

BEER MATTERS



Issue 505 March 2020

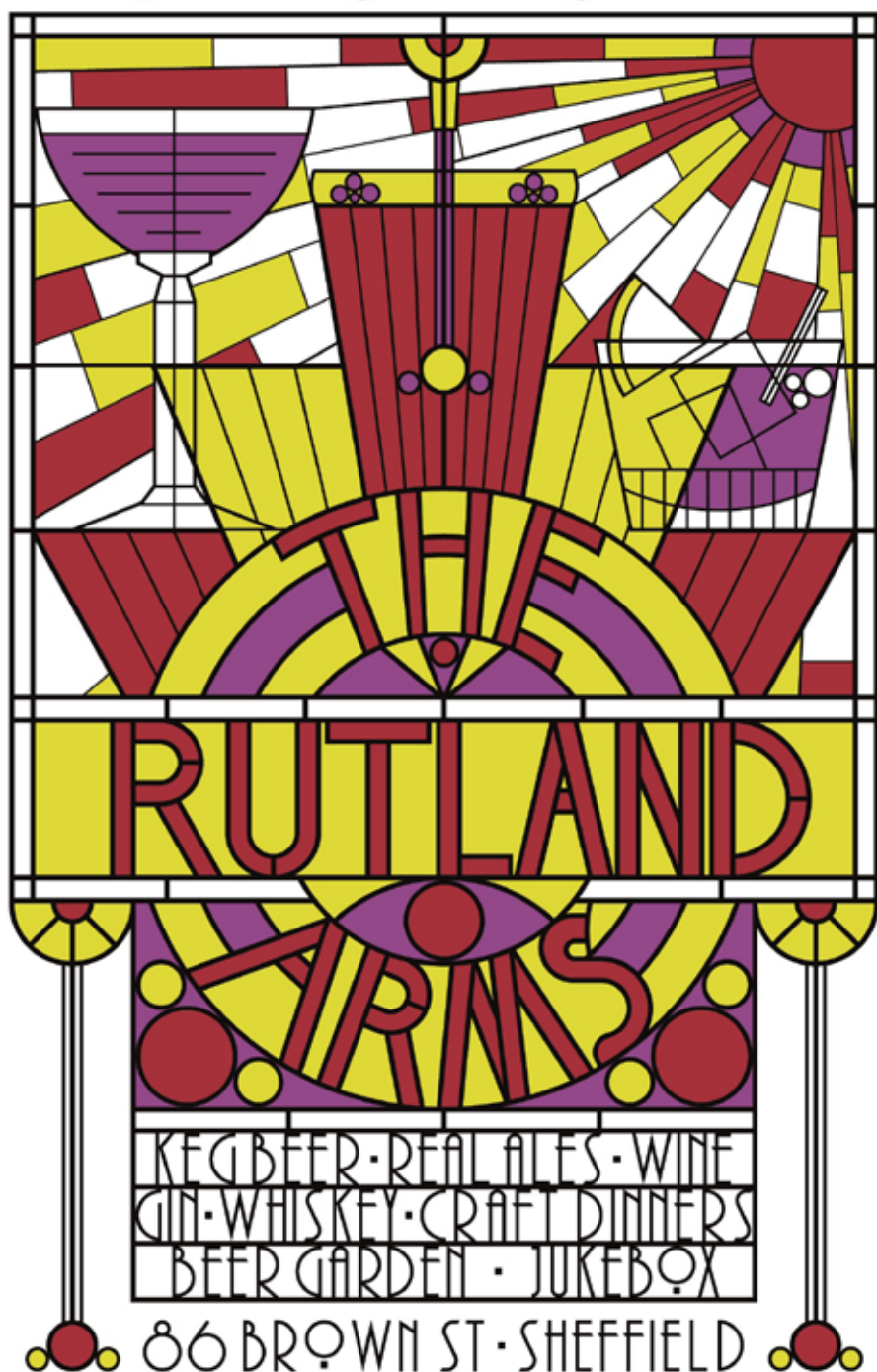
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Campaign
for
Real Ale





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The free magazine of CAMRA Sheffield & District

Issue 505 **March 2020**

Letter from the Chair Branch AGM

5

Pubs

5

WhatPub survey volunteers
Beer Week heritage walks
Beers by Queers at Dev Cat
Live music and good beer
Kelham Island Tavern



Breweries

10

Welbeck Abbey
Kelham Island
Bradfield
St Mars of the Desert
Abbeydale
Wards & Vaux
Blue Bee
Steel City



Awards Pub of the Month

16



Travel

18

Hopping around Bosnia
A Grand Day Out.. on the
Nottingham Road
RambAles return!



Festivals Sheffield Beer Week Festival news Festival guide

24



Diary

30

Committee

30



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Branch AGM

Dear CAMRA member,

As chairman of CAMRA Sheffield & District I would like to take this opportunity to ask members to actively support the Sheffield branch in 2020. The Sheffield branch committee is seeking support from members to arrange social activities, edit our monthly magazine *Beer Matters* and communicate with national CAMRA. The committee meet monthly at the Dog & Partridge and it will be difficult to continue with our current activities without some extra support. If you are interested please contact a member of the committee.

I would like to invite all members to attend the Sheffield branch annual general meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday 14 April** (8pm) in the function room (disabled access) at the Greystones on Greystones Road (S11 7BS). At the meeting we will chose the committee for the next year, and debate and vote on any motions submitted. The deadline for submission of motions is four weeks in advance of the AGM (17 March) to Phil Ellet at a branch meeting or email secretary@sheffield.camra.org.uk. Formal business includes reports from the chairman and treasurer. Following the AGM a short branch meeting will take place to share pub, club and brewery news. Social activities and future meetings will be announced. As I mention above Sheffield branch are always keen to encourage CAMRA members to get in involved in social activities, judging and join the committee. Please consider an active role to support Sheffield CAMRA branch.

The Greystones can be reached by bus 83 (stop outside the pub) or 81/82 and 88 (stop near the Co-op on Ecclesall Road and a steep 10min walk up Greystones Road).

I look forward to meeting you at the AGM,

Glyn Mansell

Chair, CAMRA Sheffield & District



Issue 505
March 2020

Letter from the Chair



**WhatPub survey
volunteers needed!**

WhatPub (whatpub.com) is the rather handy public face of CAMRA's pub database, maintained by volunteer members of branches across the country. The website is designed to be an online guide listing every pub and club in the country. It also allows members to score their beers, which helps gives an idea where the best beer is to be found!

