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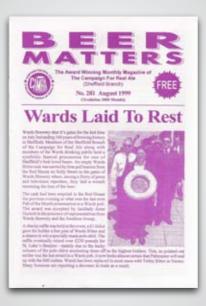




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# A Passion for Vaux

A Passion for Vaux - Sunderland's Lost Brewery is a documentary film which was premiered in Sunderland recently: 'The story of the people of Sunderland & how the 'City Financiers' took away their beloved brewery.'

The film also mentions the closure of Sheffield Brewery S. H. Wards (owned by Vaux) in July 1999, 20 years ago. Included is an interview with Linda Hutton (who was Chair of Sheffield and District CAMRA when Wards closed). Sheffield CAMRA is also included in the credits as we supplied some archive material.

One of the themes in our 500th issue of *Beer Matters* next month will be how the beer scene has changed in Sheffield over the years. Stones Brewery closed less than a year after Wards, leaving no industrial scale breweries remaining in the City, something which hasn't changed, however we now have a record number of 'craft' microbreweries producing a varied range of beers from simple easy drinking bitters & Blondes right up to lip curling sours and more - with all but one of those breweries producing real ale.

You can view a trailer for the documentary film at **youtube.com/watch?v=K5uijw-orzY**.

# 499... nearly there!

If you are quite geeky or eagle eyed you may have noticed this is issue 499 of *Beer Matters*, we've been going since the late 1970s! Next month we'll be celebrating the 500 issues with some articles looking back over the years how things have changed as well as looking forward to our annual Steel City Beer Festival next month!

If you'd like to pen a few words, please do and email them to the editor at **beermatters@sheffield.camra.org.uk**.

## CAMRA responds to Pubs Code Adjudicator investigation

The Pubs Code Adjudicator has launched an investigation into Star Pubs & Bars Ltd and their relationship with tenants that have exercise their market rent only lease option, which is intended to allow them to trade free of tie.

CAMRA's National Chairman Nik Antona said: "CAMRA welcomes the news that the Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) is finally using its power to launch an investigation - something we have called for in our continuing campaign to get the Pubs Code working as intended. An investigation and ruling from the PCA will help provide clarity on Market Rent Only (MRO) terms from one pub company, but we need wider investigations on whether all pubcos are abiding by the spirit of the Code. We want to see greater enforcement powers for the PCA to deter pub companies from unfair and unlawful behaviour in the first place.

"It is clear that the Pubs Code is not working. CAMRA is leading the fight to get meaning-ful changes introduced by talking directly to licensees, when the PCA has admitted they can't. We are currently surveying tied tenants and we expect that the results will illustrate ongoing issues with the Code and provide a compelling case for reform."



# Pub Heritage Walks

As part of Heritage Open days 2019, I'm leading a Pub Heritage Walk on Fri 13 Sep and two walks on 20 Sep. These will take in some of the entries in the CAMRA 'Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs' book.

On Fri 13., in this new walk, we will commence at the **Fat Cat** and proceed to the **Gardeners Rest** via a short stop in the **Wellington**. Along the way, we will take a circuitous route through aspects of the brewing and industrial history of Sheffield before completing the walk at the Gardeners, close to the now derelict, Stones Brewery.

The following week, we will commence at Fagans and proceed to the Dog & Partridge via a short stop outside the Grapes. After a refreshment break, we will proceed past the Red Deer and Bloo88, before completing the walk at The Bath Hotel. En route we will pass: Stanch, (the statue of a Pointer dog), the building with three different date stones, and the then home of the company whose claim to fame is that the owner was the first man to climb Nelson's Column.

In both walks there will also be Victorian tilework, terrazzo flooring, art deco glasswork, a mention of long-gone Sheffield Breweries and much more ....

The 13 Sep walk will take place once: 3pm. Places are limited (to 15) and may be booked via Eventbrite: tiny.cc/93zx7y.

The 20 Sep walk will take place twice: 2:30pm and 5:30pm. Places are limited (to 15) and may also be booked via Eventbrite:

2:30pm start: **tinyurl.com/y5249v8e**, 5:30pm start: **tinyurl.com/y3wjsmp8**.

If you can't wait until September, you could try the Sheffield Pub Heritage book:

**sheffield.camra.org.uk/rhp.** A limited number of paper copies of the book will be available at the bargain price of £5.

**Dave Pickersgill** 

# Inn Brief

It has been announced that the **Two Rivers** cafe bar should be opening in the autumn. This is a micropub being converted from former public toilets that sits over the confluence of the rivers Don and Sheaf on Blonk Street, an area of the City Centre currently being smartened up as part of the Grey-to-Green scheme which covers the corridor from West Bar to Castlegate. The bar will feature up to 5 cask beers and will also do food. It is owned by Red Sky Inns, who also own the Riverside cafe near Hillsborough and the Wentworth at Carbrook.

