



BEER MATTERS



Issue 518 November 2022

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Issue 518

November 2022

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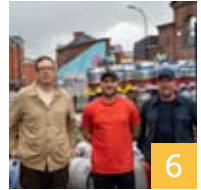
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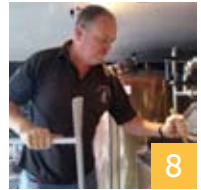


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## Members' Weekend 2023

### 'The World's Best Beer City' to host event

The Sheffield & District branch of CAMRA is delighted to be hosting the 2023 Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference. This will be held at the Octagon Centre (University of Sheffield), with the Members' Bar pouring in the adjacent students' Union building. This follows two previous AGM and Conferences at the same venue: 1991 and 2011.

In his 2016 seminal report, well-respected beer-writer, Pete Brown, described Sheffield as 'The World's Best Beer City' – since then, things have only improved. Sheffield has niche pubs, and an excellent, diverse beer scene: a mix of traditional heritage assets and modern bars. It has 30 pubs in the GBG, has more pubs on the CAMRA heritage lists than any other city in Yorkshire and, outside London, is the only UK city, to have its own heritage pub guide. It also hosts the only pub to win the CAMRA National Pub of the Year award in successive years.

Sheffield has over 20 brewing companies, more per head of population than any other UK

city. These vary from the long-established Abbeydale, Bradfield, Steel City and Blue Bee, to the newer brewSocial, Grizzly Grains, Lost Industry and Saint Mars of the Desert (SMOD). The oldest brewery in Sheffield, Abbeydale, continue to produce *Moonshine*, the top-selling cask beer in the city while also developing their *Funk Dungeon* range. Relative newcomer, SMOD were recently included in the RateBeer top ten list of 'the world's best new breweries.'

In short, Sheffield will provide a warm welcome for over 1000 beer-loving visitors.

**Dave Pickersgill**

## Inn Brief

The **Pioneer Club** in Dronfield has resumed their Sunday carvery.

A new sports bar in Hillsborough's Barracks complex called **Monkey Bar Club** is opening. Food is provided by Smokin' Bull, serving burgers etc.

The **Alehouse** micropub in Chesterfield recently celebrated their 9th birthday with a special line up of beer!

Fans of the Antics improvised comedy troupe will be pleased to know that another free show (tips welcome!) is planned at the **Dorothy Pax** bar for 17 November.

The **Dog & Partridge** is now free of tie and as well as the beer range starting to evolve there are now cask ale drinkers loyalty cards available – buy nine pints and get one free.

The **Blue Stoops** in Dronfield closed temporarily in October, it has been sold by True North Brewery to the Chilled Out Pub Company.

## Blast from the past

In June 1980, the Old Hall Hotel in Hope won our Pub of the Month.

Branch chair, John Beardshaw is presenting the certificate.





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## Kelham Island

- Sheffield's oldest independent brewery, has been saved from closure.
- The brewery is a significant part of Sheffield and the UK's brewing history.
- Its award-winning flagship beer, *Pale Rider* has previously been named Champion Beer of Britain and will return on cask at the Fat Cat and at Steel City 46 on 19 October.

Kelham Island Brewery, Sheffield's oldest independent brewery, has been saved from closure by a group from Sheffield.

The brewery's rescue is a collaboration between Tramlines co-founder and Sheffield venue owner James O'Hara, his brother and financial analyst Tom O'Hara, Simon Webster and Jim Harrison of renowned Thornbridge Brewery, Peter Donohoe, founder of Sheffield based creative studio Peter and Paul and Ben Rymer marketing manager from beer festival organisers, We Are Beer.

James O'Hara, who put the group together after hearing about the brewery's closure, said: "Kelham Island Brewery, and its flagship beer **Pale**

**Rider**, are known and revered beyond Sheffield. It's heritage that we, as a city, should be really proud of. We couldn't let that just disappear, it means too much within the city and to the UK's beer culture for it to become another Wikipedia entry."

A pioneer for the UK's craft beer scene, Kelham Island Brewery has played a significant role in Sheffield's brewing history and heritage. The brewery was founded in 1990 by Dave Wickett and was the first new independent brewery in Sheffield for over 100 years. From humble beginnings in the garden of the Fat Cat pub in Kelham Island it flourished, with many of its brewing talent

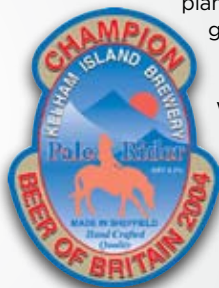
going on to set up and work for the likes of Abbeydale, Thornbridge, Magic Rock, Bradfield and Brewdog.

