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All contributions\* welcome, please get in touch! (by the first Friday of the month for the next issue)





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- 4 Happy New Year! Reviewing 2022 and looking ahead
- Heritage pub walks
  Sheffield Beer Week events
- 6 Sheffield Pub Survey
  Join us collecting data on 11 Feb



Peacock, Stannington Thwaites' event

Happy's Bar

New addition to the Kelham Island and Neepsend circuit

Inn Brief
Cross Southes White

Cross Scythes, White Hart, Alder

12 Craftworks, Mosborough
Community local with broad appeal

Inn Brief

White Lion, Dog & Partridge

Pub of the Year and *Good Beer Guide* Selection process starts

Brewery taps
Taprooms and pubs across the city

1 9 Abbeydale

Latest brews, including a heritage pale and an Irish stout

**Brewery Bits** 

Grizzly Grains, Intrepid, Temper, Tapped, Thornbridge, brewSocial

20 Steel City
Collab with Bulgaria's Alchemik

Pub of the Month
Vote for pubs deserving our award

Festival staff trip Report on our visit to Halifax

26 Steel City 46 review
Paul Crofts on our festival's return

Festival guide
Events to look forward to in 2023

Branch diary
What's on in your local CAMRA

















## Our editor, Andy Cullen, reviews 2022 and looks to the year ahead

It may seem an age ago now. but we entered the year 2022 with the government's "Plan B" in force for Covid. We were still being asked to work from home where possible and to wear masks in many public places.

Most of the restrictions were lifted on 27 January, although advice to wear masks voluntarily in crowded areas and on public transport continued for a while after, as did a requirement to isolate if testing positive. Also, a programme of vaccinations continued for all.

The rest of 2022 was, in theory, a return to normal. By summer there were no restrictions or requirements in England. However, we have seen some culture change as people have got quite used to working

from home, ordering shopping online for home delivery and having friends round to socialise... perhaps enjoying a monthly subscription box from a local brewery together.

There has also been an ongoing issue with public transport, due to staff shortages affecting the wider transport industry across the country for a number of reasons. On the more positive front, a maximum single fare of £2 is now available on the buses and trams until the end of March. There are some bargains to be had here - trips as far as Barnsley, Doncaster, Mansfield, Matlock, Bakewell, Buxton and Castleton can be done for just £4 return!

All these things seem to have impacted pub-going; the

after-work pint is much less of a thing, and people aren't venturing out far midweek but may be making the effort more at the weekend.

Later on in 2022, we started to see new problems, primarily surrounding inflation. Rocketing costs of energy, fuel, food, drink, plus everything else, impacted brewers, publicans and of course consumers.

Towards the end of the year, we started to hear of breweries around the country calling it a day. This is something we shall sadly see more of in 2023.

October 2022 also saw cuts to bus services, particularly in the evenings, with operators grappling with a combination of driver shortages, increased operating costs and phasing out of government Covid recovery funding, as well as changes to demand.

Not everything has been bad of course - pubs being able to operate as normal has been great for their business: for people who like to socialise and drink in them; and of course the breweries that supply them. We've also seen new venues open and events taking place again including our own Steel City festival. We've seen a wonderful atmosphere in the City, with events such as the UEFA Women's Euros and Tramlines festival (and its fringe) bringing the usual party to the City.

The Devonshire Cat pub had closed in the first lockdown in 2020, with the premises reopening in a new guise in July 2022 as Indie-go Resurrection, an indie music bar. This is much less beer focused than the Dev Cat was, however there are usually a couple of handpumps on featuring beer from Bradfield Brewery, Bar Stewards closed down in 2022. but very quickly reopened as the West Bar Tap.

Happy's Bar opened in Neepsend, just in time for Christmas, with two cask ales on the bar from Abbevdale and Vocation.

2022 also saw the passing of characters from the pub scene including Wendy Woodhouse and, more recently, Adrian Keoah.

On the brewery front, we lost Kelham Island Brewery, although a consortium has since bought the brand and Pale Rider is once again available, albeit brewed at Thornbridge. Sheffield Brewery Company

continues to suspend production, although their brewery bar is now leased out to an independent operator and opens daily as a normal pub called Alder. Two new breweries. brewSocial and HQ Brew. also launched.

Over in Rotherham, Chantry Brewery were finally able to open their new tap bar in the brewery, which also operates as a live music venue. The bar is open Friday and Saturday evenings and is open to the public if there is no gig on. The brewerv is a short walk from Parkgate tram train terminus. Elsewhere, Fuggle Bunny continued their regular Friday tap sessions and Intrepid hosted the occasional open day.

