

ISSUE  
433

AUG  
2013

# BEER MATTERS

*THE FREE* MAGAZINE OF CAMRA SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT



**PAUL HOLDEN CRAWLS SOWERBY BRIDGE AND HALIFAX**

**CRAFT, CASK AND KEG PART 2**

**ANDY CULLEN'S DAY OF SURVEYING**

**SAXBOB PRESENTS SUMMER BREEZE @ THE UNI ARMS**

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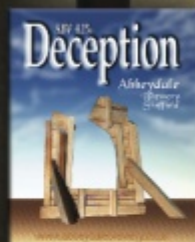
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**Friday 9 August**

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Cover Photograph by Ned Phillips



# BEER CAPITAL SURVEY

## ANDY CULLEN'S DAY OF SURVEYING

If you read Beer Matters last month, you will know we have recently done our annual beer census to see if Sheffield is still the real ale capital of England in terms of choice of beer. It also gives us useful data on average prices, brewers market share locally and more.

In the daytime I surveyed the route which takes in Bradway, Woodseats, Norton Lees and Heele, starting at the **Old Mother Redcap** at lunchtime. This is a traditional local boozer owned by Samuel Smith's brewery that is smartly decorated and well run. One cask beer on the bar as ever, Samuel Smith's *Old Brewery Bitter* at a reasonable £1.80 a pint. Also in Bradway is the Castle Inn offering *Bradfield Farmers Blonde*.

After a quick survey of Bradway it was on the 25 bus down to Woodseats to the **Woodseats Palace**. This Wetherspoons pub isn't of much interest in terms of the building and the interior is just a big vast box, however, making up for this was a good choice of both real ale and real cider and great staff who created a relaxed atmosphere. Due to a combination of having a hangover from the previous night and a long day ahead food was taken on here, a good value all day brunch! Over the road the **Chantrey Arms** offered a more traditional pub experience with beers on the bar being *Abbeydale Moonshine* and *Tetley Bitter*.

A steep walk in the hot sunshine up Scarsdale Road next to reach the **Cross Scythes**, operated by Thornbridge Brewery where a range of their beers



were available, with *Hopton* being the one tried. Bar snacks were available but not tried (following the Wetherspoon brunch). I was informed the Cross Scythes do guest ales from time to time and they had a cellar full of Oakham Ales but no pumps free to put them on at the time of my visit!

A walk onto Derbyshire Lane included a visit to two Punch Taverns' 'Finest Cask' pubs with Abbeydale *Desert Sand* enjoyed in the **Prince of Wales** and Milestone *Old English Ale* enjoyed in the **Mount Pleasant**. The landlords in both pubs were bracing themselves for the rush later on of concert goers attending the Richard Hawley gig taking place in a big top on Graves Park – the previous night the same venue had been played by the Levellers and those pubs got quite busy before and after!

A ride on the 20A bus took me down to Heeley for the **White Lion**, a heritage pub with multiple drinking rooms, a corridor and a beer garden as well as the main room where live music often takes place at night. My visit was in the afternoon on a very hot day so it was fairly quiet inside the pub where the bar offered a good selection of beers both local and well known. Meanwhile just up the hill at the **Sheaf View** freehouse a wide range of interesting ales were on the bar, all at reasonable prices. The outdoor area was packed and the beers flowing – I saw at least one pump run dry and a new beer put on sale whilst I was there, all helping towards the score at the end of the day!

This was the last pub on my daytime survey so jumped on a

bus into town and went to the **Common Room** for food – some pulled pork off their American Pit BBQ menu - before reporting to the Red Deer to hand the paperwork in.

We then set off on evening survey crawls and this started with a tram ride to Leppings Lane for a visit to the **Riverside Cafe**, which has a real ale bar upstairs and a balcony overlooking the river, which was nice, and the SWFC stadium... debatable. We then worked our way back on the tram calling at the **New Barrack Tavern** and **Milestone** before meeting everyone at the **Kelham Island Tavern** at the end of the night.

At the time of going to press the final score hadn't been announced due to a couple of the surveyors not making it to the finish line to hand their beer lists in. We expect the final score to be in the region of 450 - however in the spirit of fair play will be adjusting this to remove the 100 or so extra guest beers at the **Rising Sun** in Nether Green who were holding their annual Sunfest beer festival....

I look forward to seeing how this compares to the other cities that do the same survey – York, Derby, Nottingham, Norwich and Reading – all also great drinking destinations!

**Andy Cullen**

## DON'T FORGET...

The closing date for the summer quiz is 31 August. Email [wadklos@gmail.com](mailto:wadklos@gmail.com) for additional quiz sheets.

# BRIEF BITS

**A**B-InBev have decided to rename one of the oldest beer brands in Britain, **Bass Pale Ale**, as “**Bass Trademark Number One**”. Bass Pale Ale, with the red triangle, is an iconic IPA with a fantastic heritage. This rebadging indicates how out-of-touch AB-InBev are with their brewing heritage.