Simon Webster from Thornbridge Brewery commented, "Kelham Island Brewery has always been linked with Thornbridge. They were the reason we started the business. Theirs were the first beers we brewed and Dave Wickett was a guiding hand in the early days of Thornbridge. When I first heard about the closure, I immediately thought, how can we help? How can we save the heritage that the Wickett Family had built? I chatted passionately about what we could do with James and we formulated a plan to try to save those

great beers. I'm so

pleased we have been successful.

We're looking forward to brewing the beers and keeping Kelham Island Brewery alive in Sheffield and beyond."



*Pale Rider*, the brewery's flagship beer, won the Champion Beer of Britain in 2004, it was the first winner to use hops from the USA and is still the only beer in South Yorkshire to have ever received the accolade.

Ben Rymer, who works for beer festival organisers We Are Beer, a celebration of all things in modern beer culture, said: "American hops form the backbone of the modern craft beer scene, but what Dave was doing was really revolutionary. He really went out on a limb at the time and was a true

visionary. No one was setting up breweries back then and the craft beer industry as we know it now simply didn't exist. The fact that Dave had to sell the beer he made in his own pub wasn't about creating a scene, it was a necessity. Most pubs at the time were all owned by big pub companies."

Jim Harrison from Thornbridge Brewery said: "Dave was a good friend and really understood beer and its regional variations. He understood that to be successful you needed to get your beer to people outside of the area. He was years ahead of his time and I'm so proud that we have been able to save these beers from being lost forever."

Ed Wickett, former Kelham Island Brewery owner and son of founder Dave Wickett said: 'I'm really pleased the brewery is in such safe hands. It'll be great to serve *Pale Rider* in the Fat Cat again'

The first pour of *Pale Rider* will be at the Fat Cat on lunchtime of the 19 October, it will then also be pouring at Steel City 46 taking place, fittingly, at Kelham Island Museum starting on the evening of the 19 October for four days. The beer will then be delivered to the wider on-trade from week commencing 24 October.

NB: we understand that until the brewery on Alma Street is restored to working order (the kit etc was sold off when the original company was liquidated), the beer will be brewed by Thornbridge in Bakewell.



## Abbeydale

Hopefully by the time you read this, our new brewkit should be back in full working order and producing plenty of beer for you to enjoy! **Doctor Morton's Desert Sand** (4.1%) is planned as the first special to be brewed on the new kettle, a refreshing pale ale with Cascade and Vic Secret hops for notes of peach, citrus and pine.

We're pleased to be bringing back our **Deliverance** collaboration with **Yakima Chief Hops** (7.0%), featuring Sabro, Talus (previously known as HBC 692) and **HBC 472**, which still doesn't have a name but is very tasty nonetheless. Aromatic and flavoursome, with juicy citrus and lashings of creamy coconut flavour. Probably my personal fave from this range so I for one can't wait for this one to be available again!

And we know it's a bit early, but we're already shouting about all things Christmas here at Abbeydale HQ (sorry not sorry!). Excitingly, we've been able to create our very own advent calendars this year which are available exclusively on our online shop, so do take a peek at those! The festive theme will start to creep over into our beers by the end of the month too, with **Doctor Morton's Christmas Hamster**, a 4.1% pale ale with Green Bullet, Citra and Cascade hops, coming up.

Finally, our **Baltic Up North** brew which some of you may remember from a few years ago has found a new home in our Brewers' Emporium range as **Restoration - Baltic Porter** (7.0%). Brewed with lager yeast and fermented cold, expect a smooth and spicy dark beer with a delectable roast character and a very more-ish finish. This on cask in a cosy pub is going to be an absolute treat.





## Collyfobble brew day

During the COVID pandemic and the lockdowns, lots of people have turned their hands to a wide range of additional skills and pastimes, be it baking, gardening and in my instance, I turned my hand again to homebrewing. I've been on and off brewing at home for a good number of years and the pandemic gave me a huge boost to get going again.

This passion for brewing ale has subsequently flourished and a number of recipes have been repeated time and time again. One recipe in particular is a pale/blonde ale hopped with Nelson Sauvin I call **Lawnmower**. It started life as a brew to sip in the garden during lockdowns where there was so little to do other than mow the lawn.

At a recent CAMRA meeting, the upcoming Steel City beer festival was mentioned and a gem of an idea was formed. Would Steel City 46 like a cask of *Lawnmower*. As a homebrewer this is a real test of brewing skills, to be



judged amongst professional brewers and the ego boost of seeing a pump clip on a bar was just too tempting to miss out from.

I had met the brewer at Collyfobble, Ash Linnett at a previous CAMRA meeting and after a few phone conversations a date was set to brew a batch of *Lawnmower* on a full size brewery. Collyfobble Brewery is based at the recently redeveloped Peacock Pub in Barlow. The brewery itself is a beautiful showpiece example of a small scale commercial brewery, housed in an impressive building at the side of what is arguably one of the most picturesque landscapes in the region. The brewery supplies the pub with great core range beers; in recent months this range is being extended to supply other venues.