We think we have everywhere in Sheffield you can go for a pint listed on WhatPub, however we are equally aware that the information for some of the pubs are now out of date. Formal survey work undertaken is very limited and we rely on members and publicans to submit up-to-date information on things like opening hours, beer range, food service etc.

There is a link on every pub's page to submit updates, so if you run a pub or go to a pub for a beer, please consider checking their WhatPub entry is correct and if not, let us know the latest details.

Pubs 5



Sheffield Beer Week pub heritage walks

As part of Sheffield Beer Week, we are leading three pub heritage walks:

On Sunday 8 March (14:00), we'll be in the West Street area and on both Thursday 12 (16:00) and Friday 13 (14:00), we'll be on Kelham Island finishing with a tour at the Sheffield Brewing Co.

All three walks will include Victorian tilework, terrazzo flooring, art deco glasswork, a mention of long-gone Sheffield Breweries and much more....

After the last two walks, Sheffield Brewing Company will be showing a series of films: a collection of short dramas, humorous trade films, perceptive documentaries and archival newsreel items, together presenting a history of the British boozier.

Full details and booking information is available:

Sunday 8 March: tinyurl.com/vp4d2gj
Thursday 12 March: tinyurl.com/raklr8t
Friday 13 March: tinyurl.com/rfeqtkb

If you can't wait until Sheffield Beer Week, you could try the third edition of *Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs*: sheffield.camra.org.uk/rhp.

Dave Pickersgill

Inn Brief

The **Gardeners Rest** at Neepsend is hosting a bar billiards tournament on 18 March with a 6pm start. To take part you need to register in advance at the bar and the entry fee is £1.

Beery events coming up at **Shakespeares** on Gibraltar Street include tap takeovers with Howling Hops (27 February) and Torrside (9 March) then "Collabracadabra", a festival of collaborative brew beers from 13 to 15 March.

The **Devonshire Cat** host one of their regular Abbeydale Brewery Funk Dungeon events on Thursday 27 February from 5-8pm with brewer Jim hosting private tastings. The Funk Dungeon range tend to be sour, barrel aged and other experimental brews and the latest releases will be available on cask, keg and can.

Jabbarwocky bar on London Road are hosting a Wylam tap takeover from 6 to 8 March with a range of two cask and five keg beers plus a selection of cans.

The **Blue Stoops** on Dronfield High Street is hosting tap takeovers with Ilkley and Drone Valley Breweries between 9 and 15 March.

The RateBeer website has been naming their annual award winners with national recognition given to the **Sheffield Tap** (brewpub category) and **Shakespeare's** (pub/bar category). Within South Yorkshire **Hop Hideout** was the top bottle shop so along with international honours for the **Brewery of St Mars of the Desert** there is a lot of love for Sheffield's beer scene there!

The **Masons** in Crookes was due to reopen on 21 February following refurbishment.

Mid February saw a number of venues in our area joining in Tiny Rebel Brewery's 8th birthday with tap takeovers, including the **Head of Steam**, **Two Thirds Beer Co**, **Millowner Arms** and **Ches-terfield Alehouse**.

Toolmakers Brewery tap room is hosting a comedy night on 5th March with free entry.

The **New Barrack Tavern** is hosting a cider & cheese tasting night on 18 March, check their Facebook event or ask at the bar for more details.

The **Swan** at Ridgeway has announced that they will again this year be teaming up with three other pubs in the village to put on Ridgeway beer festival on Saturday 16 May featuring real ale, live music, food and more.

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Beers by Queers at the Devonshire Cat

Inclusivity and diversity. Two words that are not mentioned often enough in connection to the beer community.

However they are two of the pillars of Sheffield Beer Week and they are at the heart of what we want to achieve with our Sheffield Beer Week plans here at the Dev Cat.

On Friday 13 March we're proud to be hosting the launch party of the collaboration beer between Abbeydale, Sheffield based LGBT community - Out & About and The Queer Brewing Project.

This collaboration will be joined by a host of other beers on draught that have been brewed by LGBT+ people in a considered effort to promote the much under-represented LGBT+ beer community. This is more than a tap takeover; it is a celebration of equality, diversity and of course great beer!

Michael Deakin

Bar Manager, Devonshire Cat



Live music and good beer

The last week in January saw a national Independent Venue week, celebrating independently operated live music venues. It also saw a local MP call on the government to support such venues and a local venue operator bemoaning that bands often bypass Sheffield as they struggle to sell tickets here, calling on the public to support live music by buying tickets for gigs and going out to venues to see bands.

Other issues highlighted in the last few years include residential developments close to live music venues where the new neighbours attracted by City Centre living complain about the noise!

Sheffield has a great history of both music and pubs with the two invariably linked with many successful bands starting out playing rooms in pubs, bars and clubs!

While we've missed the boat a bit for Independent Venue week, there are pubs with live music all year round that are worth supporting with your custom, so time for a quick mention of *just some* of the places in our area you can enjoy real ale with live music - and many of them offer free entry so you can be entertained for

just the price of your pint!

Church House, City Centre:

Located next to the Cathedral tram stop (and also the actual Cathedral of course!), this pub hosts live music at the weekend, normally of the rock genre. Beer range is normally from the Heineken Star Bars list plus a local guest.



Dorothy Pax, Victoria Quays:

A cosy bar in a railway arch alongside the canal basin offering a range of real ales and regular live music events, mostly blues and generally free entry. In the summer look out for special festival events with a music stage outside on the waterfront.

Frog & Parrot, Division Street, Sheffield City Centre: This slightly quirky but classic Greene King pub is a Sheffield institution and hosts live music at the front of the pub from time to time.

Gardeners Rest, Neepsend: A community ethos runs through this pub in both the ownership and the way it operates. It has three rooms (snug, lounge and conservatory) and a riverside beer garden. Music performances, normally folky, are regular in the lounge.

Greystones: This pub run by Thornbridge Brewery has a back room for ticketed events including live music and comedy.

Harlequin, Kelham Island: The lower part of this pub is regularly converted into a stage area, with Saturday nights often seeing live music, usually classic rock covers.

Hillsborough Hotel, Langsett Road: Look out for monthly folk music sessions.

New Barrack Tavern, near Hillsborough: This multi-roomed roadhouse pub has a stage area in the main bar room as well as in the beer garden and hosts regular live music and comedy events. The bar features a choice of real ales and an extensive cider selection. Check their Facebook page for entertainment guide.