There is already plenty to look forward to in 2023. February sees Chesterfield CAMRA's beer festival return to the Winding Wheel Theatre, and the Rotherham Real Ale & Music Festival at Magna, March brings the return of Indie Beer Feast to Trafalgar Warehouse in Sheffield City Centre, followed by Sheffield Beer Week across many venues. In April we are hosting CAMRA's National Members' Weekend. AGM & Conference at the University of Sheffield's Octagon Centre. As usual. Easter also gives us the first of the regular programme of bank holiday beer festivals at the Old Hall Hotel at Hope.

Notable upcoming events on the Sheffield pub scene include Tom & Barbara's retirement from Fagan's. Jon & Mandy's departure from the White Lion in Heelev, and Conor celebrating ten years running the Dog & Partridge.

Keep an eve on our website for listings of beer festivals, branch socials, award presentations and more - let's all get out there and enjoy beer and pubs as much as we can in 2023!

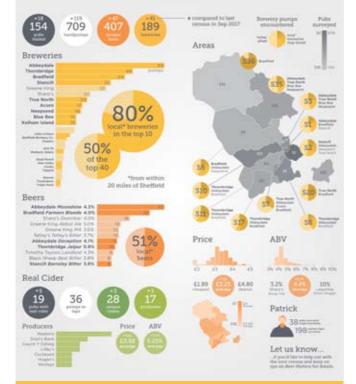
## Pub heritage walks

As part of Sheffield Beer Week 2023, we are leading two pub heritage walks. On Sunday 5 March at 2:30pm we'll be in Kelham Island, and on Thursday 9 at 5pm we'll be on West Street. Both walks will include Victorian tilework. terrazzo flooring, art deco glasswork, a mention of long-gone Sheffield breweries and much more... Full details and booking information are available:

Sunday 5 March: tinyurl.com/2d235xas Thursday 9 March: tinyurl.com/yt52f9xk

If you can't wait until then, try the latest edition of Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs: sheffield.camra.org.uk/rhp.





## Sheffield Pub Survey

## Join one of our survey routes on Saturday 11 February to help collect data about the current beer scene

Our big Sheffield Pub Survey started life many years ago now as the "Beer Capital Survey" as a bit of friendly competition between Derby, Sheffield and some other cities to prove their claim to the title of the real ale capital of Britain. Consistently,

Sheffield proved to have the greatest number of different beers available on one day.
Although it started as a bit of fun, the data collected proved a useful way of taking a snapshot of the city's beer scene. We can

track changes to the range of beers, which brands are most commonly found, how many real ales are offered and more. In later years the survey was referred to as the "Annual Beer Census".

Since we last did this annual survey in 2019 (a summary of those results are the graphic above), we have had lockdowns and restrictions, followed by the cost of living crisis. This has meant changes in many pubs beyond the beer range, such as opening hours. We've seen many pub closures... but also some new openings.

For this year's survey we are asking participants to not just log the range of beers, but also check information on opening hours, food service, facilities, accessibility etc. so we can make sure the pub's entry on WhatPub is up-to-date and accurate. This should prove useful given that over a thousand beer tourists are expected to visit Sheffield for the national CAMRA Members' Weekend in April and will be exploring the city's pubs.

The survey is conducted on a number of different routes, which we invite you to join us on. Each route has a leader assigned who will help the group have a good day out while collecting this valuable data.

Many daytime surveys start in the outer suburbs at midday and work their way into the City Centre, along with some dedicated City Centre routes. In the evening we meet up and spread out across the Kelham Island and Neepsend areas.

If you can't make it onto one of the survey routes but are happy to nip down to your local on the day, we'll also have an online facility for you to submit your data, and all help will be appreciated!

More details will be added to the online version of this article on our website closer to the time.







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## Fagan's

Tom & Barbara Boulding took over as licensees at Fagan's pub back in 1985, and by the time they retire next year will have been running this classic unspoilt pub for 38 years, breaking the record of previous landlord Joe Fagan! You can read more about this in the previous issue (available on our website).

Our pub heritage champion, Dave Pickersgill, presented Tom & Barbara with a certificate recognising their outstanding contribution to Sheffield's pub scene, on an evening that also included a shortened branch meeting and their regular folk music session.

Unexpectedly, Tom then returned the favour and presented Dave with a framed image of Grains Court and Brewhouse from 1860 - which became Tetley's Brewery in Leeds. Fagan's used to be a Tetley's owned pub.