The brew itself went through the brewery and transferred to the fermenter without a hitch, Ash showing his depth of brewing experience at key points in the journey. As the hops were added, the brewhouse was filled with delicious fruit aromas of grapes, passionfruit and gooseberries exactly as it does at my home. I am proud to say that the beer is fermenting well and initial samples are nearly identical to previous batches brewed at home. I cannot wait to see it at Steel City 46 on an actual bar.

**Rob Barwell**



## Brewery Bits

The newest beer from **Stancill** is **Dragon**, a zesty 3.9% ABV pale ale based on the Slovenian Styrian Dragon hop. Expect a light lemony flavour and aromas of melon and passionfruit.



A couple of recent beers from **Imperial** in Mexborough carry something of a satirical theme. **Papering over the Cracks** is a collaboration with Silver Brewery of Chesterfield and is a 4.2% hazy pale ale whilst **Boris & Scarper** is a 4.4% pale brewed with Ekuanot and Cascade hops.

Recent brews in cask from **Grizzly Grains** includes **Broken Spectre** at 4% ABV, which is hopped with UK Phoenix, NZ Pacifica and UK Olicana. The beer is light and refreshing with beautiful fruit salad vibes. Aromas of apricot and mango followed by big hoppy pineapple flavours.

**Heist** have one of the retail units in the new Fargate shipping container development where you can buy their beer in cans along with a range of merchandise.

**Emmanuel's** brewed a couple of cask beers for Steel City 46 – **The KGB**, a West Coast IPA and **England's Green and Pleasant Land**, a green hopped IPA.

**Chantry's** new special is **Styrian Fox**, a 4.1% ABV pale ale, and talking of Chantry they now have a taco van on many of the nights their tap room has gigs on.





**Wendy Woodhouse**  
1944 - 2022

It is with great sadness that we are passing on the news that one of the most important, influential, respected, and downright nicest people in the Sheffield pub scene, Wendy Woodhouse, passed away in late September.

Although many already knew Wendy from her many years running a newsagents on Ecclesall Road, and from her many other business interests, she became well known in the real ale scene after opening the Harlequin in October 2006. The Harlequin, in the former Manchester Hotel on Nursery Street, took its name from a much-loved pub on Johnson Street around the corner, which was unfortunately demolished, despite Wendy's attempt to save it. In typical Wendy fashion, she was not to be deterred and simply bought the Manchester instead, a former Wards pub which had fallen on hard times.

Under Wendy's stewardship, and later that of her step-daughter Hannah after Wendy's partial retirement, the Harlequin fast established itself as one of the best real ale pubs in a city not short of such places. Having diligently learnt her craft during a short stint

at the Kelham Island Tavern, and through friendship with other highly respected Sheffield publicans, the pub soon became famed for its beer festivals and vast array of new and rare beers from around the country, as well as local favourites. Before long, the pub was the recipient of several CAMRA awards. Characteristic of Wendy's dedication to authenticity, there was also a nod to the history of the building's past life as the Manchester, in being one of the few places still serving John Smith's *Magnet* on cask.

Driven by Wendy's love of rock and roll, the pub hosted regular live music nights, including frequent performances from Sheffield's legendary guitarist Frank White. There were quiz nights, folk music sessions, good value food at lunch time, and a function room hosting all manner of events, emphasising another of the values Wendy held most dear - community spirit.

Perhaps the story from the Harlequin that best reflects Wendy's sheer determination was the fact the pub, despite being located only a road width away from the banks of the Don, did not close during the 2007 floods - a fact of which Wendy was most proud. This is reflected in this correction issued in an online local history group when it was suggested otherwise:

"The information you give about The Harlequin during the Flood is incorrect. I was the licensee at the time and the pub did not close, not even for one day. I continued to trade the

whole time by selling Kelham Island Brewery bottled beers. The pub and cellar were cleared and cleaned, the cellar sanitized and re-equipped and up and running with cask ale by Friday the 6th July. On Saturday the 30th June we catered for a couple who were celebrating their joint 50th and 60th Birthdays, again with bottled beers but it was nonetheless a huge success. By the way its original name was the Manchester Lincoln and Sheffield Railway Hotel."

Wendy was never one for taking it easy, and after leaving the Harlequin it wasn't long until she popped up behind the bar of another of Sheffield's resurrected pubs. Shortly after it reopened, she fast became a weekend evening fixture behind the bar at Shake-speares on Gibraltar Street. With Wendy entertaining the regulars, many of whom came specifically to see her, she was always on hand to provide advice, parkin, and support. It wasn't long before Shake-speares, as the Harlequin had before, established itself in Sheffield's beer scene. She was part of the team when Shake-speares won Sheffield CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2013, and kept her regular shift up until the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020.