A planning application has gone in to turn the former Steel City Cakes shop unit at 434-436 Abbeydale Road (across the junction from the Broadfield) into a micropub.

The **Olde Nags Head** at Castleton has a house beer brewed just down the valley at Intrepid Brewery. *Lucky Hoof* is a 4.3% amber coloured best bitter.

The **Old Mustard Pot** at Midhopestones reopened at the end of June. Under the new management of Matt Dawson, the pub offers an extensive food menu in addition to three cask beers. On our visit, these included Fullers Chiswick Bitter, a beer not often seen in our area.

Good luck to Holly Whittaker-Leggett and family who have taken the **Castle** in Bolsterstone on a six-year lease. The is a large imposing open plan pub next to church in the centre of village. Popular with walkers and frequented by the local male voice choir, it was listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in Apr 2014, the first Sheffield pub to achieve this status. Beers vary, but often include Black Sheep, Bradfield, Robinsons, Timothy Taylors and Wychwood. There is occasional live music, a quiz on Sunday evenings, Wednesday evening poker and Thursday, bingo and card night. The pub is also one of the sponsors for Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome.

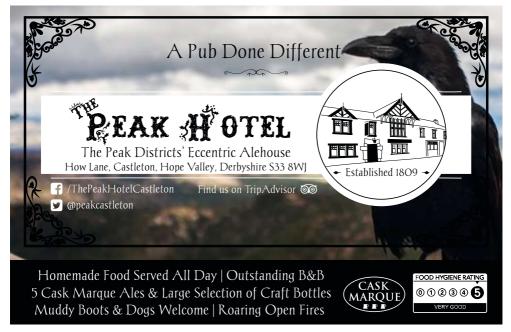
The **Green Dragon** in Dronfield are holding their annual party in the car park on Sunday 25 Aug from 3pm to raise money for the local Sam's Journey charity. There will be entertainment, stalls, bacon sarnies plus of course the pub's bar.



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# Inn Brief

The latest addition to the growing collection of pubs and bars around the Kelham Island area is Saw **Grinders Union** at Globe Works. Shalesmoor, which opened on Thu 4 Jul, compromising two buildings around a courtyard which between them feature a bar, coffee shop and restaurant. The smart looking bar has two handpumps serving cask beers which at the time of writing were from Abbevdale Brewerv. they also have a number of craft beers on their kea taps.

The **Peak Hotel** at Castleton has had a minor refurbishment and introduced a new food menu, they have also moved onto Heineken's smart dispense system for cask ales which is more eco friendly, using less cleaning chemicals and also using less energy for cellar cooling.

**Crookes Social Club** is celebrating their 100th anniversary with a festival from 9-11 Aug, raising funds for Sheffield Childrens hospital charity.

The **New Barrack Tavern** on Penistone Road near Hillsborough is hosting a charity music festival over the bank holiday weekend 23-25 Aug.

Out & About, the LGBT+ beer drinkers group are leading a pub crawl after the Pride event in Endcliffe Park on 27 Jul, starting from the Ale Club on Ecclesall Road at 4:30pm.



Originally opened as a Rawsons pub in 1797, the C20th.saw a series of changes resulting in the closure of the pub in 2010, the building becoming The Sleep Hotel. Recently, under the same management as the Rutland Arms, it reopened with the new name.

The porch has internal leaded windows and an impressive ceramic floor which features an image of a crown. Apart from the opening-out of the room on the right, the basic layout of the interior is relatively unchanged since the mid C20th. The fittings are of varying ages, with some recent renovation. Unusually, the off sales was approached via the entrance to the rear yard: purchasers entering through a small door to access the servery.

Historically, as the Crown Inn, or the Old Crown, the pub is mentioned as a key player in the 1840's Chartist protests, the Sheffield Outrages and the 1920's Sheffield Gang Wars. The outrages saw the 1859 murder of James Lindley: 'saw-grinder, was sitting at the Crown Inn. Scotland Street.' On Feb 17 1925, there was a fracas outside the Crown, involving about 30 youths. A knuckleduster, a life preserver, two razors and a hammer were picked up after the incident. Bricks, cellar grates and other missiles were alleged to have been thrown. The crowd were dispersed but returned for another fight after midnight when the two lads were arrested and subsequently charged.

Thomas Rawson's and Co. Brewery (Pond Street) was destroyed by enemy action on 12 Dec 1940. The site was subsequently developed as Sheffield Polytechnic (now Sheffield Hallam University). The pub then came into the hands of Gilmours, then Tetleys. It is now an innovative, enterprising free house with an excellent range of beer – during opening week, the Corbeau Noir was not to be missed.

