the **Barley Mow** which is two minutes walk from Leicester station on Granby Street.

The pub had Everards beers with two regulars Tiger 4.2% at £2.05 and Beacon 3.8% at £2.05 with two guests Everards Autumn Equinox Ale 4.8% at £2.30 and Elgood's Black Dog Mild 3.6% at £1.85 a pint.

Feeling relieved that the day had gone well, despite a little hiccup at the Green Man, we climbed aboard our flying carpet on platform one which whisked us safely back to Derby.

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Papalazarou, wife (Blodwyn) and a friend (Charlie C) visited the **King William** in **Milford** and **Hollybush** at **Makeney** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September and we had a very good few pints.

After a very pleasant walk in the sunshine down from Holbrook, the **King William** offered, and we enjoyed among others, an exceptional pint or two of UXB, Snake Eyes and the guest, Shardlow "Reverend Eaton". The **Hollybush** a short stagger down the lane did provide some very nice ale too. A damn fine half of Broadside (for the Missus) and a half dozen of London pride for me and our visiting guest Charlie C. The evening ended with a couple of Marstons best ever beer, ever. The "Old Empire" 5.7% .It is one of the most spectacular, nice non-session ales that really should be. But unfortunately more than three or four and that's it, lights out!!

The weekend before also proved itself unbeatable with the Beer festival at the **Wheel Inn, Holbrook**, this over the

August Bank Holiday provided a very nice selection of fine, and in some cases, seldom seen ales from seldom seen breweries. Favorites included the Cotleigh Kookaburra 4.4% a very pleasant amber ale brewed using Australian hops. The good favourite of the Heather, "Fraoch Heather" 4.1% was very nice light interesting beer. One of the ever brilliant ales from Alcazar (Basford), "New Dawn" 4.5%, well worth a visit to the **Fox and Crown** brew pub which offers a very wide range of ales and some spectacular Thai cuisine. Anyway less of that, another exceptional light lager type ale was the Loddon "Check Mate" 4.8% which went down a treat. Blodwyn and I are rather fond of Prague and its lagers. However Dave's new brew the "Dodgem" 4.7% went down a real treat and was probably my overall favourite of the fest. The food was exceptionally good from the Barbeque and was just spot on, complimenting the evening. The Wheel Inn beer festivals go from strength to strength.

### MAB's Northeast Derbyshire Roundup.

The **Horse and Groom** at **Scarcliffe** had on Archers Harvest Ale 4.8% last weekend (18<sup>th</sup> September) but it went in just two sessions and I missed it coz of work. Also Archers Princess Elizabeth was on earlier this week.

The **Arkwright Arms** at **Sutton Cum Duckmanton** has recently had on Archers Golden, Kelham Gold, Whim Arbor Light, Abbeydale Moonshine, GoatsMilk, What the Foxes Hat and Oldershaw Sunnysdaze, oh and Speckled Hen.

The **Speedwell** at **Staveley** has just got through the four Titanic beers, which were Lifeboat, Iceberg, White Star and Stout, the latter still on tonight (18<sup>th</sup> September) along with the new Charter Ale at 4.2%, which was quite nice.

The **Blue Bell** in **Bolsover** recently had a mini private beer festival for W & D landlords, after which selected guests were invited to drain the barrels. I was there and on offer was Bishops Finger, Reverend James, Gales Festival Mild (excellent), Everards Original, Belhaven 70', Archers Golden, Bass, Badger Best and Wadworth 6X whilst in the pub he

currently has on Tanglefoot and Titanic White Star as well as Cameron's Strongarm and Marstons Bitter. A very good afternoon and evening was had by all!!!

The **Prince of Wales** on **Brimington Common** advertises in the *Innspire* as having the Acorn range (old Barnsley). All they had on when I went in was a very poor Barnsley Bitter at £1.69 a pint, cloudy and tasted awful, I won't go back!!

Finally the **Derby Tup** had Castle Rock Harvest Pale, Brakspear Special and Burton Bridge Porter on amongst the usual regulars such as Landlord the other day.