Not content with this already impressive impact on the pub industry, 2018 saw the start of another chapter in the story of Wendy's influence. After thwarted attempts to save a couple of other Sheffield pubs (sadly now lost to us), Wendy bought the building housing



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# The Crow Inn

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the former Crown Inn on Scotland Street, then operating as the Sleep Hotel.

With significant investment, not to mention her drive, resourcefulness and experience, this has become the Crow Inn, which opened in June 2019. With Wendy available for assistance, advice and with her unwavering enthusiastic support behind the tenants, this too has become an award winning pub, and seven room hotel. In fact, the Crow will be presented with its second CAMRA Pub of the Month award on Thursday 3 November, an occasion of which Wendy would have been immensely proud.

Most people would be content to be involved in one award

winning pub. To have been part of three, which have in many ways helped shape the evolution of the real ale and craft beer scene in Sheffield, is testament to the sheer energy with which Wendy approached everything throughout her life. She will be sorely missed.

### About Wendy and me

I first spoke to Wendy on Christmas Eve 2007, when she called me to ask if I still wanted a job at the Harlequin, after having dropped in my CV a couple of months earlier. Soon I was being trained in her diligent methods on the bar and in the cellar as I worked with Wendy through the handover to her step-daughter Hannah in 2008. Wendy kept a watchful eye on proceedings over the

next couple of years from her shifts on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays while I became assistant manager. While I was the general manager of Shakespeares I hired Wendy (in as much as anyone could ever hire Wendy) once she left the Harlequin. After we took over the running of the Rutland Arms, myself and Kate accompanied Wendy to auctions and near-derelict buildings on her quest to find one more pub. We worked closely alongside Wendy during the refurbishment transforming the Sleep Hotel into the Crow Inn, and are the current tenants there. Without Wendy's guidance, advice, support and more, I very much doubt I'd have the career I have in this industry.

**Chris Bamford**



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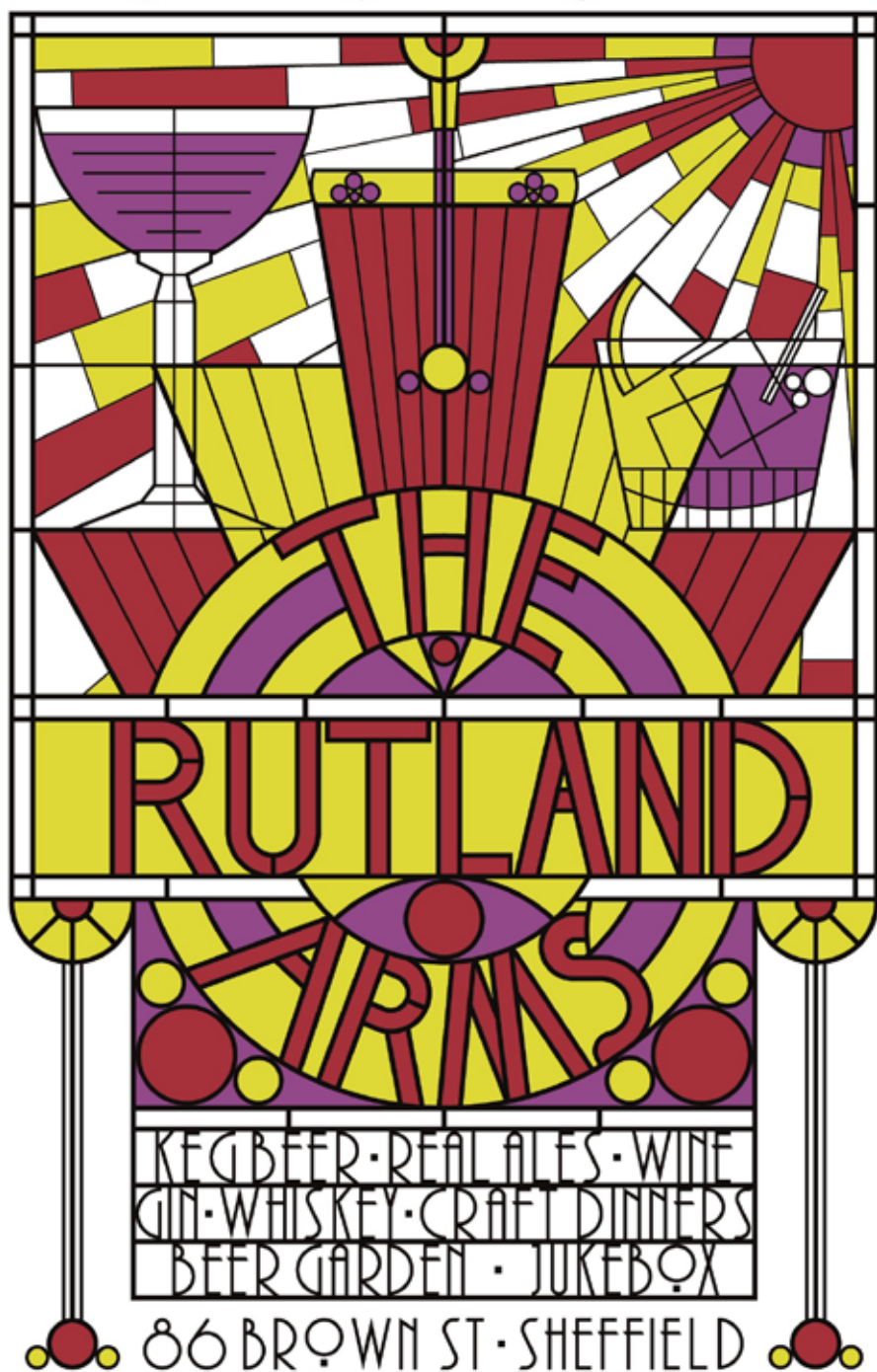
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## Energy bills