Following the preliminary judging, five beers from four parts of the UK have been announced as regional winners in this year's **Sainsbury's Great British Beer Hunt**. The beers will now be stocked in Sainsbury's stores for three weeks in September, with the three best-selling beers from each region progressing to the grand final in October. A panel will then select the two winning beers that will each receive a six-month listing in Sainsbury's. The regional winners in the 'North' are: Double Maxim **American Pride**, Double Maxim **Swedish Blonde**, Hardknott **Infra Red**, Hawkshead **Windermere Pale** and Thwaites **Crafty Dan**.

20 Years ago in June 1993, beer taxation switched from original gravity (OG) to alcohol by volume (abv) as the basis for duty payments. In anticipation, a number of brewers reduced the strength of their beers. For example, Webster's *Yorkshire Bitter* fell from 3.8% to 3.5%. This trend is continuing – for example: Batemans have recently reduced XXXB from 4.8% to 4.5%.





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# BLUE BEE WOOD STREET KELHAM ISLAND

The latest in the pUnK-tuation series has been brewed: **Octothorpe** is a 4.8% pale ale in the familiar Blue Bee tradition - it's got hops in.

The hops in question are all British; this time around, Admiral for bittering and a mix of Admiral and Progress for aroma. The result, according to Rich, "a most agreeable drop".

The aural accompaniment

came in the form of a

selection of tunes from Baltimore noise-niks Double Dagger, including their final EP '333' from earlier this year.

Elsewhere the guys were delighted that their illustrious **Lustin' For Stout** has been selected as the permanent 'dark one' at the Devonshire Cat in the City Centre.

If the long hot summer continues (!) we are promised another batch of award-winning **Light Blue** (second overall at Stockport in June) to quench that raging thirst. It is 3.6%, pale and very hoppy.

And finally, plans are well advanced for the annual knees-up which is the Blue Bee Birthday Do, at Shakespeares on Gibraltar Street towards the end of July, where a selection of one-off specials is promised.



Alison is still brewing two monthly specials with **Hornbeam**, a single american hopped pale ale at 4.4%, and **Franklinia**, a quad american hopped pale at 4.3%, now out and about and continually on our bar and at The Roebuck this month for you all to try.

Next month will be **Horsesugar**, a 3.9% pale ale, and **Loquat**, a golden coloured 4.5%.

September brings the return of **Loblolly Bay** 4.3% if anyone missed out and another new one, **Styrax** 4.4%.

In the coming months there will also be a return of a few other favorites such as **Devilwood Stout** and **Truffle Oak Stout**.

Alison has now started bottling all our core beers, **WSPA**, **Bitter**, **Golden Larch**, **Yellow Wood**, **Honeylocust** and **Ebony Stout**. These are now being sold at the Dram Shop, Mitchell's Vintners, Archer Road Beer Stop and Beeches of Walkley.

Our fastest ever selling beer has re-entered the atmosphere for another run. **King of the Rocket Men** 4.5% flew out in 2012 and now makes a welcome return in 2013, a pale golden ale with an interesting blend of internationally sourced hops to give a refreshing crisp light flavour. This blazing adventure in a glass will take you to infinity and beyond. It also paves the way for our second space beer, **Radar Men from the Moon**, which will be touching down later in the year. Look out for the video.

If the weather holds we should all be drinking our second August special, a brand new beer, **Summer Breeze** 3.5% New Zealand pale ale. Perfect for the warm summer days. This light, refreshing golden ale uses the choicest hops from New Zealand. The legendary Riwaka hops add a zesty grapefruit flavour while Wataku adds a resinous floral character which makes it ideal for this time of year. Tipple malt adds a slight biscuit malt character to round off this glorious summer pint.

The winner of our 'Design a T shirt' competition has been announced with the lucky winner receiving a Pie & Pea Brewery Tour and a Mini Keg. Another winner is drayman, Barry Tunncliffe, who was crowned Employee of the Month.





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Sign outside the Red Lion which, along with the Rutland Hotel and The Peacock, stock Peak Ales



The newest member of the Peak Ale's gang, Buddy!

## PEAK ALES

A proud moment for Peak Ales as Chatsworth Gold came 1st in the CBOB East Midlands Speciality Beer category and 1st in the CAMRA East Midlands Golden Ales style category during Derby Beer Festival. A fine achievement for the Rob Evans and the brewery team.

Peak Ales have announced that they will be opening an online shop soon – keep checking [www.peakales.co.uk](http://www.peakales.co.uk) for details.

The brewery recently sponsored May's Birchover Tractor Pull which helps raise money for the annual Birchover Carnival. The Tractor Pull prize was a case of personalised bottled beer for the winning team and the event went very well with £455 raised towards the carnival, which takes place July 13th.

Peak Ales also sponsored the Lathkil Hotel's "Halfgallathon" on Saturday 15th June – a charity drinking race in aid of Weston Park & Ashgate Hospice, consisting of four laps of the Lathkil and four pints of beer!

Finally, meet the new brewery pup – Mitch's black lab puppy, called Buddy, is new to the Peak Ales gang!

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Michelle for further details

### Regular Events

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**Sunday Night - Folk Night**  
Come down and join our musicians  
in their weekly session.