Picture House Social, Abbeydale Road: As well as DJs in the bar, there is a separate gig room at the back of the venue which hosts regular ticketed events.

Shakespeares, Gibraltar Street: The upstairs "Bards Bar" hosts a busy gig programme.

Toolmakers Brewery Tap Room, Neepsend: As well as enjoying ale brewed on site, this venue located behind the Forest pub opens for gigs once or twice a month including jam nights as well as full band gigs. Events are a mixture of free entry and ticketed, check out the brewery Facebook page for details.

Washington, City Centre: The raised part of the dance floor is utilised as a stage for regular free entry live music nights, often young up and coming indie bands. Gigs are normally an 8pm start, with a DJ on after. 6 real ales available on the bar, which stays open until 2am midweek and 3am Thursday/Friday/Saturday night. Check their Facebook page or website for whats on (photo by Martin Clark).

White Lion, Heeley: The raised area at the back of the pub hosts live music of some description most nights, the exception being Wednesday when it is quiz night. A range of real ales are available. Check their website for listings.

An honourable mention as a mainstay of Sheffield's music scene goes to **West Street Live**, unfortunately there is no real ale or craft beer on tap there but there is usually something worth drinking in bottles or cans. **Green Room** also hosts regular live music events, they have real ale on a part time basis, usually Doom Bar.



Kelham Island Tavern

The Kelham Island Tavern has begun a monthly food night on the first Thursday of the month between 6pm and 8pm. February featured a curry night which proved really popular and plans for Thursday 5th March are for a Mexican themed evening, so come along and enjoy some great home cooked food and a beer.

Also on the cards at the Kelham Island Tavern for Sheffield Beer week are a cask tap takeover of Leeds based Wilde Child Brewery on Tuesday 10 March. Expect a range of their signature flavoured stouts, porters and pale ales along with hop forward pale ales.

Secondly on Friday 13 March there will be a Newcastle tap takeover showcasing some of the best breweries from Newcastle upon Tyne on both cask and keg. Featuring beers from Wylam, Almasty, By the River, Alpha Delta, Errant and more.



Welbeck Abbey

As the trees are coming into leaf and the buds of spring are starting to bloom we have three very unique monthly specials.

Sligo is a 5.4% Irish Stout. This dark ale is a velvety smooth, chocolatey brew, created using the finest roast British malts and rolled oats. The Welbeck estate is famous for its network of underground tunnels which were built by the great philanthropist, the fifth Duke of Portland. This traditional brew remembers the Irish workers who helped construct the network, their campsite being nicknamed 'little Sligo'.

Our second offering for March is the **Loyal Duke**, a bold golden ale at 4.0%. William Cavendish, ancestor of the Welbeck dynasty, was

known as the Loyal Duke. He was so trusted, that the Duke was appointed as commander-in-chief of the Loyalist forces in the North by Charles I. This is a luxuriously smooth and biscuity four-grain golden ale, brewed using the very finest transcontinental hops to compliment these British malts.

Finally, we have our next Brewers Choice brew, **Helen's Let's Get Fiscal**. Helen holds the purse strings in our microbrewery, and having worked with us for several years is a firm real ale convert. Her favourite Welbeck beer is Harley, although her guilty pleasure is Bacardi and coke! A fresh, vibrant New Zealand pale ale this 5.3% brew is full of syrupy sweet canned-pine-apple flavours.

Brewery Bits

Sheffield Brewery Co. are having regular film nights on Thursdays from 26 March in association with Kelham Island Film Club and their bar is now open every weekend, from 4pm Fridays and 2pm Saturdays. Brewery tours are being relaunched soon.

Neepsend are on the move! The brewery tap session held on the February Peddlers weekend was the final one on the old site and at the time of writing the floor at the new premises was complete and they were about to move all the kit! The new brewery isn't far away, just around the corner at 92 Burton Street, the same complex where Peddlers Night Market takes place on the first weekend of the month.

The latest beer from **Acorn Brewery** is **Bullseye**, a 4.5% ABV rich red coloured bitter brewed with dark Crystal Malt and English Challenger hops.

A new micro brewery, **Grizzly Grains**, has started up, using the old kit from Crosspool Ale Makers. Having sold the kit, **Crosspool Ale Makers** are looking for a brewery to cuckoo at in order to scale up their production.

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Kelham Island

Another couple of specials are being brewed for March.

Vanilla Thriller - This rich stout packs a punch, with a combination of four different malts to create complex dark roasty palate balanced by the sweetness of vanilla.

Sonic Non Youth - A refreshing crisp pale ale so amazing it will put you in a spin. Clean and Fresh on the palate, with a hint of citrus and a dry finish.

Joe Beirns



St Mars of

One of Sheffield's very own breweries has been named among the top ten best new breweries in the world by popular beer scoring website, RateBeer. Saint Mars of the Desert (SMOD), run by husband and wife team Dann and Martha Paquette, started brewing in Attercliffe in late 2018 and quickly gained a reputation for brewing top-quality beer.

The awards are based on scores across a variety of categories, including average scores throughout the last year, performance across a range of beer styles, and scores from outside the brewer's local region to ensure that the beer travels well.



Bradfield

Farmers Irish Dexter returns to our cask ale line up for March 2020, its 14th year appearance as a seasonal contender. This sweet malty ale inherits its name from the Dexter breed of cattle originating from Ireland - a perfect combination for a brew to celebrate St Patrick's Day!

Farmers Plum Bitter, the first seasonal fruity ale of the year from our schedule will be available from the 16th

March. This smooth dark ale is a popular offering with the fruity ale fans.

The Bradfield Brewery book, *Mine's a Pint*, will be reduced in price to celebrate World Book Day on 5 March. This great book combining the story of Bradfield Brewery with some great traditional recipes from the Famous Magpie Café in Whitby, will be available throughout March from the Brewery Shop for an absolute steal at £5.



the Desert

SMOD was also named South Yorkshire's highest-rated brewery, while their New England-style IPA, **Clamp** (5.3%), was revealed as South Yorkshire's best beer of 2020 in the awards, which are celebrating the website's 20th anniversary.

Having been closed for brewing and maintenance throughout January and February, SMOD's much-loved taproom sessions are set to return in March. Full details will be revealed through their website, beerofsmod.co.uk, and on social media.