### CAMRA welcomes energy bills announcement as step to protect nation's pubs from closure

Commenting on the announcement of the Government Energy Bill Relief Scheme for businesses that will see an energy price cap for non-domestic properties for six months from 1 October, chairman of CAMRA Nik Antona said:

"Today's announcement from the Government provides much needed certainty and will help to safeguard the nation's beloved pubs and breweries for the next six months as they grapple with the crisis of rising costs and consumers tightening their belts.

"We are particularly happy to see that scheme will apply retrospectively to fixed contracts, as some licensees have had no choice but to sign new contracts at scarily high prices over the last few months.

"Licensees and pub goers will also want to see this scheme extended for a two-year period for hospitality businesses, mirroring the household support scheme, to make sure our local pubs can survive and thrive in the months and years ahead.

"CAMRA members up and down the country are now calling on the Chancellor to use Friday's mini-Budget to take further steps to protect the UK's world-renowned pubs from permanent closure by implementing the promised changes to the way alcohol is taxed with a lower rate of duty for draught beer and cider – as well as action on VAT and business rates."



## National Brewery Centre

### CAMRA joins calls to save museum from closure

Responding to the announcement that Molson Coors is to close the National Brewery Centre in Burton upon Trent in October, CAMRA's National Director for Real Ale, Cider and Perry Campaigns Gillian Hough said:

"The planned closure of the National Brewery Centre in October will be a devastating loss not only to Burton upon Trent but also to the nation's brewing history.

"While we can see the benefit of relocating the archives to a site where they can be properly stored and maintained, a limited display of materials in a new location is not an adequate replacement for the only museum in the UK focused solely on our brewing heritage.

"As one of the largest brewers in the world, Molson Coors have a responsibility to safeguard historical and educational facilities that are under its care. It is extremely concerning that Molson Coors is putting profits over protecting Burton's place in global brewing history.

"CAMRA is urging Molson Coors to reverse their decision, invest in the Centre in its current location and ensure its collections are open and accessible to the public.

"CAMRA are poised ready to be part of a new campaign to save the National Brewery Centre and preserve the collections for generations to come."

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## Medium-Term Fiscal Plan

### CAMRA comments on the Chancellor's statement on the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan

Responding to the Chancellor's statement, CAMRA Chief Executive Tom Stainer said:

"The UK's pubs and breweries are facing crippling energy costs which are already forcing some businesses to shut up shop for the winter months to ride out unaffordable bills – or close down altogether.

"Pubs already under serious pressure now face further uncertainty about what support will be available with gas and electric bills beyond April next year. The Prime Minister had previously said that pubs would be one of the businesses that would get extra support beyond the six-month period. The Chancellor must urgently confirm whether or not this is still the case.

"Scrapping the planned

freeze on alcohol duty is disappointing, although it is useful to have confirmation that plans to change the alcohol duty system next summer – including a lower rate of duty on draught beer and cider to support pubs and pubgoing – are still going ahead.

"CAMRA are calling on the Chancellor to use his next statement on 31 October to rethink the freeze on alcohol duty – as well as announcing desperately needed help in the form of cutting VAT for on-trade food and alcohol and assistance with the burden of business rates. Otherwise, we risk the nation's locals being forced to close their doors for good."