### Special Events

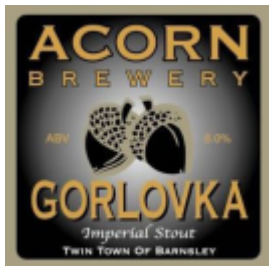
**28th June - Mahogany Newt**  
**13th July - Big City Blues**  
**27th July - Dr Hackenbush**  
**17th August - 3FB**  
**31st August - Vamp**  
**7th September - Refugee**  
**13th September - Steve Cosgrove**  
**12th October - Natchez Burning**  
**2nd November - Laughing Gravy**

**Open:**

**Sunday - Thursday 12 - 11pm**

**Friday & Saturday 12 - 12**





# ACORN

**A**corn celebrated their 10th anniversary with a party at the Old No 7 on the 4th July. Among the many people in attendance was Barnsley born beer writer Pete Brown who provided a fitting tribute to the 10 years of brewing at the Wombwell based brewery. To mark the occasion, The Old No 7 showcased the brewery's anniversary beer **Perfect 10**, a 5.5% strong American style hoppy beer. It went so well that the brewery will undoubtedly be doing more of this style of beer. Also getting rave reviews was the Bourbon Oak Barrel aged **Gorlovka** – watch this space for more variations on this theme.

The beer brewed to celebrate the ashes series, **Burning Bails**, is into its 3rd innings with another brew to cope with the demand for this 4.5% golden beer.

## UNI ARMS SAXBOP PRESENTS... THE RETURN OF SUMMER BREEZE

**L**ast year, Saxbob got together some fantastic acts, which we then mixed with our great combination of real ale and locally sourced food to provide a great weekend of Jazz, Blues, BBQ, and Beer. We are delighted to announce that **Saxbob Presents Summer Breeze (number two) @ The University Arms!** The same mix of music, and consumables will be provided for your pleasure on the last weekend of August, **30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** will be an energetic opener to the proceedings with music from **The Blackbirds**, and **Mudcats Blues Trio**. Mudcats Blues Trio have been busy this year, releasing and promoting their LP 'Burn Down the City'. Then, after a busy Tramlines, they will be bringing their 'loud, fierce brand of blues' to the Uni Arms beer garden. Moreover The Blackbirds are (in their own words) 'are a Sheffield based two piece who take the sounds of America and forge them with the sex and soul of the steel city'. To us, that sounds like a great way to spend a Friday night! **Times: 7-11pm.**

The day after, **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>**, keeps the spirit going with a trip to the New Orleans piano of **Dale Storr** and his **New Orleans Big Band**. Dale is a real favourite and with good reason, he is a truly

gifted musician who, with his band, will take you on a journey to his personal mecca of music. If that wasn't enough two more acts appear on the Saturday; **Tom Attah**, and the **Red River Rebels**. Tom recently appeared at our own Upstairs Blues club to much acclaim. We are delighted he has agreed to come back so more people can experience his 21st Century Blues and Folk, which will provide real insight into the origins and evolutions of the genre. A proper treat! Red River Rebels are a five-piece and will be playing music inspired by the likes of Wilco Johnson, Average White Band, and Little Walter with a great saxophonist! **Times: 1-11pm.** Covering the likes of The Big Town Playboys, Wyonie Harris, Average White band, Little Walter and Wilko Johnson, plus many others.

Then, why not wind down on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**, with an afternoon of Jazz featuring the virtuoso piano of Ralph Salt and friends. **Times: 2-7pm.**

Throughout the weekend we will be serving fine ales from our six pumps, along with plenty of other drinks for those not that way inclined. There will also be a BBQ available for those require a good feed.

This is really going to be a good one and we would be delighted if you could make it down!

Weekend ticket £5

Day admission £3

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SAXBOB



PRESENTS

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**Saturday** 1-11pm  
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**Sunday** 2-7pm  
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# INN BRIEF

**The Roebuck** beer garden refurb is due to be completed by the 24th July.

A new pub to try on London Road: **The Bell Jar** is in the building that used to be the Albion and has a regular programme of musical entertainment as well as the attractions the bar offers.

**Common Room** on Division Street has fully reopened following refurbishment. The main change is to the dining area with part of the menu devoted to the new American Pitt BBQ they have had installed. Otherwise same formula as before - Pool tables, tunes, sport on many TV screens, American food and beer. The real ales are generally the 'True North' beers which are brewed at Welbeck Abbey brewery for the Forum Group of bars.

**Noah's Ark** on Birley Moor Road, Intake, now serves real ale after many years as a keg only pub. According to the sign outside, they currently have Sharps Doom Bar and Bradfield Farmers Blonde.

**Rutland Arms** on Brown Street now offers a wealth of beer measures with third pint glasses and two-third pint 'Schooner' glasses available alongside the usual halves and pints. These have proved useful for some of the stronger beers featured recently in the Arbor Ales showcase on the Rutland's pumps during July.

**The Crown** at Killamarsh now serves Leeds Best and Adnams

Broadside as their regular cask ales with a guest beer also featuring; this changes on a fortnightly basis.



**The Devonshire Group** of pubs, located in Peak District locations such as Pilsley and Beeley, have a special charity beer available brewed by Copper Dragon Brewery.