**Dave Pickersgill** 

## **Opening Times**

Sun-Thurs 12pm to 11pm Fri-Sat 12pm to 12am

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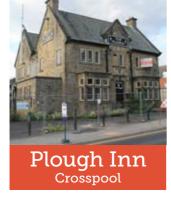


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A planning application was recently made to demolish The Plough Inn (Sandygate Road, Crosspool). The Plough was a Tennants pub for many years. In 1962, ownership changed when Whitbread took over Sheffield-based Tennants. In 2003, Enterprise Inns (Ei) took ownership. Since then, there appears to have been no serious maintenance work. Many would claim that the pub has been left to rot.

When the pub closed in 2015, a local community group obtained ACV (Asset of Community Value) status from Sheffield City Council (SCC). Ei then leased the building to Sainsburys. Sainsburys then waited until peak holiday time before, on 2 Aug, submitting a planning application to turn the pub into a 'convenience store.' This application was subsequently turned down.

Both the Plough and the adjacent football ground have ACV status with the nearby, Towers Lodge, Grade II listed. The Plough was rebuilt in 1929 and is an important example of an inter war public house which, according to Historic England, are 'rare and overlooked buildings'. National planning policy

recognises the importance of protecting historic assets and their 'setting.' This was confirmed in the decision of the local authority to refuse the application from Sainsbury's.

The pub is adjacent to the ground of Hallam FC (the 2nd oldest football club in the world). Hallam occupy Sandygate, the oldest football ground in the world. the site of the first football game (Hallam v Sheffield FC) as recognised by FIFA. The Plough is important in the history of football (the first inter-club game was adjacent, the rules of football written in the pub...). This is the venue whose historical value outweighs speculative commercial development. It is a cultural icon which should be protected.

The campaign
...is about
more than just
saving a pub...

In 2017, the building was sold to Spacepad UK, which outbid the Save the Plough campaign group's £435,000 offer made after raising thousands of pounds by selling community shares. The Plough was recently relisted as an ACV. This protects its status as a public house. This decision was based on widespread support from the community, individuals, families and local organisations.

As reported in Beer Matters. in Feb 2019, a planning application was made to erect a mobile phone mast close to the site. The application stated: "The NTQ (Notice to Quit) site is the Plough Inn, which has recently been bought by developers who have plans to convert the pub into residential with parking. A new site is urgently required to replace the current one." At this point, there was no planning permission to demolish the Plough. Rightly, the application for a mobile mast was recently withdrawn.

The application to demolish the Plough does not provide any evidence to suggest that it is not viable as a public house. The developer states that no offers were received to lease the pub. This was because it was offered for a completely unrealistic rent of £50.000 pa. Average rents in this area are between £24,000 and £29,000. This planning application would see the Plough replaced by eight houses on the site, none of which would be affordable for local people.

The campaign to preserve the Plough is about more than just saving a pub. It has been about gaining wider recognition of the historic role of the area in the sporting history of Sheffield. We believe that this planning application should be rejected and the Plough allowed to return to use as a community pub.

Dave Pickersgill







# Fuggle Bunny

There is a new bar in town in the vicinity of the lovely Kelham Island area of the city. This new venture is the dream of a guy called Coenon and his father, sadly his father never saw their dream flourish, so Coenon has worked tirelessly to complete and open **PA's Bar & Bistro**.

This warm and friendly little gem has a selection of drinks but has chosen our multi award winning Fuggle Bunny Brew House limited to supply the cask ale side of the bar. Therefore there will be a selection of three handpulls serving our fuggletastic quaffable ales.

So don't forget to show your support for another new venture in the city and Hop in whenever you are in the area, you will not be disappointed. Good luck to Coenon and his wife, family and team... I am sure your dad will be looking down on you feeling very proud at what you have accomplished.



## Kelham Island

A couple of new seasonals are being released for the summer.

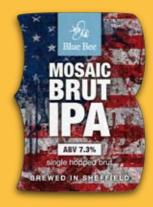
The first is **Pint Break**, 5.0%, A blonde fermented with lager yeasts for a sparkling crisp taste with a fresh hop palate from a brace of US hops. The perfect ale for car chases, sky dives or a blaze of glory on the ultimate wave!

Meanwhile, *White Rider*, 4.8% is an American style wheat beer with the addition of dark cherry; it has a smooth mouthfeel and is tangy with a sweet aroma and a sumptuous head. A KIB classic returns with a crimson vengeance!

# **Brewery Bits**



Recent new beer releases from the **Brewery of St Mars of the Desert**(SMOD) in Attercliffe include *Leavy Greave*, a 7.7% New England Double IPA and *Triple*, an 8.2% Belgian style golden triple.