I'm now on nights so I can rest that evil body organ called the liver for a couple of days!

### The Exadman Column

This month we take a look at another one of CAMRA's National Inventory pubs with the **Alexandra Hotel Stockport**.

The Greater Manchester area has many fine pubs, including no less than 24 entries in CAMRA's National Inventory, and one of the finest surely has to be the **Alexandra Hotel** in **Stockport**. Originally built in 1911; the Alex is a multi-roomed pub featuring some superb tiling and decorative glasswork, all original features, with an outstanding staircase and picture window. The fireplace in the Parlour Bar consists of beautiful red tiling and the original floor tiles are still intact, although carpeted nowadays. It was recently taken over by Licensees John and Janet, and is a Robinson's house, with Unicorn Bitter and Hatters Mild on sale. It's not the easiest pub to find, however, but if you leave Stockport Railway Station by the back entrance, walk to the top of the road and turn right onto King Street West opposite the now-closed **Bluebell** and turn left past the **Olde Vic** at the bottom of Chatham Street, the Alex is at the other end of Chatham Street, at the junction with Northgate Road. The pub is open all day every day from 12 noon. The pub does not serve meals at present, but bar snacks are available. If you are in the area, give it a try it is well worth the effort.

## Proposed Trips

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October possible mini bus trip to the Old Poets Corner beer festival in Ashover.

## Beer festival Diary

4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October JD Wetherspoons Beer Festival-All pubs in Wetherspoons chain.  
13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October Bolton Beer Festival Howcroft Inn Pool Street-Bolton.  
14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October Quorn Beer Festival Village Hall-Quorn.  
14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 14<sup>th</sup> Wakefield Beer Festival Light Waves Leisure Centre-Wakefield.  
14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October Greetland Beer Festival Greetland Community Centre Rochdale Road-Halifax.  
15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 27<sup>th</sup> Bath Beer Festival The Pavilion North Parade Road-Bath.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October Nottingham Beer and Cider Festival Victoria Leisure Centre-Nottingham.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October The Old Poets Corner Beer Festival-Ashover.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 24<sup>th</sup> Stoke Beer Festival Kings Hall-Stoke on Trent.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 10<sup>th</sup> Birkenhead Beer Festival Pacific Road-Birkenhead.  
21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October Oxford Beer festival Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates-Oxford.  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October Barnsley Beer Festival The Keel Inn Canal Street-Barnsley.  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October Doverage 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beer Festival Village Club-Doverage.  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October Worth Valley Folk and Beer Festival-Keighley and Worth Valley Railway-Haworth.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 27<sup>th</sup> Norwich Beer Festival-Norwich.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October The Shovels Beer Festival 260, Common Edge Road-Blackpool.  
28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October The Hollybush Inn-Makeney.  
28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October Lloyds Bar 1<sup>st</sup> Fantasy Brewery Beer Festival-Nuneaton.  
28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October Cross Keys-Belper.  
29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October Minster Inn Beer Festival Marygate-York.  
29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October "Ale"oween Beer Festival Mallard-Worksop.  
29<sup>th</sup> October Halloween Party at the Wheel Inn-Holbrook.  
4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November The Alfred Derby Road-Burton on Trent.  
12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November Weighbridge Beer Festival Scarfield Wharf-Alvechurch.  
19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November Erewash Valley Beer Festival Sandiacre Freisland Sports Centre Nursery Avenue-Sandiacre.  
19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 22<sup>nd</sup> Bury Beer Festival Met Arts Centre Market Street-Bury.  
23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November Dudley Winter Ales Fayre Town Hall St James Road-Dudley.  
25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November Luton Beer Festival Drill Hall Old Bedford Road-Luton.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Selby Beer Festival Community Centre-Selby.  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December the Bell Inn Beer festival-Nottingham.  
9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December Suddaby's Winter beer Festival Crown Hotel-Malton.  
16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December The Old Oak-Horsley Woodhouse.

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

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":**

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**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.*