**The Carlton** at Attercliffe is holding a beer festival from 9th to 11th August.

Greene King Brewery have opened one of their 'Farmhouse Inns' at Beighton Link. This is a new build pub called **The Elmwood Farm** and is aimed at the family dining market.

Royal Victoria Holiday Inn no longer serves cask conditioned beer.

**The Penistone Paramount** (cinema) now has Acorn Blonde available - according to bar staff, this has been on for 'some months' and is going well. If Penistone can do this, why not the Sheffield multiplex chains?

**The Peacock** in Stannington has recently opened a new

conservatory extension with seating for over forty. They continue to serve three cask beers from Thwaites, usually including Lancaster Bomber and the current special.

**Lion's Lair** on Burgess Street has had an application for increased opening hours granted but with a host of conditions. It has been banned from allowing under 18s inside, a police-approved colour CCTV system must be fitted and door staff must be at work on nights the bar is open after 01:00. Measures to limit noise breakout have to be installed and all windows and the inner front door will be closed after 23:30, with the beer garden out of bounds after midnight.

Representatives of Orval Trappist Beer including visitors from the Belgian brewery were recently entertained at the **Devonshire Cat**. The pub is one of only 14 UK Orval distributors. Created in 1931, the Orval Brewery was originally built to finance reconstruction works at the Abbey. They currently export a maximum 15% of production.

News from Chapeltown now, **Miners Arms** has closed (at the time of writing) and will reopen as soon as Thwaites brewery find a new tenant. Meanwhile **Royal Oak** has reopened. The Wagon, next to Chapeltown railway station, is to reopen as a JD Wetherspoon pub called the **Wagon & Horses**.

**The Plough** at Low Bradfield has reopened under new management following a refurbishment serving value for money home cooked food and beer from Thwaites and Bradfield breweries.

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## PUB AND CLUB OF THE YEAR DERBYSHIRE 2013

**O**ur Dronfield subbranch was handed a great first birthday present with both the **Derbyshire County Pub of the Year** and **Derbyshire County Club of the Year** awards being won by venues in Dronfield.

**Hill Top Sports & Social Club** beat off competition from clubs in Derby and Belper to be named the best and East Midlands Regional Director Carl Brett attended the branch meeting held there on the 17th July to present the certificate. Those present enjoyed the choice of beers on the bar – *Black Sheep Bitter*, *Bradfield Brown Cow* and *Dronfield Pale Ale* along with a spread of hot food. To find out more about what the club has to offer and how to become a member visit their website.

**The Three Tuns** at Hallowes roundabout beat off some hot competition from across the county including both rural and city pubs. The Tuns is a clean and comfy pub that offers a friendly welcome to all, beer from Spire brewery plus guests and good value home cooked food. The award presentation is planned for the evening of Friday 9th August – why not join us for a pint?

Look out for photographs from the award presentations next month.



## YOUR PUB NEEDS YOUR VOTE!

**O**ur Pub of the Month award is a bit of positive campaigning, highlighting local pubs that consistently serve well kept real ale in friendly and comfortable surroundings.

Voting is your opportunity to support good, real ale pubs you feel deserve some recognition and publicity. All CAMRA branch members are welcome to vote at branch meetings or on our website at [sheffieldcamra.org.uk/potm](http://sheffieldcamra.org.uk/potm). It's not one pub against another, simply vote YES or NO as to whether you think the pub should be PotM. If we get enough votes in time we will make the award.

Nomination forms are available at branch meetings. The pub must have been open and serving real ale for a year and under the same management for 6 months. Winners compete alongside our Good Beer Guide entries for branch Pub of the Year, the winner of which is entered into the national competition.

The list of nominees includes which buses to take if you fancy a trip to try them out:

### DADA BAR

Trippett Lane, City Centre

### DEVONSHIRE ARMS

Dore (buses 70, M17)

### THE GRAPES

Trippett Lane, City Centre

### THE MUSEUM

Orchard Lane, City Centre

### THE NEW INN

Gleadless Common (bus 51 or tram to Hollisend)

### OLD HORNS INN

High Bradfield (buses 61, 62)

### THE RED LION

Charles Street, City Centre

### THE RIVERSIDE

Mowbray Street, Kelham Island (buses 47, 48, 53, 87)

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For more details about CAMRA beer festivals visit [camra.org.uk](http://camra.org.uk) and for independent beer festivals try [aletalk.co.uk](http://aletalk.co.uk).

## AUGUST

### 3 VALLEYS II: THE RIDGE **SAT 3**

Three Valleys II: The Ridge. This festival features 12 venues in the Dronfield area all offering an extended range of beers, there will also be cider, food and music to be enjoyed. A free bus service will run every half hour from Dronfield railway station linking all the venues.

The venues are: Unstone Community Hall, Three Tuns, Dronfield Arms, Jolly Farmer, Miners Arms, Talbot Arms, Victoria Inn, Green Dragon, Coach & Horses, Royal Oak, Inn at Troway and Travellers Rest.

See [threevalleysfestival.org.uk](http://threevalleysfestival.org.uk).