Blue Bee Brewery have celebrated their 600th brew by producing a 7.3% mosaic single hopped Brut IPA.



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man

on Twitter for the latest news and offers.



## Easy vibes with LA Ride

If you're into the laid back. low rider kind of life and dream of cruising down the Californian highway to your favourite soulful tunes, our new brew is for you.

LA Ride launches this July and is the newest addition to our craft ale Gravity range. LA Ride is a low alcohol pale (2.5%) making it the perfect companion to the low rider lifestyle.

Come and enjoy the virtues of a low alcohol ride on the freeway of good vibes, music and beer, this summer with the Sheffield Brewery.

P.S. Cycling in the great Let's Ride event in Sheffield on 14 July? Have a word with your landlord now to make sure you end your ride with an easy LA Ride.

#### Been there, got the T-Shirt?

We're reight excited about our new beer T's, which you can now get your hands on to spread the love for your favourite Sheffield Brewery beers!

Available in GTSO (cut from Get Thi'Sen Outdoorz - vou know what it means!) and Blanco Blonde prints, our tshirts are made from organic. ethically sourced high-quality cotton and hand screen printed right here in Sheffield. They are just £25 each and you can order yours by emailing: sales@sheffieldbrewerv.com

#### New website now live!

Head on over to Sheffield-Brewery.com to see our new website. You'll find a showcase of our core beers and our new Gravity range, in which we're bringing you tempting and tantalising flavour combina-



You'll also find information about our tap rooms (including our own, right here in the brewery), upcoming music gigs that we are hosting and details about hiring out the brewery for parties, weddings and other events. Happy browsina!

#### Accessibility crowdfunding

Sheffield Brewery will this month launch a Crowdfunding campaign to help pay for important renovations to make its premises more accessible. This is part of a bigger project to build a community tap room and kitchen based in Neepsend in the heart of the Kelham Island area.

The brewery, which is based on the junction of Percy Street and Burton Road, currently opens as a tap room



during the weekends of Peddlers Market. The building is in a Conservation Area and has lots of heritage with all entrances originally built up to five feet off the ground.

Access to the bar from the courtyard is difficult for people with limited mobility due to a large ramp. The owners of the brewery have drawn up plans to improve the ramp access and then to add a lift, with completion of the first stage planned for October.

Sheffield Brewery is asking beer lovers far and wide plus businesses and residents of Sheffield to help support its developments through a Crowdfunding campaign, by which supporters can donate online. In return, they can receive rewards of beer, access to events, brewery tours, 'brewer for the day' experiences and discounts when booking the brewery for an



event.

Sheffield Brewery owner,
Pete Rawlinson, says: "Our
planned building works mean
that once we have access
we will be able to open as
a fully licensed venue, and
can develop our real ale bar
with a keg wall to showcase
craft ales. We can then focus
on some ambitious plans to
develop a sustainable, ethically sourced kitchen, where
we will employ and train
disadvantaged members of
the community.

"Folk have been coming to our temporary bar for over seven years and we want to open every week so members and visitors can come to the brewery and experience what we're all about - which is to enjoy great beer, live music and good company. Whilst we can only tackle this is in stages, the more we can raise, the quicker the project will move forward.

"Initially we need to raise a total of £15,000 to complete all of the access works and balustrades. We are asking our supporters to get behind us and help us to crowdfund – and we promise that our customers and the community will reap the rewards!"

The Crowdfunding campaign will launch later this month and you can find details of how to donate on the website: sheffieldbrewery.com and on Twitter: @sheffieldbrewer.

#### Keeping it local

Sheffield Brewery is backing English hops with its new brew, *Wise Cracker*, a 3.9% English Pale Ale which uses Jester and Olicana - the finest English aroma hops around.



While American hops have been the popular choice for many brewers in recent years, homegrown hops - mainly grown in the warmer climate of southern England - are becoming more and more desirable. Sheffield Brewery is keen to support the growth and sustainability of English hops to compliment hops from across the globe. Come along and decide for yourself when you try a pint of *Wise Cracker* - available in August!







# **Abbeydale**

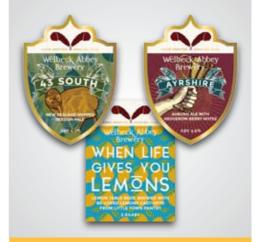
A couple of returning cask specials to tell you about this month, with *Doctor Morton's Djinn Jar Beer* (4.2%) making an appearance. With a hit of real ginger amped up by just a prickle of cayenne pepper, this is a pale ale with a bit of a kick! We're also bringing back one of the first beers we ever created, *Matins* (3.6%). Formerly part of our core range, it's great to see this old favourite (known by some as brewery owner Pat's "breakfast beer"!) popping up on bars again!