Dominic Nelson



Abbeydale

March heralds the arrival of Sheffield Beer Week, and we're launching a couple of special beers for the occasion. First up, we've got a cask only pale ale brewed in collaboration with Lily Waite's Queer Brewing Project and Out & About (4.3%), using Amarillo, Chinook and Mosaic hops. We've also trialled the use of Super F vegan finings in this one and added Brewers Clarex, to make it as accessible to as many beer drinkers as we can.

And launching at Indie Beer Feast (6-7 March at Abbeydale Picture House, tickets still available at the time of writing!) we're bringing back our **Deliverance** IPA with a bang! To welcome it back into our range after a fairly lengthy absence, we've teamed up with acclaimed hop suppliers Yakima Chief to use a trio of hops from the wild Neomexicanus subspecies – Sabro, and two experimental varieties currently named HBC 472 and HBC 692. Expect aromas and flavours of juicy citrus, creamy coconut and a hint of bourbon character from this 7.0% IPA. This one will be available in cask, keg and can.

Turning to the dark side, we're going to be **Crossing the Threshold** with a 6.7% dessert stout brewed in collaboration with our London based friends Orbit Beers and inspired by our brewers' travels to Vietnam. Paying homage to our shared love of street food, this silky and indulgent stout is based on a bánh bò steamed rice cake, with rice in the grist, plus coconut, coconut milk and Sorachi Ace hops.

We're also launching a new series celebrating the 'Hidden Treasures' of our wonderful city. The first of these is called **Family Heirlooms & Tuneful Endings**, and will be a 4.1% pale ale. The artwork is a nod to brewery owner Pat's life before Abbeydale... it's a story that won't fit here, so give us a week or so and check our website for a blog post with allllll the details!

And just to finish off the month, our springtime dry-hopped pale ale **Reverie** is making a comeback (4.2%), and our lovely new series continues with a **Tradition** hopped pale (4.1%).

Laura

Wards & Vaux

You may recall in our issue 500 one of our correspondents providing memories of their time in Sheffield beer talked about when the Wards brand returned. The following brings things up to date.

In your review of Sheffield Brewing in *BM 500* you mention that Robinsons have taken over brewing Wards which is not strictly true. Yes, we franchised the brewing of the keg version to Robinsons brewery some time ago as we did not have those facilities at the time - but we remain the Brand owner here at Maxim Brewery at Houghton le Spring in County Durham and continue to brew the cask version. We have however removed the yeasty sulphur smell that Wards did sometimes have. Do try it again if you're up our way.

For my part I started at Wards in 1985 before moving to Sunderland to become Wards and Vaux Breweries finance Director in 1995 and was there at the end when the City of London asset stripped both breweries and closed them on 2 July 1999. I was part of the MBO team that attempted to buy Vaux Brewery and a number of pubs in 1999. In 2000, I was able to salvage a portfolio of the brands and their recipes including Double Maxim and Wards Best Bitter and founded the Maxim Brewery.

This year marked the 20 year anniversary of the closure and we sponsored a film that has been made by an independent film company - Lonely Tower Films. It's called *A Passion for Vaux* - but does include a bit on Wards and the tragedy of that closure. Its available on Amazon for £13.99.

Here's the challenge: in an ideal world we would now look to a quality Sheffield brewer who would want to brew the cask (and bottle/can) going forward which would be a great story for the city. Anyone interested?

Mark Anderson

Managing Director, Maxim Brewery



Blue Bee

March sees the return of Sheffield Beer Week and we can't wait to enjoy some of the great beery events planned throughout the city. We were really pleased to welcome Luicenne from the Shakespeare down to the brewery to brew a beer for their Collabracadabra brew fest, the beer in question is a style we have not brewed for a while, a Black IPA showcasing American Ekuanot hops. At the time of writing the full details had not been decided but expect a dark ale packed full of hoppy bitterness. We also headed down to Steel City/Lost Industry to join the Shakespeare team, Abbeydale and Neepsend to brew a beer for the event and can't wait for Friday 13 March to try both beers at the Shakespeare.

Other beers we have available for March are the new **American 5 Hop version 43** 4.3% this time combining Amarillo, Columbus, Cascade, Centennial and Mosaic. We also managed to get our hands on some Australian Galaxy hops for the first time in a long time and have combined it with Mosaic to create a citrusy and fruity West Coast IPA with a bitter finish, inventively named **Galaxy Mosaic IPA** 5.8%. On top of this we have Citra and Simcoe session New England Pale Ale in the pipeline so watch this space.



Steel City

Steel City's latest brew was a 'super-collab', with several of Sheffield's craft-est breweries gathering along with Lucienne off of the Shakespeare to brew Collabracadabra for that pub's eponymous event in Beer Week (Friday 13 March).

Lucienne had been on a tour of the country brewing a dozen collabs for the event then a little closer to home arranged the super-collab hosted by Steel City with Lost industry, Ab-beydale, Blue Bee and Neepsend visiting.

After much discussion the brewers settled on an apricot vanilla braggot, brewed with 60 kg of apricot, Madagascan vanilla and slightly more local Sheffield honey. Much beer was enjoyed on the day as well as a barbecue, oh and the brewing went pretty well too.

200 litres of the brew have been squirrelled away in a Bordeaux red wine barrel with another 20 kg of apricot and even more vanilla, this will launch at Sheffield Beer Week 2021.

In other news, the brewery is finally getting round to exporting, with a shared pallet with Lost Industry making its way to Köln (Cologne) where the beers will be featured at Craftbeer Corner Coeln as well as making their way deeper into Germany. The quest for world domination starts here...



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.

The list of nominees is below and includes which buses to take if you fancy a trip to try them out.

Pub of the Month nominees

Broomhill Tavern

Broomhill (buses 51, 52, 52a)

Crown

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

Fox & Duck

Broomhill (buses 51, 52, 52a, 120, 273, 274)

Portland House

Ecclesall Road (buses 65, 81, 82, 83, 83a, 88, 272)

Swan

Ridgeway (bus 252)

Wisewood Inn

Wisewood (buses 52a, 61, 62)

Vote
online
now!

sheffield.camra.org.uk/potm



Pub of the Month Presentation

Our chairman Glyn Mansell presented **Bankers Draft** shift manager Alex Crowe with our February Pub of the Month award, which he accepted on behalf of all the team at this Wetherspoon pub located in Sheffield City Centre by Castle Square tram stop.