### THE CARLTON **FRI 9 SAT 10 SUN 11**

This classic boozer in Attercliffe is holding a 3 day beer festival. Buses 6, 52 and 69 go past the pub and its also only a short walk from the tram stop.

### MATLOCK BATH **FRI 9 SAT 10 SUN 11**

The Matlock & Dales sub branch of CAMRA are teaming up with the Fishpond pub in Matlock Bath to put on a real ale festival featuring up to 50 local beers. Admission to this event is free and beers will be spread over 5 bars - the main pub bar, 3 bars in the ballroom and a courtyard bar. Bus 218 and X17 runs from Sheffield to Matlock with connections available to Matlock Bath. There is also a railway station at Matlock Bath.



### GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL

**TUE 13 WED 14 THU 15 FRI 16 SAT 17**

CAMRA's flagship beer festival at Earls Court, showcasing real ales from across the UK and America. Champion Beer of Britain is judged here. Regular coaches and trains run from Sheffield to London with cheaper fares if you book in advance.

### PETERBOROUGH

**TUE 20 WED 21 THU 22 FRI 23 SAT 24**

The granddaddy of UK tented real ale festivals, this festival features over 350 beers across several marquees on the embankment and even boasts a mini funfair and a whole host of food stalls! See [www.beer-](http://www.beer-)

[fest.org.uk](http://fest.org.uk) for details of opening hours and entry fees, note most days there is an afternoon break. East Midlands Trains run a direct train from Sheffield to Peterborough every hour. Cheaper tickets are often available if booked in advance.

### NATIONAL CYCLING CENTRE

**FRI 23 SAT 24 SUN 25 MON 26**

Manchester's National Cycling Centre is hosting a new event featuring 60 beers plus a selection of ciders served in Restaurant, adjacent to main reception area with food available in restaurant as well as a bbq outside. Open: Fri 4pm-10pm; Sat 12-10pm; Sun 12-6pm. Beers permitting, will open Mon 12-4pm. Plenty of outdoor seating. Regular trains from Sheffield to Manchester Piccadilly then Metrolink light rail.

### THE NOOK **FRI 23 SAT 24 SUN 25**

The Nook pub in Holmfirth hold their summer beer festival with around 50 real ales plus ciders and fruit wines. Most of the beers will be from Yorkshire in tribute to the 150th anniversary of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. The festival will also feature live music and a BBQ. The nearest railway station to Holmfirth is Brockholes (Sheffield-Huddersfield line) where there is a connecting bus.

## OCTOBER

### 39TH STEEL CITY

**WED 23 THU 24 FRI 25 SAT 26**

Don't forget Sheffield CAMRA's Steel City Beer & Cider Festival is at Ponds Forge.



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**WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER**  
5-11pm - £2.50/CAMRA £1

**THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER**  
12-6pm - £2/CAMRA £1      6-11pm - £3/CAMRA £1  
8-11pm - ALBERTS SKIFFLE BAND

**FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER**  
12-6pm - £3/CAMRA £1      6-11pm - £5/CAMRA £2  
6-9pm - Johnny and The Moondogs  
8-11pm - ROAMING SON

**SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER**  
12-7pm - £5/CAMRA £1      7-11pm - £3/CAMRA £1  
Loxley Silver Prize Band (Afternoon)  
8-11pm - SOULFACES





## CRAFT, CASK AND KEG PART 2

A few months ago, I wrote about the current debate regarding 'craft beer,' craft keg' and similar.

Things have since moved on:

(1) In a Sheffield GBBG 2013 pub., I recently spotted a 'CAMRA LocALE' badge attached to a Bradfield Brewery keg font... this is not LocALE and if advertised as such breaches the Trades Description Act. LocALE is not a keg product even if it comes from a local brewery who produce a range of respected cask conditioned beers. LocALE is cask conditioned beer. I can only assume some confusion among the bar staff.

(2) Brewdog have applied for a premises licence for the former Starbucks unit on Division Street, Sheffield. No doubt, this will have similar décor to their other outlets. I have also sampled their 10% *Cocoa Psycho* (described as 'a decadent and indulgent Imperial Russian Stout') in both bottled and keg format. It was worth the taste but I won't be buying another bottle. Their pricing policy could be seen as extreme: seemingly high prices for strong heavily hopped keg beers (using the finest ingredients). However, you would not expect to pay the same for a bottle of appellation d'origine contrôlée (AOC) Red wine as you would for a litre bottle with a crown cork. Brewdog (and others) would argue that they brew interesting beers, then calculate the selling price from their production costs.

BrewDog's Fraserburgh brewery produced its first brew in April 2007. They moved to nearby Ellon

in 2012, keeping Fraserburgh for experiments. Brewdog now claims to be Scotland's largest independently owned brewery producing about 120,000 bottles per month, mostly for export. Prior to 2012, most of their beers were available in cask form, but cask production is now zero. Personally, I would like to see a reintroduction of cask Brewdog – better taste, less carbonisation... a superior product. Their website states 'we are on a mission to make other people as passionate about craft beer as we are' – but they never define what is meant by 'craft beer'... surely high quality cask would qualify? So cask Brewdog for the Sheffield launch? It's unlikely, but worth an ask!