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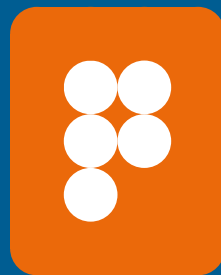
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# VOTE

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## Pub of the Month

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☐ **Harlequin**  
Nursery Street

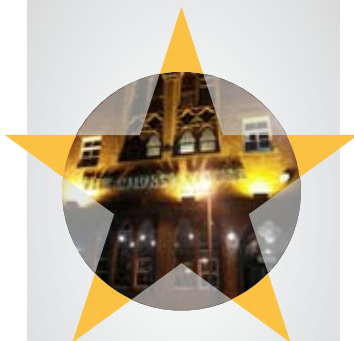
☐ **Old Hall Hotel**  
Hope

☐ **Perch**  
City Centre

☐ **Walkley Beer Co**  
Walkley



[sheffield.camra.org.uk/potm](http://sheffield.camra.org.uk/potm)



**Church House**  
James Street

**Pub of the Month**  
November 2022

This historic pub is in a Grade II listed building built in a gothic revival style on the site of an old vicarage in 1859. It had a number of uses for the first hundred years including a cookery department, a choir boys school and a home for squatters!

In 1987 it opened as a pub called

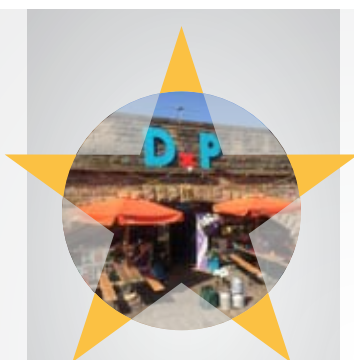
Gladstones and has also been the Ferret and Trouserleg, the Priory and the Sanctuary. Star Pubs & Bars bought the pub in 2012 and it then changed to its current name.

It normally has four cask ales on tap including from Robinsons, Bradfield and Titanic. The pub has a thriving and popular live music scene and in partnership with Honey Bees Blues club holds regular music nights featuring many local bands.

Congratulations to all involved with the Church House including the pub manager Andrew Delemere and his team.

**Paul Manning**

The presentation is planned for the evening of **Tue 8 Nov** and all are welcome to join the celebration.



**Dorothy Pax**  
Victoria Quays

**Pub of the Month**  
September 2022



Paul Crofts presents Richard Henderson with the Dorothy Pax's Pub of the Month award.



Blake Hotel  
Blake Street

Pub of the Year  
2022 (North Sheffield)

Phil Ellett (right) presents the Pub of the Year 2022 (North Sheffield) award certificate to the team at the Blake on 6 October.



# THE GARDENERS REST

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## 2 October is going to be a date that won't be celebrated by those travelling by bus.

It saw government Covid support funding, which had been supporting the existing network against a background of falling ticket sales, rising costs and a national shortage of drivers, start to be phased out, disappearing entirely next March. This means the network has to adapt to be sustainable, which in most cases means cutbacks to services.

One of the cuts in many areas, which is of particular relevance to us as it impacts pubgoing, is evening services although there are also examples of routes either shortened or cancelled altogether.

All the details are on the Travel South Yorkshire website but here is a basic summary for Sheffield.

### 1a/11 Herdings - City - Chapeltown:

1a to only run in the daytime and from Herdings will run via Blackstock Road. Route 11 to run Herdings-City via Heeley Green including in the evening.

### 6/83 City - Greystones - Millhouses:

83 is completely withdrawn with service via Greystones replaced by changes to route 6. This however is a daytime only service. Bus 83a will still run in the daytime, no contract yet awarded for an evening service.

### 8 Ecclesfield - Neepsend - City

- **Birley - Crystal Peaks:** Ecclesfield end of the route to no longer operate in the evening with evening buses running City-Birley only.

Daytime route to be split into two separate services with Crystal Peaks to Birley a different bus. Bus 7 will continue unchanged.

### 10/10a Manor Top - Nether Edge

**circular:** South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority not yet awarded the contract to a new operator following Powell's bus ceasing trading.

### 18 Hillsborough - Meadowhall

- **Norton Lees - City:** A new timetable, First to only operate on weekdays with a contract to operate a Saturday service not yet awarded by SYMCA to any operator.

### 24 Woodhouse - City - Lowedges

- **Bradway:** Route cut shorter to Lowedges, meaning no evening service to Bradway. Last buses slightly earlier than now (about 10pm). Bus 25 to still run to Bradway until 8pm.

### 27 Rotherham - Crystal Peaks:

Route withdrawn.

### 41 City - Frecheville:

No contract yet awarded to operate a Sunday service.