The award is voted for by our members and reflects the local management's passion for keeping a good range of well kept real ale and on the night they also hosted a meet-the-brewer event with Little Critters Brewery, which also featured a pop-up bar with a selection of their beers - all at Wetherspoon's affordable prices too!





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Enjoying a Bereta beer in Timisoara

Hopping around Romania

After the unexpected delights of Serbia, we headed into Romania with renewed optimism. Both of us had friends in the country who had warned us there might not be much in the way of decent beer. Luckily, they were wrong!

Our first stop was Timisoara, about 40 miles from the Serbian border. As we were strolling through the Fabric district, an interesting little place caught our eye. **TapRoom** was tiny with its pop-up bar and no more than half a dozen seats. It turned out that it was actually the main outlet for one of Timisoara's newest breweries, OneTwo Brewing. In fact, the brewery was so new that none of their beers were ready to drink yet. Well, not officially anyway.

Being the only customers on a quiet Wednesday evening, we got talking to the owner, Alexandru, and it turned out that we both had a love of sour beers. Sours haven't caught

on yet in Romania, so he was excited to meet a fellow fan and conjured up a bottle of one of his own as-yet-unnamed creations for us to share. I must say I thought it was excellent, with just the right level of sourness. However, by the look on Poppy's face when she tried it, I don't think she's a sour fan just yet!

Easily the best place in town, though, was **Bereta**. Another local brewery, they are a bit longer established and have gained themselves a reputation for excellent and varied beers. We'd tried a couple of their offerings at TapRoom and been suitably impressed, and their own bar didn't disappoint. The 16 taps were brilliant enough, but it was the bottled range that really excelled. Poppy's Hopdrops *Northern Raven* (10.5% imperial stout) was so good it literally brought a tear to her eye.

Next up, a six-hour minibus journey away, was Sibiu, one

of Transylvania's seven ancient cities. The city has a long history of German occupation and the influence was certainly evident on the beer front. Now, it's not often you come across a craft beer bar in the middle of an open-air ethnographic museum, but that's exactly what we found at Astra. We were treated to an hour or two of traditional folk dancing while sipping a bottle of Urban Brewery's Oktoberfest-style *Märzen* (5.5%).

Back in town, the best option beer-wise was probably **St Andrew's Scottish Pub**. Despite the name, there wasn't a Tennent's lager in sight. There was, however, an excellent selection of Romanian craft on offer. Big names such as Bereta and Hop Hooligans made an appearance alongside smaller local breweries like Bere Sibiu and Nembeer.

Having been pretty impressed so far, we were by now especially excited to visit the capital

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Local beers in Bucharest



Bucharest. There are no fewer than 15 permanent breweries here (not quite Sheffield standard, but not a bad effort!), as well as a handful of gypsy brewers. Romania's biggest craft brewery, Hop Hooligans, are technically based just outside the city limits, but they dominate the Bucharest beer scene – not a bad thing as they are generally excellent. One of the biggest selections of their offerings was at **Zeppelin Pub**, a British-style bar with a (possibly overly) friendly resident cat.

As you'd expect, many of the Bucharest breweries have fancy modern tap rooms, and it would have been rude of us not to visit a few. **Ground Zero**, located at the back of a car park in the business district, had a good selection of big, hoppy IPAs, while **Zaganu** and **Sikaru's** brewery taps in the city centre both had decent ranges too.

By far and away our favourite pub in Bucharest though was **Bere si Bere**. The friendly owner was passionate about craft beer and the bottle list stretched to almost a small book. It's safe to say that our daily budget took a bit of a hit as we treated ourselves to all

sorts of beers from around the country. *Berea Clujenilor* (8.5% double IPA) was the pick of the bunch, a collab between Hop Hooligans and three breweries from Cluj.

Cluj was actually our ultimate destination, but there was time for a couple of nights in Sighisoara en-route. This isn't a beer city by any means, but we did arrive just in time for the town's "Oktoberfest". The name somewhat oversold the actual event, which was confined to one pub and didn't even have any German beer. The oompah music and free bratwurst were nice touches though!

Finally we arrived in Cluj, home to breweries such as Hopdrops, Blackout, Player One and Kutuma. We were surprised walking around town to hear lots more British accents than we expected. It turns out that the city has some of the lowest tuition fees for medical students in Europe, and is very popular with Brits in particular. The vibrant **Sisters Bar** in the city centre was the best place to find the biggest range of beers, and it was evidently popular with the student population too.

Private beer tasting at Hophead Brewery, Cluj



My friend Robi had managed to arrange us a personal tour of another local brewery, Hophead. The tour itself didn't take too long (there were only two small rooms!), but we ended up staying a lot longer for the tasting session afterwards. The head brewer, Darko, guided us through the full selection of the brewery's beers including the unique *Othervice* (5.8%), an American IPA at heart but with Belgian and German yeasts thrown in for good measure. The result was a hoppy pale with hints of banana-y wheat beer in the background – I can honestly say I'd never tried anything quite like it.

Sadly, Cluj was the final stop of our whole trip but don't fear – there's still one more Hopping Around article to come next month about our visit to Moldova, a truly fascinating little country. Now we're back I'm hoping to start adding some more articles about beers closer to home to the blog (hoppingaround.co.uk) – at least until we've saved up to go away again!

Dominic Nelson



A Grand Day Out.. on the Nottingham Road

The first trip of the New Year was to explore some of the numerous pubs along Nottingham Road between Kimberley and Eastwood using a Derbyshire Wayfarer and a Trent Barton Zigzag day ticket. I travelled to Derby and then caught the Red Arrow limited stop service to Nottingham Victoria Bus Station to change on to the Rainbow One service which connects many of the places along Nottingham Road with a ten minute frequency for much of the day.

Half an hour after leaving Nottingham I arrived in Giltbrook and the **Hayloft**. This was quite a large multi-level Greene King pub with seven hand pumps although only four were in operation, dispensing three cask beers and one cider. I chose a half of *Olde Trip* to start the day.



A couple of minutes walk away was the **Caught & Bowled** micropub with five cask beers available. This was the first micropub of the day and was in the long narrow style with the bar on the right and seating along the left wall. My selection was *Hawkshead Gold*.