(3) The Guardian produced a piece about the 'Craft Beer' movement. They state: 'The craft crew, however, don't care where beer is from, how it's made or served, so long as – bit vague, this – it's been made with love and it tastes great'... this sounds like a definition for the vast majority of beer mentioned in the Independents section of the CAMRA Good Beer Guide... however, it is not helpful.

(4) Even the established brewers are getting in on the act. For example:

- Marston's *Revisionist Craft Lager* (4%), micro filtered and packaged in 30-litre kegs. It features German Hallertau Magnum and Tradition hops, alongside Styrian hops from Slovenia and, from the UK, Admiral and Boadicea
- Fuller's new lager, *Frontier* (4.5%), filtered but unpasteurised. This is promoted as a: 'new wave craft lager'

- Brains have their 'craft brewery' and provide (bottled) IPA in my local Morrisons

- Even Greene King (Morland) have '*Old Crafty Hen*'...

So, it remains a recipe for confusion...

- Craft keg (whatever that is) is not going to go away

- Craft keg is enjoyed by many CAMRA members and potential members

At the recent CAMRA AGM, as part of his address, Chair, Colin Valentine, alluded to the way forward; "Is craft keg a problem for CAMRA? I do not believe it is. Is it an issue for CAMRA? In certain areas of the country, such as London and other cities, it is, but in vast swathes of the United Kingdom it isn't. If it is an issue, then we should meet it head on and that is why our chief executive has been in touch with SIBA chief executive, Julian Grocock, and I have been in touch with SIBA chairman Keith Bott. SIBA members must be the biggest producers and it is them we should be talking with."

I'm now beginning to feel that it's too late to work out what we are really talking about, 'craft beer'/'craft keg' have become marketing terms – no-one knows what they really mean... the confusion will continue... it's an induced marketing mess. Hopefully, we will return to the use of clear definitions: cask conditioned beer, keg, and stop using meaningless terms such as 'craft keg.'

**Dave Pickersgill**



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**Reasons to be Cheerful**

SAT 10 AUG  
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SAT 31 AUG  
**Laughing Gravy**

SAT 7 SEP  
**Amelia Carter Band**

SAT 21 SEP  
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\*moved from 26 JUL for  
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# SOWERBY BRIDGE AND HALIFAX CRAWL

## PAUL HOLDEN TAKES IN THE REAL ALE OFFERINGS OF WEST YORKSHIRE

For our 2013 holiday we decided to go to not so fashionable West Yorkshire. But why we would we leave the country, there's be no real ale to drink! We had a cottage just out of Todmorden, not far from Hebden Bridge, which put the towns of Rochdale and Halifax within easy reach. We went to both these places over the course of the week but the latter was longer, hence the choice for a write up.

As it turns out, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax's neighbour also has a thriving ale scene so it made sense to tie it in. We began in the **White Horse** a traditional pub on the main road, the first you come to if travelling from Hebden Bridge. Rectangular shaped, the bar is in front of you facing to the right, where the main bar area is. Furnishings consist of small wooden tables and stools with

upholstered bench seats around the edges. To the left of the front door is a small tap room complete with TV and a bandit is in the main room. There are carpets all round and old photos of the pub and the local area on the walls. Three hand pumps were dispensing *Tetley's, Yorkshire Blonde* (3.9%) from Ossett (which I had) and Thwaites' *Wainwright* (4.1% – drunk by Pip), from the modest sized bar which was wood panelled in a 70s style. It was shame it was raining as there looked to be a very pleasant beer garden to the rear, beyond the car park.

Down the considerable hill and along a largely single track road is the quirky **Puzzle Hall**. The exterior is dominated by the old brewery tower of a bygone era whilst inside the bigger room has been given over to a live music area. This back room is the first

one you walk into, getting to the bar room by turning right almost immediately. Both rooms have bench seats and stools with the short connecting corridor being papered with rock posters. The small bar houses six hand pumps with five ales and one cider. It was quiet when we were in but it was late afternoon on a Thursday in early June with only 3 locals drinking inside, same as the White Horse. We sat in the generous outside area, it had stopped raining by this point, which was complete with awning and a dormant outside bar. I drank half of *Curious* (3.5%) from Magic Rock and Pip had half of *Green Mill Gold* (4.2%) which she had sampled previously in their pub in Rochdale.

Not far down the same road is **The Works**, a converted joinery works that is now a serious ale venue selling nine in total. On our



White Horse



Puzzle Hall



The Works



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visit there were three from Timothy Taylor and the rest were from local microbreweries. Big and airy with quality wooden tables, floors and bar it also serves rather nice smelling food and has an outside drinking area next to a small car park. There is a separate back room which may well be a function room as there is a complete decor change (padded walls?!) and bookcases lining the walls. Clientele was varied; from work men to middle aged diners and 20 something's enjoying a quiet drink. We could easily have whiled away a few hours in here, working our way through the guest beers.