To the Brewers' Emporium range, we have a new addition! *Splendour* (4.4%) sits alongside the seasonal releases which also include *Pilgrim*, *Hibernation* and *Reverie*. It's a beautiful hazy pale ale with literally hundreds of lovingly hand sliced fresh oranges added, the first recipe created by our new sales team members Mick and Sam. We've also got our next *Serenity* session IPA (3.8%) which is the tenth in the series, this time with an All-C combination of Centennial, Cardinal and Citra hops. And we have a new *Wanderer* in the pipeline, which is to be a kaffir lime leaf and lemon grass saison at 5.0%.

The final piece of this year's artwork puzzle from the series illustrated by Lewy is coming out this month too, which is an as-yet unnamed collaboration with Box Social, a 7.0% IPA with Simcoe, Citra and Mosaic hops.

Finally, a couple of Funk Dungeon releases might start to creep out towards the end of the month as we gear up for Funk Fest (7-8 September, tickets via bit.ly/funkfest19) so keep your eyes peeled for those!

Laura Jess



# Welbeck Abbey

Welcome to August! Summer feels like its properly arrived now and we've got some good offerings for you this month!

We'll kick it off with *43° South*. This sessionable pale ale uses Wakatu and Wai-iti hops grown in New Zealand. The combinations of these New World hops give this pale ale the subtle flavour of peaches and apricots, lifted with a delicate floral aroma.

**Ayrshire** is our next special this month and is a timeless British auburn ale. English Bramling Cross hops give this ale subtle hints of hedgerow berry fruits and it sits nicely at 4.6%.

Lastly from our Foraged & Found range we've got a unique offering called *When Life Gives You Lemons*. We've teamed up with our friends at Little Town Pantry to bring you our first ever table beer at 2.8%. They craft delicious cakes just a few miles from Welbeck and use a huge number of lemons each week, making the most of the rind and juice, but leaving the main body of the lemon. So we've used these zingy by-products to create a clean tasting low-ABV table beer.

Our first IPA in our new craft keg range was released last month and is selling incredibly well! Check out our social media channels to see when and where its pouring.





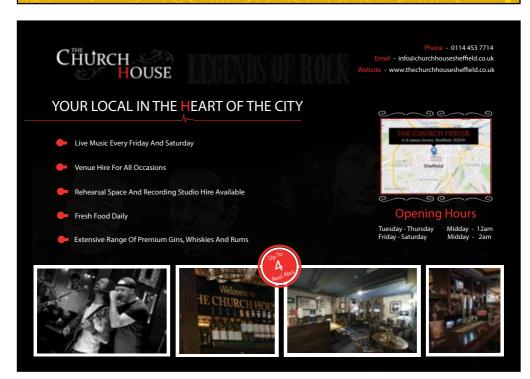
SUMMIT, SIMCOE & MOSAIC

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW CRAFT KEG IPA!

Introducing 'Curious Fox', the first in our new craft keg IPA series. Big hitting American hops Summit, Simcoe & Mosaic make this 5.5% vegan-friendly IPA seriously tropical in taste.

No two IPA's in this range will be the same and the playful and fresh design are bang on trend, but show a nod to the beautiful rural setting which houses our dynamic little team.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.WELBECKABBEYBREWERY.COUK OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @WELBECKABBEYBRY.



# Your pub needs your vote!

Our 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.

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 and on the website. 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.

## Pub of the Month nominees

#### Ball Inn

Crookes (buses 52, 52a)

#### Bath Hotel

City Centre (Blue Tram, Yellow tram, bus 6, 51, 52, 95, 120)

#### Commercial

Chapeltown (bus 2 or train)

#### Crown

Heeley (bus 10/10a, 20, 24/25, 43/44, X17)

#### Crown & Glove

Stannington (buses 61, 62, 81)

#### Lescar

Sharrow Vale (bus 65, 81, 82, 83, 83a, 88, 272)

Old Queens Head
City Centre

#### Three Merry Lads Lodge Moor (bus 51)

Walkley Beer Co. Walkley (buses 31, 95)

Vote online now!

sheffield.camra.org.uk/potm











# Pub of the Year Presentations 2019

CAMRA members joined pub regulars, musicians and others at the **Gardeners Rest** for beer, food and music on the evening of Fri 21 Jun as our branch chairman presented their overall winners certificate.

On Sat 6 Jul a number of Sheffield CAMRA members took a minibus trip into the Derbyshire Peak District area of our branch to visit a number of pubs including the **Three Stags Head** at Wardlow Mires to present their certificate for winning our PotY award for the Derbyshire area (Patrick Johnson pictured presenting the certificate to managers Kate and Andy).