Across the road to the same bus stop at which I had alighted and another Rainbow One took me the three stops to the Hilltop area. The first pub here was the **Greasley Castle** (pictured top) which is the largest traditional pub in this particular area. From the three cask beers available I chose a half of Ashover Poets Tipple. Nearby was the Tap & Growler (*CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2020* entry). A small micropub but serving a very pleasant Anarchy Brewery *Skin Deep* which was in the "very cloudy orange juice coloured style". Around the corner to another micro - the **Pick & Davy**. A complimentary homemade chilli sausage roll accompanied the *Grasshopper Devil's Horse* Irish stout.



Two further bus stops along Nottingham Road deposited me in Eastwood. First call here and nearest to the bus stop was the **Gamekeepers**. This was a slightly larger micropub and I had halves of Pentrich *Blank Maps* stout and Blue Monkey *Primate* best bitter. Nearby was the **Mellor's Mews**, just set back off the main road with some outdoor seating at the front. This

had a more modern almost wine bar feel to it although the six hand pumps were dispensing four cask beers and two ciders. I had Oakham *JHB*. The **Lady Chatterley** was the only Wetherspoons pub visited today and two Dukeries beers were sampled - *Santa's Beer'd* and *S'no Wonder*.

The last pub visited in Eastwood was the **Dog & Parrot**. Although there were several of the former in attendance I didn't encounter the parrot. This was larger than the other micropubs I had visited today and had a larger range of drinks. From the cask selection I had a very enjoyable Muirhouses *Tick Tock Boom* and Cotswold Spring *Godiva*. It was then a very short walk back to the bus stop and a Rainbow One back to Victoria Bus Station.

I had a little wander around before getting a Red Arrow to Derby and found the **Rose of England**. A street corner local offering a pleasant Home Ales *Apollo Orange* to finish off with. I didn't go for a drink in Derby on the way back but instead called in the **Sheffield Tap** (*GBG 2020*) for a half of Brew York *Maris the Otter* and then to the **Old Queen's Head** (*GBG 2020*) for halves of Thwaites *Good Elf* and Little Critters *Incubator Series New England Pale*.

Some of the pubs visited today have restricted opening hours especially early in the week so it is advisable to check these before visiting. There are still quite a number of pubs in this area to visit but these will have to wait for another day. As a footnote I would like to thank both Richard Norris and The Didler for providing the inspiration for this Grand Day Out.

Andy Morton

RambAles return!

It's springtime again so time for us to get our boots on and go for our drinks further afield...

Sheffield has many great pubs and green spaces within its boundaries. But there are many villages in the easily reached surrounding countryside which have great pubs worth visiting. We are also lucky to still have within the city a public transport system that will get you there and back.

Although we as a branch have organised minibus trips to many of these pubs, usually on our way to present one of them with a well deserved award, these are limited.

To supplement them we are continuing our RambAles – a series of roughly monthly led walks in the countryside surrounding Sheffield visiting a number of pubs for a drink whilst enjoying a not too strenuous walk.

We hope that people won't find the walks either too long or too strenuous and most will feature a number of drop-out points, as well as pubs, where people can leave the walk and make their own way back, by either bus or train, to Sheffield if they don't fancy doing the whole walk or want to stay for another drink in a particular pub. These will also provide joining points for any latecomers. Some timings and fares will be given in the walks listing (but it pays to check these yourself).

Dates haven't been given for our later walks as we have to fit them round other events such as beer festivals and football matches. But all such changes will be found in leaflets, future editions of *Beer Matters*, at sheffieldcamra.org.uk, or by contacting the walk leader on 0784 253 0128.

Everyone is welcome to join us on one of these walks but they are advised to come suitably equipped for the day's walking, which may be rough, wet and muddy in places. You should also come prepared for the possibility of changeable and inclement weather. In most cases you will also need to bring (or be able to buy) sufficient food and drink.

RambAle 1

Sat 21 Mar

A chance to walk to the dams via the 51 bus route again. We tried to do this walk last year but got rained off. Hopefully the weather will be better this year (OL1 OS map).

- Catch the 51 bus from Sheffield City Centre (Arundel Gate, by the Lyceum theatre) at 11:28 to the **Shiny Sheff** pub by Crimicar Lane, getting there for midday.
- After a drink, we'll walk along the conduit path to Redmires Dams then back to Lodge Moor for the **Three Merry Lads** and **Sportsman** pubs.
- 51 bus back from Lodge



Moor terminus into the city.

- The cheapest bus ticket is a Sheffield day ticket for First bus – £4.40 from the driver or £4 from their app.

RambAle 2

Sat 25 Apr

A walk from Denby Dale to Penistone led by Dave Pickersgill (who will join the train en-route from Sheffield).

- Catch the Northern train from Sheffield at 10:35 to Denby Dale.
- Pubs for potential refresh-



ment stops along the walk to Penistone include the **George** (Upper Denby), **Crystal Palace, Huntsman** (Thurlstone) and various in Penistone.

- Trains set off back from Penistone to Sheffield on a roughly hourly frequency.
- A return train ticket costs £6.80, buy from the ticket machines or ticket windows at the station. Alternatively a Connect+ pass is available for all public transport in South Yorkshire priced at £8.80.

RambAle 3

Sat 2 May

A meander around the parish of Holmesfield combining the Totley, Gillifield Woods and Derbyshire countryside.

- Meet at the **Cross Scythes** on Baslow Road, Totley, at 12:15. There are a choice of buses to get there, route 218 from Sheffield Interchange at 11:40 or route 97 from Sheffield High Street at 11:43.
- We'll walk to Millthorpe, home of the **Royal Oak**, then up to Holmesfield with a choice of three pubs.
- We then head down to Totley Rise (wave at cider maker Dick Shepley as we walk past Woodthorpe Hall!) and the **Shepley Spitfire** pub, before continuing up onto the main road for a bus back into Sheffield Centre.
- Best bus ticket is a CityBus all day pass at £4.70, valid on all buses in Sheffield. Buy from the bus driver or on the First Bus app.

RambAle 4

Sat Jun - TBC

RambAle 5

Sat 18 Jul

A walk from Deepcar to Wortley, to visit the beer festival at Wortley Club.

- Meet at the **King & Miller**, a Bradfield Brewery pub in Deepcar, at 12:15. Get there using the Yellow tram from Castle Square at 11:35 and connecting Stagecoach link bus at Middlewood.
- We take a pleasant 3.5 mile walk to the village of Wortley and visit the beer festival.
- TM Travel bus 29 returns

direct from Wortley to Sheffield at 16:38 or 18:44.