Next we made our way to a real ale bar on Sowerby Bridge station platform, a location that is becoming increasingly fashionable these days it seems. Nonetheless the **Jubilee Rooms** is a tasteful and spacious revival of what I assume was a long neglected building, given the decline of the railways from the Beeching cuts until very recently. Not just about ale it also had a coffee machine, sold sweets, snacks and bottled soft drinks alongside the 7 hand pumps. However only 3 were in operation on our visit and I just missed out on having my first Elland beer of the holiday. A small group of regulars were stood at the bar with all of the tables free. It felt a bit like a cafe that sold ale but it was a pleasant enough place to consume the titular beverage. It looked like the refit had been done recently but plenty of beer and rail paraphernalia adorned the walls, with an abundance of ale publications to read. It is a little off the beaten track if walking, but worth the detour up the station and not far from the Works. No music, no machines



Jubilee Rooms



Barum Top Inn

and no nonsense, perfect for a quiet drink. Amazingly, for a lesser known village near to Halifax, there are five entries in the Good Beer Guide in Sowerby Bridge. But the last one was a bit further out so we caught a bus into Halifax.

As is customary we sought out the nearest Wetherspoons so we could eat cheaply. As time was drawing on and we had to catch

the last bus back to Todmorden, we also had a drink there, unusual for us. But at this point we had to narrow down where we were going to drink. A purpose built public house, rare for Wetherspoons, the **Barum Top Inn** looks quite modern from the outside with an L shaped floor plan and an upper balcony running around the perimeter. We sat up there to eat our tea, which came quickly, and I

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## LIVE MUSIC FOR AUGUST

<b>Thursday 1st August</b> <b>Hoolooovoo</b> (a little blues, a little soul, a little rock, a little roll)	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>Tuesday 20th August</b> <b>Brilliant Corners Jazz</b> (fantastic live jazz band)	<b>8.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday 3rd August</b> <b>3 Fat B*stards</b> (loud n' proud)	<b>9.30pm</b>	<b>Thursday 22nd August</b> <b>Julian Jones</b> (great sounds to start the weekend celebrations)	<b>9.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 5th August</b> <b>Carolyn Folk</b> (all welcome to watch or join in)	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY BEER &amp; MUSIC FESTIVAL</b>	
<b>Tuesday 6th August</b> <b>Jazz Jam Session</b> (all welcome)	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 23rd August</b> <b>Kingfisher Blue</b> (folked up rock!)	<b>9.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 8th August</b> <b>Blitz</b> (rockin' towards the weekend)	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>Saturday 24th August</b> <b>Albert's Skiffle Band</b> (music & dancing)	<b>2.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday 10th August</b> <b>Piston Broke</b> (live & loud)	<b>9.30pm</b>	<b>Warrior</b> (awesome rock band)	<b>9.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 11th August</b> <b>Games in the Garden</b> (barbeque weather permitting)	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 25th August</b> <b>Shaun Hutch &amp; friends</b> (music in the garden-weather permitting)	<b>3.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 12th August</b> <b>Acoustic tunes &amp; songs</b> (bring your instrument, bring your voice - all welcome)	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Guest DJ session</b>	<b>8.30pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 13th August</b> <b>Traditional Folk Evening</b> (all welcome to listen or join in)	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Monday 26th August</b> <b>Games in the Garden &amp; barbeque</b> <b>Acoustic tunes &amp; songs</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 15th August</b> <b>Jon Strong Band</b> (rock & blues)	<b>9.00pm</b>	<b>AT LEAST 14 REAL ALES &amp; CIDERS AVAILABLE ALL WEEKEND!!</b>	
<b>Friday 16th August</b> <b>North &amp; South</b> (fine sounds on vinyl)	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Thursday 29th August</b> <b>Dogwood Rose</b> (good sounds to start the weekend)	<b>9.00pm</b>
<b>Saturday 17th August</b> <b>Chris Firminger</b> (rock the weekend)	<b>9.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 30th August</b> <b>North &amp; South</b> (DJ session for the last Friday of the month)	<b>8.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 19th August</b> <b>*NEW* Folk Club Session</b> (all welcome)	<b>8.30pm</b>	<b>Saturday 31st August</b> <b>Stumble</b> (finish off the month in style!)	<b>9.30pm</b>

t: 0114 255 1500 [www.whitelionsheffield.co.uk](http://www.whitelionsheffield.co.uk) 615 London Road S2 4HT

## THE PLACE TO BE IN HEELEY



enjoyed a pint of *Kazbek* (5.0%) from Acorn with Pip supping a pint of *Savannah* (3.8%) from Elland Brewery. Typically Wetherspoons inside, styled like an old school venue and with the expected mixed clientele.

Our next stop was highly anticipated as it is a significant Yorkshire Heritage Pub and still sells real ale. The Grade II listed **Three Pigeons** is just outside Halifax town centre and you walk straight into the original hexagonal drinking lobby. The bar is to the left and serves the central area and the front left room with a back room to the right and the toilets to the back left. Ossett Brewery now run this pub but have not tampered with the historic interior that has many original features such as fireplaces, coving and the tiling in the lobby. Bench seats and small round tables occupy the drinking rooms and the bar has nine hand pumps, of which six were in use on the night we were in and four of those from Ossett. I would have liked to feature a photo of the nationally unique lobby, but people were stood at the bar and I am without a wide angle lens.