This is a classic, unspoilt rural pub that serves good ale and is listed in CAMRA's National Inventory of unspoilt pub interiors.

Thu 27 Jun saw CAMRA members and pub regulars head down to the **Sheaf View** at Heeley for their South Sheffield PotY certificate presentation, some fantastic beer and a much enjoyed buffet including hot pork sandwiches.

The Sheaf View has been operating under the current ownership for 19 years now, having been bought by James Birkett in 2000 as a failed, boarded up former Marstons pub. It reopened as a real ale freehouse and was a hit from the start. You can now always find beers from Neepsend brewery on the bar as it is under the same ownership, along with some great guest beers. The pub also hosts an impressive whiskey selection, usually has sandwiches available and there is a weekly quiz night.

Well done to Josh Hayton and team at the Sheaf View for running a great real ale pub and being voted the best in South Sheffield by CAMRA members.

Members and pub regulars gathered at **Itchy Pig Alehouse** on Thu 4 Jul for the presentation
of the West Sheffield PotY (Paul Crofts pictured with Ted, Richard and Richard. They also
enjoyed some great beers, pasties and sausage
rolls. Congrats and thanks for the hospitality!





Ale House Millhouses

# Pub of the Month August 2019

Serving real ales now for over 7 years, this former 1960s estate pub has reinvented itself as a real ale haven. The Ale House is a hidden gem. A true free house serving 6 ever-changing cask ales from a wide variety of breweries both local and from further afield, including Drone Valley, Saltaire, Hambletons, Dancing Duck and Dark Star. These are complemented by keg beers, ciders and Sam Smith's lagers.

With practical support from local volunteers, this dog and child friendly pub has become a firm favourite with all who use it; a proper community pub. Regular events include home-made food every Friday evening and a pub quiz on Thursdays. There are also occasional tasting evenings of gin, vodka, whisky and beers.

A function room is available for hire for a variety of events, weddings, wakes, parties and all kinds of celebrations. Occasional live music nights are advertised on the pub's Facebook site. Current beers and Friday menus can also be found there.

#### ΑI

We'll be down at the Ale House to present their pub of the month winners certificate on the evening of Tuesday 13 Aug, from 8pm, all are welcome to join us for a beer or two! The pub is at the bottom end of Fraser Road, just off Archer Road in Millhouses, where bus 86 will get you to.



As I write this, Poppy and I are three months into our trip, just about the half-way point before we head back to Sheffield for the festival in October. Everything sounds like it's coming along nicely and it should be another fantastic event this year!

We arrived in Lithuania, the last of the three Baltic states, to an unprecedented heatwave. The sun was blazing as our bus pulled into Klaipėda, a picturesque seaside city at the northern end of the Curonian Spit. The city is home to one of Lithuania's oldest and largest breweries, Švyturys ("Lighthouse"), so of course we had to check them out. They actually moved into a shiny new brewery just last year complete with a bottle shop and tap room, called the

BHouse, which offered all of the brewery's core beers. Like some of the bigger brewers back home, they also had a craft range under the name Raudonų Plytų ("Red Bricks"). These were definitely more interesting than the core selection - highlights included the generously-hopped Bocmano Ūsai (6% IPA), and Bėganti Kopa (4.5% witbier).

Back in Klaipeda's old town we came across **Herkus Kantas**, a classic cellar bar beneath a row of townhouses with whitewashed walls and sturdy wooden furniture.

Nestled among the local beers on tap we spotted a very familiar sight, Thornbridge *AM:PM*. I couldn't resist a taste of home and can confirm it's a beer that travels well.

Leaving Klaipėda, we took a two-hour ride on a standard of train we can only dream of back in the UK to the town of Šiauliai. Like most, if not all. other visitors we were really there for the Hill of Crosses. but as it was a Friday night we decided to check out the local beer scene too. We came across Cask 215, where we had our first introduction to Genys ("Woodpecker") Brewery. The brewery offered the full range of styles from pilsners to porters and soon became one of our go-tos around Lithuania. Poppy was particularly enamoured with their tart but refreshing Raspberry Milkshake Ale (3.5%).

Next up we arrived in Panevėžys, the country's fifthlargest city. Apparently they don't get many tourists here,



but as there were two breweries in town (Kalnapilis and Dundulis) we opted to stay for a couple of nights. There was actually one excellent place in town, just around the corner from the bus station. **Špunka Old Barrel Pub** offered 8 beers from Dundulis on tap, and we duly tried most of them

More "interesting", however, were the numerous anonymous bars dotted around Panevėžys offering some of the cheapest beer we'd ever seen, some less than 60p per pint! Unsurprisingly, these places were very popular with the locals. We didn't exactly fit in with the clientele but we couldn't resist popping in to try one out - as you can imagine, the beer wasn't the best quality but the people-watching was second-to-none.