- A South Yorkshire connect day pass includes all buses and trams in South Yorkshire for £7. Buy from the tram conductor or on the Stagecoach Bus app.

RambAle 6

Sat Aug - TBC

A walk from Bents Green to Totley via Ringinglow (OL1 and OL24 maps).

- We meet at the **Hammer & Pincers** pub at 12:15. Get there on bus 83 or 88.
- Walk up Ringinglow Road to **Norfolk Arms**, Houndkirk Road to Fox House and over Totley Moss to Totley for a choice of the **Cricket Inn, Crown** and **Cross Scythes**.
- Buses 97 or 218 from Totley back into Sheffield Centre
- Best bus ticket is a CityBus all-day pass at £4.70, valid on all buses in Sheffield. Buy from the bus driver or on the First Bus app.

RambAle 7

Sat Sep - TBC

Great Hucklow to Bradwell.

- Catch the 65 bus from Sheffield Interchange out to **Queen Anne** in Great Hucklow, we'll then walk down to Little Hucklow to visit newly reopened and refurbished 12th century **Old Bulls Head**.
- We'll then walk back over the Dales to Bradwell, a village boasting a choice of pubs.
- The 272 bus will take us directly back to Sheffield A Derbyshire Wayfarer pass covers both buses, however single tickets are likely to be cheaper.



Sheffield Beer Week

Beer Week is a citywide beer celebration across multiple venues. Now in it's sixth year, look out for brewery open days, tap takeovers, food and beer pairing menus, guided walks and more.



The week itself runs **Mon 9 - Sun 15 Mar**, however things kick off the previous weekend with...



Indie Beer Feast

Hosted at Abbeydale Picture House on **Thu 6 - Fri 7 Mar** (advance tickets advisable), this is a celebration of great independent craft beer with 15+ brewery bars, street food, gin, a Hogan's cider bar, Hop Hideout bottle bar and a new natural wine bar hosted by award-winning Sheffield bar Public. The festival champions and supports The **Everyone Welcome** initiative.

British Guild of Beer Writers' members and leading UK beer writers **Adrian Tierney-Jones** and **Pete Brown** will be hosting pop-up tastings and judging Beer of the Festival.

Breweries pouring include local outfits: **Thornbridge, Lost Industry, Abbeydale** and **Saint Mars of the Desert**, plus a London contingency of: **Orbit, Wild Card** and **Brick**, from the North East: **Anarchy Brew Co** and **Donzoko**, Manchester's **Cloudwater**, Liverpool's **Neptune**, Reading's **Double-Barrelled**, Cheshire's **Mobberley Brewhouse**, Nottingham's **Black Iris**, Cambridge's **Pastore Brewing** and North Yorkshire's **Turning Point Brew Co**. They'll also be an international presence from Denmark's **Mikkeller**, Germany's **Frau Gruber** and Netherlands' **Kees**.

This year sees Beer Week themed around three strands - **beer and food, community** and **heritage** - with Sheffield known globally for its brewing and nationally for its superb range of pubs serving cask ale with the care and attention it deserves, the city's outstanding beer reputation precedes itself.

As usual, Sheffield CAMRA's **Dave Pickersgill** will be contributing to the heritage strand leading guided walks taking in venues from our pub heritage guide that he edited.

Local breweries involved this year include **Abbeydale, Sheffield Brewery Co, Lost Industry, Thornbridge, True North** and **Saint Mars Of the Desert**. National and international breweries announced so far include **Arbor, Duration, Marble, Adnams** (with a specific cask showcase), **Torrside, Alvinne, Siren, Salt Beer Factory, Pressure Drop** and Mikkeller's wild beer arm **Baghaven**. Plus up and coming new UK breweries **Vault City** and **Pastore Brewing and Blending**.



Pubs, bars and beer shops from around the city will be showcasing these breweries.

Shakespeares will be going all out on a collaboration festival dedicated to cask ale over the closing weekend.

Look out for beer collaborations specially brewed for Beer Week to be released through the celebrations. Not only will there be an official Sheffield Beer Week beer brewed for 2020's charity partnership supporting **The Friends of Edward Carpenter** in collaboration with Sheffield based LGBTQ+ beer group **Out & About** and **Lost Industry Brewing**, but Out & About have been busy and will also be working with **Abbeydale** and **Queer Brewing Project**.

Both collaborations share a unified sentiment which champion welcoming everyone from across the spectrum of sexuality and gender identity-based cultures. A sentiment which Sheffield Beer Week fully shares and supports. Edward Carpenter (1844-1929) was a significant cultural and political activist around Sheffield in his life.

Advocating the simplification of life through his market garden and grow-your-own approach to campaigning for many issues of social concern. These ranged from women's suffrage to the protection of the environment, from sexual emancipation to the formation of trade unions. The Friends of Edward Carpenter group formed to celebrate this important figure and to endeavour to establish a fitting memorial as a public work of art. The official Sheffield Beer Week beer will be raising funds for this cause. In the group's words, Edward Carpenter's life...

'...was one of quiet celebration while his writings and example laid the foundation for the gay liberation movement of the twentieth century. Through his many friendships, Edward Carpenter traversed the divisions of class, gender, sexuality, race and creed. Men and women from across the world and from all walks of life came into connection with each other through him and his connections with Sheffield.'

Sheffield Beer Week is proud to be a part of the wider **Festival of the Outdoors** initiative from The Outdoor City. This incorporates many walking tours and running events including a collaboration with Sheffield's **SheFest**, Sheffield Beer Week and **Hop Hideout on Thu 12 Mar** with a **Women in Beer and Brewing Walking Tour**.

SheFest takes place during the same week as Beer Week and celebrates and promotes gender equality across South Yorkshire. As International Women's Day is on Sun 8 Mar, it's a timely collaborative event.

There will also be beer and food dinners with paired menus to enjoy, plus a first time collaboration with Sheffield's annual award-winning **Doc/Fest**. Visit the Sheffield Beer Week and Showroom Cinema websites for news on an exciting UK film premier announcement!

For more information including the full events listings head to **sheffieldbeerweek.co.uk**.

Festival news

Steel City 46

Sheffield Beer & Cider Festival

Wed 21 – Sat 24 Oct

We are pleased to be able to announce our festival will be returning to Kelham Island Museum again this year.

As ever we will have lots of real ale and other craft beers, cider & perry, street food, games, live music and more spread across various areas of the museum site.