### 44 Sheffield - Coal Aston - Dron-

**field - Chesterfield:** Change of route into Chesterfield

### 50/50a Sheffield - Eckington

- **Chesterfield:** No longer limited stop

### 52a Woodhouse - Handsworth

- **Attercliffe - City - Crookes**

- **Hillsborough - Wisewood/Loxley:**

Route cut back to Hillsborough. Last buses to be around 9pm. New bus 31 will replace section to Loxley in the daytime only. Bus 61/62 will still run as now and bus 52 will still run until late to a new timetable.

### 57/57a/58/59/SL1/SL1a Shef-

**field - Hillsborough - Middlewood**

- **Oughtibridge - Stocksbridge:**

Buses SL1 and SL1a withdrawn replaced by changes to route 57/57a

Stocksbridge Flyer which will run Sheffield to Stocksbridge all day every day (57 via Middlewood, 57a via Worrall. No contract yet awarded for route 59. No changes to bus 58.

### 61/62 Hillsborough - Bradfield

**circular:** No contract awarded to operate a Sunday service as yet so will continue unchanged.

### 86 Lowedges - City - Chapeltown:

All journeys to be operated by Stagecoach with some modest improvements to the evening service.

### 97/98 Hillsborough - City - Totley/

**Totley Brook:** Last buses slightly earlier at weekends.

### 120 Halfway - City - Fulwood:

Evening frequency reduced

### 135 Sheffield - Uppertorpe -

**Hillsborough - Grenoside - Chapel-**

**town - Rotherham:** Route reduced just to Rotherham - Chapeltown with no evening or Sunday service. Hillsborough - Sheffield replaced by new route 31 daytime only. Bus 86 will still operate through Grenoside.

### 137 Rotherham - Blackburn - Mead-

**owhall - Sheffield:** Route extended to Sheffield. No evening or Sunday service.

### M17 Dore - Jordanthorpe:

Contract not yet awarded to any operator

### X5 Sheffield - Dinnington:

Some evening journeys withdrawn.

### X55 Sheffield - Dinnington:

Route withdrawn

There are also timetable and/or operator changes on routes 9, 9a, 20, 25, 41, 51, 52, 56, 72, 72a, 73, 74a, 75, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83a, 181, 208, 256/257/258, 271/272, X1, X10, X54, X74, X78.



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## September RambAle

Our last RambAle of the year took place in late September: nine used the Huddersfield train from Sheffield, two took a double-bus route from Hoyland and one took the scenic route from Stocksbridge on the three-times daily 23 Millhouse Green flyer.

After meeting on platform two, and admiring the 1912 Art Deco masterpiece which is the Penistone Paramount, our first stop was in the well-stocked **Penistone Tap & Brewhouse**. This was the original home of the Woodland Brewery (formally Whitefaced Brewery, named after a local breed of sheep). The brewery has recently moved to a larger local site.

We then utilised the Trans-Pennine Trail, originally part of the, Sheffield-Manchester, Woodhead Railway line, progressing to *GBG*-serial entry, the multiple award-winning and hardly-changed **Huntsman** in Thurlstone. The pub lived up to its billing, providing the usual six, well-kept, cask beers. The choice included Abbeydale, Acorn and Salamander.

Our next stop was the nearby **Crystal Palace**, since May 2021, the home, and only regular outlet, for Kibble Brewery. Four of their beers, all named after major coal seams, were available: *Barnsley Bed Bitter* (4.2%), *Colliers Monday* (5.8%), *Kent Thin Pale* (4.2%) and *Kent Thin Pale: Strawberry* (4.2%). In addition, head brewer, Alasdair Twist, provided a brewery tour and an entertaining series of anecdotes. The 2.5 Bbl brewery is located in a former stable block in the car park. A kibble is a big bucket used in pit shafts: the owner felt that the mash tun (from the now-closed Hamelsworde brewery) looks like a kibble. There is also a smaller pilot plant which is used for one-off specials.

We then returned to Penistone via Stottercliffe Road, paying a return visit to the, now busy, Penistone Tap & Brewhouse before catching our return transport.

An excellent afternoon in the late September sunshine.

**Dave Pickersgill**







The Untappd powered beer list at the Penistone Tap



In the Hunstman, Thurstone



A line up of Kibble Brewery beers at the Crystal Palace



## Festival specials

A small number of new one off beers were brewed especially for our Steel City beer and cider festival and are likely to also appear in pubs afterwards.

**Abbeydale Brewery** produced a special edition of their **Black Mass**, in memory of the late Martin "SillyWabbit" Reville who was a long standing festival volunteer. The regular beer is a black IPA, the special is infused with coffee and is served from a wooden cask.

**Collyfobble Brewery** had former Dronfield CAMRA chairman Rob Barwell visit for a brew day to upscale one of his home brew recipes, **Lawnmower** – you can read about that on p8.