Much of Lithuania's brewing heritage belongs to the north of the country, centred around the small town of Biržai. In fact, when the town was destroyed by the Swedes in 1704, the brewery was rebuilt before the castle and the market! The brewery, Biržų Alus, still exists today but unfortunately tours were only available to groups of 15 or more people. Instead, we decided to visit Rinkuškiai Brewerv about half-an-hour's walk out from town, where we sampled an exquisitely presented ninebeer tasting flight. Highlights included the dark lager Juodasis ("Black", 4.2%), and Naminis ("Homemade", 7%), a traditional Biržai-style beer with plenty of malty flavour and hop bitterness.

From Biržai, a rather hot and uncomfortable three-hour journey on a bus from the 1970s brought us to the capital, Vilnius. This was easily the most touristy place we visited in Lithuania and many bars had prices to match. The locals seemed to have a peculiar penchant for Newcastle Brown Ale (it was available in a surprising number of places) but there were plenty of pubs for the more discerning drinker to enjoy too.





Just like in Tallinn and Riga, we did our research before we arrived and marked a few "must visits" on our free city map. Up near the cathedral, we came across **Nisha Craft Capital**, a proper craft pub offering 20 taps plus fridges full of bottles from around the world. It was here that I had my first pint of what turned out to be my favourite Lithuanian beer, Apynys Brewery's *Yellow Camper*, a 3% session IPA that packed

plenty of flavour and body despite its low ABV. In the Old Town we found **Prohibicija** tucked away in a small courtyard, which offered plenty of To ØI on tap, plus bottled beers from all of Lithuania's best microbreweries.

By now we only had one city left to visit before our three weeks in Lithuania came to an end. Kaunas was actually the country's capital between 1920 and 1939, but nowadays is better known as a university town. It's set to be the European Capital of Culture in 2022 and there was plenty of building work going on in preparation, but that didn't spoil the vibe of this fascinating and lively city.

In terms of beer culture, the city was also home to two of our favourite breweries of the trip, Genys and Apynys. The former had recently opened a tap room on the main street (the longest pedestrian thoroughfare in Europe, no less), a BrewDog-esque bar with the full range of Genys beers on tap. Meanwhile, we found the best selection of Apvnvs just around the corner in Vingiu **Dubingiu** alongside the likes of Kuro Aparatūra and Bear and Boar.

It's Poland next for us and having visited a few times before, we're very excited for the beers in store. Remember, if you'd like to keep up to speed with our latest adventures (it's not all beer!), you can find our blog at

hoppingaround.co.uk.

**Dominic Nelson** 



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# Festival guide

# **August**

#### **Great British Beer Festival**

Tue 6 - Sat 10 Aug CAMRA's flagship national beer & cider festival returns to the Olympia in London and this year promises more ales than ever before including real ale bars run by CAMRA featuring beers from across the UK and USA, a huge selection of traditional ciders and perries on their own dedicated bars plus a number of breweries will be bringing their own bars. The festival also features live music. games, street food vendors, stalls & shops and tutored tasting sessions. You can buy tickets online in advance at www.abbf.org.uk and don't forget CAMRA members can log in and get their discount code.

#### Peakender

Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug Beer, food and music with camping at the Bakewell showground. TM Travel Bus 218 provides a regular connection with Sheffield.

#### Hope Valley

Fri 23 - Mon 26 Aug The regular bank holiday weekend beer & cider festival at the Old Hall Hotel in Hope featuring lots of real ales and ciders in a tent outside the hotel plus food and music. Buses 271/272/273/274 from Sheffield run past the venue or Hope railway station is 10 minutes walk away.

# September

#### Funk Fest

#### Sat 7 - Sun 8 Sep

Following the success of the inaugural event last year, Funk Fest is back at Abbeydale Brewerv exclusively showcasing mixed fermentation and sour beers

#### Dore Club Beer & Gin Festival

#### Sat 7 Sep

Dore Club on Townhead Road (near the bus terminus) opens its doors to the public with an extended range of real ales and gins. Free entry, open 2-11pm.

#### Cleethorpes Rail Ale & Blues

#### Fri 13 - Sun 15 Sep

The annual blues music festival at Cleethorpes Light Railway's Lakeside station also featuring real ale and little steam trains.

#### Grenoside

#### Sat 14 Sep

Grenoside Beer Festival is back at the Grenoside Community Centre for 2019. A day of cask and keg beer, plus gins, wines and spirits and a selection of food from local vendors. Tickets available from Eventbrite.