There will be some changes to the layout this year, we'll no longer have the Millowners Arms as a festival brewery bar as this is now an independent pub open full time all year round - however we expect their bar to be open during the festival in addition to our own relocated brewery bars, meaning an even bigger choice of beers and rooms to explore!

The festival is entirely organised, managed and staffed by volunteers, if you fancy joining the team the volunteering form will go online soon and watch this space for more news as things start to get organised.

One Valley

Sat 6 Jun

No CAMRA festival in Dronfield this year and 3 Valleys is no more, but venues are putting on independent events on the traditional date. There are two collectives:

1 Valley (Dronfield town centre and Dronfield Woodhouse):

Hill Top Sports and Social Club, Blue Stoops, Coach & Horses, Hyde Park Inn, Manor House Hotel, The Underdog bar, Jolly Farmer, Dronfield Wine World, White Swan, Victoria, Dronfield Arms and The Beer Stop. These are all either within walking distance of Dronfield railway station or served by Stagecoach bus 43.

1 Valley EXTRA (surrounding villages and beyond)

The Pioneer Club in Dronfield, Miners Arms in Hundall, Drone Valley Brewery in Unstone and Jacey's micropub on Whittington Moor. Stagecoach bus 43/44 and TM Travel bus 14/15 link these venues with Dronfield town centre, additionally a taxi minibus service will be shuttling regularly between these venues throughout the afternoon.

For the latest information check out their Facebook event pages.

Barnsley CAMRA

Thu 7 – Sat 9 May

The beer festival organised by Barnsley CAMRA in Elsecar this year has moved from its previous home at the railway, although not very far - the 2020 event will be at Elsecar Heritage Centre, which beer lovers in the area will know as the home of Maison de Bier craft beer shop. As ever, volunteer staff are needed!

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Festival guide

February

Magna (Rotherham)

Thu 27 – Sat 29 Feb

The well established charity real ale and music festival returns to Magna, a former steel works, after a year off and on the traditional week of the year. The event features around 140 real ales on handpump plus other craft beers, cider and perry, gin and two live music stages!

Advance tickets online, however note there is a discount for CAMRA members that is only available on the door.

Bus X1/X10 goes directly there from Sheffield City Centre and Meadowhall Interchange.

March

Gardeners Rest

Sat 29 Feb – Sun 1 Mar

The Gardeners' latest mini beer festival (basically a tap takeover) showcases four breweries from Nottinghamshire with a list of 14 different ales to choose from. Music also features on Friday night and Sunday afternoon and in the fridge the usual sandwiches and pork pies will be joined by venison pies.

Loughborough CAMRA

Thu 5 – Sat 7 Mar

Held at the Polish Club with around 60 real ales and ciders. Direct trains from Sheffield to Leicester operated by East Midlands Railway.

Scarborough CAMRA

Thu 5 – Sat 7 Mar

Features 75 real ales, 20 ciders and more at the Spa complex's Ocean Room.

Indie Beer Feast

Fri 6 – Sat 7 Mar

Held at the Abbeydale Picture House, this is a popular craft beer event where advance tickets are essential. The format here sees a number of great breweries hosting their own bars around the venue, there is also a wine bar and street food traders.

Sheaf View

Fri 20 – Sat 21 Mar

The Sheaf View holds one of their now regular events that sees extra beers available! This time it will be a fully vegan affair with eight ales on the main bar and a further four in the conservatory. Food will be available Friday and Saturday evening plus Sunday lunchtime, supplied by "Make No Bones", the vegan diner based at Church Temple of Fun in Neepsend.

10/10a/20/24/25/43/44/X17 to London Road (Heeley Bridge/Ponsfords).

Pax Pint Party

Fri 20 – Sun 22 Mar

The Dorothy Pax at Victoria Quay fill all their beer lines and put on live music!

April

Doncaster Brewery Tap

Thu 9 – Mon 13 Apr

Featuring 20 hand pulled cask ales, ten keg beers, cider and perry, pizza and

bratwurst. Open 5-11pm Thu, 12-11pm Fri/Sat, 12-8pm Sun and 12-5pm Mon.

Folk Music Session Fest

Fri 10 – Sun 12 Apr

Live music sessions across a number of real ale pubs in Sheffield City Centre and Kelham Island.

May

Barnsley CAMRA

Thu 7 – Sat 9 May

Lots of beer, cider and more at a new location – Elsecar Heritage Centre.

Barrow Hill Rail Ale

Thu 14 – Sat 16 May

Atmospheric beer and music festival in a working railway roundhouse depot.

Ridgeway Village

Sat 16 May

Four pubs in the village put on this joint event featuring beer, food, music, charity fundraising and more.

Lincoln CAMRA

Thu 21 – Sat 23 May

Beer, cider, food and music in the Drill Hall.

Sheffield Food Festival

Fri 22 – Mon 25 May

Food and drink stalls around the City Centre, particularly Fargate and the Peace Gardens.

Stockport CAMRA

Thu 28 – Sat 30 May

Held at Edgeley Park football ground.



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Branch diary

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

Branch meeting

8pm Tue 3 Mar

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 Punchbowl in Crookes (upstairs function room). Get there on bus 52/52a.

Festival planning meeting

8pm Tue 17 Mar

We continue planning our 46th annual Steel City Beer &

Cider Festival. If you are interested in joining the organising committee please come along and meet us!

Venue is the Gardeners Rest on Neepsend Lane in the upstairs room. Bus 7/8/8a stops outside the pub or Infirmary Road tram stop is about 5 minutes walk away.

RambAle

12pm Sat 21 Mar

We meet at the Shiny Sheff pub by Crimicar Lane (bus 51) for a walk to Redmire Dams then up to Lodge Moor for the two pubs there before a bus back into town.

Beer Matters distribution

8pm Tue 24 Mar

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Ln.

Branch AGM

8pm Tue 14 Apr

All branch members are invited to our annual general meeting to elect a new committee for the year ahead, vote on any motions for debate to amend the branch constitution or local policy, inspect the branch accounts and hear the results of the Pub of the Year competition announced.

This is followed by the regular monthly branch meeting where we share pub, club and brewery news and more – all over a pint or two of course.

The venue is the Greystones pub back room. Bus 83 stops right outside the pub or various other buses (81/82, 88, 218, 272) stop a short walk away on Ecclesall Road South.

Please note the deadline for submitting motions to debate is the 3 March branch meeting.

Committee

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