For our last drink of the evening we headed back up the hill towards the centre. **Dirty Dick's Food & Ale Emporium** inhabits a handsome mock Tudor building that contains oak panelling from HMS Newcastle. The L-shaped drinking area has bench seating and iron legged tables with music playing subtly in the background. It is more functional than cosy being well lit and having plenty of standing room around the bar. Part of the Garvey Taverns group who have three pubs in the area, it has nine



Three Pigeons



Dirty Dick's Food & Ale Emporium

hand pumps with seven beers on that night, including one from Acorn and one from Dukeries.

After this we caught the first bus of two to get back to the holiday cottage where local bottled ale awaited us. Definitely a good crawl to embark on with an excellent variety of ale venues, and there are a few more that we did not get to. There is a wealth of breweries in that area and we

will surely return to assess the Bradford ale scene at some point!

**Paul Holden**

## CONTRIBUTE TO BM

If you'd like to suggest something for the next issue, please let us know! See inside front cover.



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**SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT****JULY****BRADFIELD BUS CRAWL** **SAT 27**

**12pm.** We use the service 61/62 bus from Hillsborough Interchange to pay a visit to country pubs in Loxley, Bradfield and Dungworth and also take a tour of Bradfield Brewery. A Citywide All Day Travel Ticket (£4.30) is recommended and includes the tram ride out to Hillsborough.

**AUGUST****BRANCH MEETING** **TUE 6**

**8pm.** Come share pub, club and brewery news, catch up on what the branch is doing and discuss any campaigning issues all over a nice pint or two. This month the meeting is at the Dam House Bar & Restaurant in Crookes Valley Park (bus 95).

**FESTIVAL PLANNING** **TUE 20**

**8pm.** We continue to discuss arrangements for this October's Steel City Beer Festival. The meeting this month is at Henry's bar on Cambridge Street.

**BM DIST. / COMMITTEE MEET.** **TUE 27**

**8pm.** The evening where volunteers who have signed up to a Beer Matters distribution run collect their supply and have a social pint together at the Rutland Arms on Brown Street. The committee meeting follows in the upstairs room.

**INFO AND BOOKINGS**

Contact Richard Ryan on  
07432 293 513.

**DRONFIELD & DISTRICT****AUGUST****SUMMER POTS** **TUE 6**

**8pm.** Travellers Rest, Apper-knowledge has been awarded Dronfield subbranch's first Summer Pub of the Season award. Join us as we present the certificate and enjoy celebrations.

**DERBYSHIRE POTY** **FRI 9**

**8pm.** The Three Tuns has been recognised as Derbyshire Pub of the Year. Come down for the presentation and celebrations!

**SUBBRANCH MEETING** **WED 21**

**8pm.** We discuss pub, club and brewery news, awards and other CAMRA business. All local members welcome. The venue this month is the Coach & Horses.

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Non DD

Single Membership

£23 ☐

£25 ☐

(UK & EU)

Joint Membership

£28 ☐

£30 ☐

(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applications will be processed within 21 days

01/06

**Campaigning for Pub Goers  
& Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale  
& Pubs**

**Join CAMRA today – [www.camra.org.uk/joinus](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinus)**



### Instruction to your Bank or

### Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:  
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Service User Number

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Account Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Bank or Building Society Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Reference \_\_\_\_\_

9 2 6 1 2 9

### FOR CAMRA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This is not part of the instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Campaign for Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards secured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Campaign for Real Ale Limited and, if so, will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



# WTE

## WE LOVE SUMMER

COME AND JOIN US FOR A BEER AT...

**The Bath Hotel**  
Victoria Street  
Sheffield S3 7QL  
0114 249 5151  
beerinthebath.co.uk

**The Cross Scythes**  
Derbysire Lane  
Sheffield S8 9EQ  
0114 258 5850  
crossscythes.co.uk

**The Cricket Inn**  
Penny Lane Totley  
Sheffield S17 3AZ  
0114 236 5256  
cricketinn.co.uk

**Dada**  
Trippet Lane  
Sheffield S1 4EL  
0114 276 2930  
dada-bar.co.uk

**Graze Inn**  
Ecclesall Road  
Sheffield S11 8NX  
0114 261 6666  
grazeinn.co.uk

**The Coach & Horses**  
Sheffield Road  
Dronfield S18 2GD  
01246 413269  
mycoachandhorses.co.uk

**Inn at Troway**  
Snowdon Lane  
Troway S21 5RU  
01246 290751  
troway.co.uk

**The Greystones**  
Greystones Road  
Sheffield S11 7BS  
0114 266 5599  
mygreystones.com

**Hallamshire House**  
Commonside  
Sheffield S10 1GF  
0114 266 4466  
myhallamshire.co.uk

**Relish**  
Ecclesall Road  
Sheffield S11 8PF  
0114 266 5541  
relishrelish.co.uk

**The Stags Head**  
15 Psalter Lane  
Sheffield S11 8YL  
0114 235 0548  
mystagshead.co.uk

**Jack's Bar at  
The Beauchief**  
Abbeydale Road South  
Sheffield S7 2QW  
0114 2355 100  
thebeauchief.com



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