#### York CAMRA

#### Wed 18 - Sat 21 Sep

The annual beer and cider festival held as always at the Knavesmire racecourse. More details to be announced.

#### Amber Valley CAMRA

# Thu 26 - Sat 28 Sep

The festival takes place in Belper's Strutt Centre on Derby Road, a characterful former school building with beer, cider, music and food across a variety of rooms and areas.

# October

#### Steel City 45

#### Wed 16 - Sat 19 Oct

Our 45th annual festival returns to the Kelham Island Museum. See our website for details.



#### **SC45** Beermats

The limited edition set of 12 beermats advertises the 45th Steel City Beer Festival. One side of has the logo, the other a sponsor. The logo sides, when arranged, give an image of the festival poster.

About 100.000 mats will be distributed over Sheffield and further afield - a full set is unlikely to be seen in one place at any one time!

Four (mint condition) sets will be auctioned on eBay - the first is now live!

All profits will go to this year's festival charity, the Sheffield based, Burton Street Project.

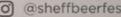
Thanks to our 12 sponsors: Abbevdale Brewery. Acorn Brewery. Blue Bee Brewery, Bradfield Brewery, Crosspool Alemakers Society Brewery, Gripple, Kelham Island Books and Music, Little Critters Brewery, Loxley Brewery, O'Hara's Rum, Triple Point Brewery and Wetherspoon.



# 12 festival beermats Collect the set!







# Branch diary

Info and bookings: social@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### RambAle #5

#### Sat 27 Jul

With a choice of 2 routes meeting up at the Grouse Inn by 2.30pm.

For a longer walk, catch the 10:40 218 TM Travel bus from the Sheffield Interchange as far as Baslow (11:20). We shall walk via Curbar and Bee Wood to the Chequers Inn, then along Froggatt Edge for the meet up at the Grouse Inn.

Alternatively you can catch the 11:35 TM no 4 bus from the Interchange upto the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow. We'll then walk over the Houndkirk Road to the Fox House, then through Longshaw and meet the other walkers at the Grouse.

Following a drink or two it'll be a shortish walk back through the Longshaw Estate to Fox House for the bus home. All welcome.

#### Branch meeting

#### 8pm Tue 30 Jul

The usual monthly meeting where members get together to discuss branch business, share pub, club and brewery news and catch up on what is happening in the campaign. This month's venue is the New Barrack Tavern on Penistone Road. Bus 7/8/86 pass the pub. (Note this meeting is a week earlier than normal due to many of us volunteering at the Great British Beer Festival in London).

Problem with your pint? Contact Citizens' Advice Sheffield on 03444 113 111.

#### Pub of the Month

#### 8pm Tue 13 Aug

Join us for a pint or two as we present our June award to Ale House, Millhouses certificate. Bus 86 stops nearby on Archer Road.

#### Club of the Year

#### 8pm Fri 16 Aug

Join us for the presentation at Royal British Legion Club, Chapeltown

#### Festival planning meeting

#### 8pm Tue 20 Aug

Planning for the 45th Steel City Festival. Venue is Gardeners Rest, Neepsend Lane (upstairs). Bus 7/8 stops outside, Shalesmoor tram stop is 10 minutes walk away.

# Beer Matters distribution and committee meeting

8pm Tue 27 Aug

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane.

#### RambAle #6

Meet at Rawson Spring, Hillsborough for breakfast at 11:00, or in time to catch the 11:55 61 bus from the interchange to High Bradfield. We'll walk to Low Bradfield, around Dam Flask towards Royal Hotel at Dungworth. From there up Stacey

Bank to Nags Head for a bus back.

Sat 31 Aug (changed from 24 Aug)

#### Branch meeting

#### 8pm Tue 3 Sep

Royal Standard, St Mary's Road, City Centre. Buses 1/1a/24/25/56.

#### RambAle #7

Sat 5 Oct (changed from 28 Sep)
Catch the 10:40 218 TM Travel Bus
from Sheffield Interchange (B4) to
the Bakewell terminus where we
will transfer to the 11:51 178 bus to
Monyash. We'll walk to Sheldon
then Ashford in the Water and back
to Bakewell where we'll visit the
new Joiners Arms micropub before
catching the bus 218 back.

# Committee

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Join us, and together we can protect the traditions of great British pubs and everything that goes with them.

Become part of the CAMRA community today – enjoy discounted entry to beer festivals and exclusive member offers. Learn about brewing and beer and join like-minded people supporting our campaigns to save pubs, clubs, your pint and more.

Join the campaign today at www.camra.org.uk/joinup







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