**Crosspool Ale Makers Society** and Hopscotch Craft Brewers collaborated to put in an appearance with **GingerBix and Chill**. This 6% ABV beer has a biscuit aroma and a sweet but fiery flavour from ginger biscuits and habanero chillies. It is amber in colour and leaves a subtle but satisfying warmth on the back of the throat.

**brewSocial** is another brewer that supplied a special edition of an existing beer. **Good as Gold** is a strong hoppy ale, pure gold in colour. Sweetish, but not cloying. Generous addition of El Dorado hops give a tantalising taste experience. This cask at the festival had been specially dry-hopped for added golden goodness!

## Festival guide

### October

#### Norwich CAMRA

**Mon 24 – Sun 30 Oct**

The festival is held in St. Andrew's & Blackfriars' Halls (now referred to as The Halls) featuring over 300 cask-conditioned real ales from Britain's independent brewers, along with draught and bottled beers from continental Europe. There will also be a large range of traditional ciders and perries, with over 70 varieties, mostly from East Anglia. Direct trains run from Sheffield to Norwich operated by East Midlands Railway. More information on the festival website.

#### Mallard – Ale'Oween

**Thu 27 – Mon 31 Oct**

The Halloween edition of the Mallard's regular beer festival at the pub, located at Work-sop railway station (Sheffield - Gainsborough - Lincoln line). Open Thu/Fri midday to 11pm, Saturday 10am to 11pm, Sunday midday to 10:30pm and Monday 4pm to 9pm.

#### Chesterfield Walkabout

**Fri 28 – Sat 29 Oct**

The Halloween edition of Chesterfield's multi pub event spread across venues in Whittington Moor, Chesterfield town centre and the Brampton Mile.

### November

#### Central Manchester CAMRA

**Thu 10 – Sat 12 Nov**

This special little festival

returns to 53two and is described as niche beers and niche ciders in a niche venue. There are only 120 tickets available for each session so advance booking is essential. More details on the branch website.

#### Sheaf View

**Fri 11 – Sat 12 Nov**

The Sheaf View at Heeley host the winter edition of their ale festival with 12 real ales and seven other craft beers spread across two bars (the regular pub bar along with a pop up festival bar) plus music and pizza!

#### Gainsborough CAMRA

**Thu 17 – Sat 19 Nov**

CAMRA beer festival in the Old Hall on Parnell Street.

#### Worsbrough

**Fri 18 – Sat 19 Nov**

A charity event held at Worsbrough Sports & Development Association (old Miners Welfare club on Park Road, S70 5LJ), organised by the Rotary Club of Stainborough to raise money for Barnsley Hospice and Ukraine. Open Friday 5pm-11pm and Saturday 12pm-11pm. £10 entry payable on the door includes glass and beer tokens. Stagecoach Bus 2 (Sheffield-Barnsley) stops right outside.

#### Doncaster Brewery

**Fri 18 – Sun 20 Nov**

A beer festival dedicated to barley wine with around ten different ones to try. Advance tickets advisable as capacity is limited. More information is on the brewery website. You can easily get from Sheffield to Doncaster by train or X78 bus.

## February

#### Liverpool CAMRA

**Thu 16 – Sat 18 Feb**

Liverpool CAMRA's annual beer festival in the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt. Advance tickets advisable.

#### GBBF Winter (CAMRA)

**Thu 16 – Sat 18 Feb**

The smaller winter edition of the Great British Beer Festival moves on in its tour around the country and this year is being held at Burton upon Trent at Burton Town Hall (the usual CAMRA beer festival venue).

#### Rotherham Real Ale & Music

**Thu 23 – Sat 25 Feb**

The annual beer & music festival held at Magna to raise money for charity. Bus X1 runs there from Sheffield City Centre, Meadowhall Interchange and Rotherham Interchange.



#### CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference 2023

**Fri 21 – Sun 23 Apr**

We're hosting this event, which includes a members' bar showcasing local breweries, at the Octagon Centre! More info on our website.

The image shows the interior of a traditional pub. In the center is a large stone fireplace with a roaring fire. To the left, there's a long wooden table with a lit candle. To the right, there are more tables and chairs, with a large window looking out onto a green landscape. The walls are made of stone and wood.

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**2** Become a  
**BEER EXPERT**

**3** Enjoy CAMRA  
**BEER FESTIVALS**  
in front of or behind the bar

**4 GET INVOLVED**  
and make new friends

**5** Save  
**YOUR LOCAL**

**6** Find the  
**BEST PUBS  
IN BRITAIN**

**7** Get great  
**VALUE FOR  
MONEY**

**8 DISCOVER**  
pub heritage and the  
great outdoors

**9** Enjoy great  
**HEALTH BENEFITS**  
(really!)

**10 HAVE YOUR SAY**

## What's yours?

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[www.camra.org.uk/10reasons](http://www.camra.org.uk/10reasons)



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