Jamie Tuxford and Brad Welsh. co-hosts at the Peacock, Stannington, provided the opportunity for regulars to meet-the-brewer as part of their autumn programme. The evening was hosted in the pub's conservatory and attracted a strong turnout.

There was a presentation by Harry Brunt (Thwaites' experienced brewer) accompanied by Louise Watson (head of customer relations) and the publicity team. There was the opportunity to handle the ingredients and ask questions. Attendees were treated to samples from the core range including Original, Gold and IPA. Each beer was paired with hot food specially prepared by Brad and his team. The pub has recently gained the accolade of Thwaites' Area Winner for Best Pub Food Provider



Future plans for practically-minded cask ale enthusiasts include an opportunity to be involved in a brew at the local Blue Bee Brewery. The pub offers the core Thwaites' range accompanied by two guest beers which have recently included Marston's Pedigree and Bradfield's Belgian Blue. Thursday is Cask Ale Night with cask beers reduced by 30p. The pub also hosts a popular Tuesday evening guiz at 8pm.



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## There's another new bar on the Kelham Island and Neepsend circuit!

Happy's Bar, on Rutland Road, describes itself as a neighbourhood bar. It is a modern style of venue in a converted old building that has retained some of the character.

The bar opens from midday Wednesday to Sunday with food available until 9pm each day. On Friday and Saturday nights the bar will stay open until 4am, with a DJ to keep everyone partying, while the rest of the week it closes at midnight. Various events are planned for the future, such as live music, with entertainment envisaged in the outdoor drinking area come the summer.

On the bar there are two handpumps for cask ales, with beer from Abbeydale and Vocation. There is also another Abbeydale beer on keg, along with the usual mainstream brands. A ground floor cellar has been purpose built with cooled piping to the bar. The manager is passionate about serving beer fresh and at the right temperature.

Food is a simple bar snack menu, mainly burgers and hot dogs, at reasonable prices.

## Inn Brief

Kate & Josh (pictured below)
Barnsley have recently taken over the management of the **Cross Scythes** at Norton Woodseats. Local, John Stocks comments 'They have done a remarkable job in dressing the pub and making it welcoming, and are passionate about saving the Cross Scythes as a community hub'. We wish them good luck and hope their venture succeeds.



The **White Hart** at Bradwell have announced they are under new ownership – it was previously an Admiral Taverns lease; it is now owned by Bradfield Brewery and features a range of their beer.

Alder bar reopened on 18
January following a new year break and are running some promotional prices on rounds of drinks during the six weeks up to March, including a four pints for £12 deal on cask ale. The weekly quiz night is back and a number of live music gigs are planned.

5 Real Ales

14 Keg Lines

Over 30 Whiskies





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## Craftworks

Mosborough

Craftworks is a bar on Mosborough High Street that describes itself as a micropub. It is probably a little bigger and more modern than what many think of as a micropub in reality, however it fulfils its role nicely as a small community local with a broad appeal.

It opened in 2019, and hadn't been trading long when the first lockdown kicked in. It was still finding its feet when it was able to reopen with restrictions such as table service.

Now with restrictions all but a memory, Craftworks does still offer the facility for groups to make reservations, however it is now operating like a normal pub where

CHEVORIS
CHIEF TO PRISE THE PRISE TO PR

you can walk in and order a pint from the friendly bar staff!

The bar has four handpumps dispensing Abbeydale Deception NZ pale ale (rebadged as the their house ale), along with three regularly changing guests. In addition a number of craft beers on keg are available plus other beers, wines and spirits. You can also buy craft beer in cans to take home, usually with a discount available.

Craftworks has recently established a programme of entertainment including a quiz night and live music.

The newest development has been the addition of an espresso coffee machine, with the bar now opening from 9am serving coffee and cake – plus they are licenced to serve alcohol in the morning if you prefer beer with your cake. I'm told the record so far for the earliest pint served is 9:35am.

If you are looking to take a bus trip to Mosborough then buses 50, 50a and 53 pass the front door, while a short walk away on Station Road are buses 30a, 55 and 80a.

## Inn Brief

Jon & Mandy have handed in their notice to end the lease on the White Lion in Heelev and will be leaving in April. Their business, having survived the lockdowns, now faces the triple whammy of customers tightening their purse strings due to the cost of living crisis, significantly increased energy bills impacting the cost of running the pub and their sole tied supplier, Heineken, significantly increasing their prices. Star Pubs & Bars will be looking for someone new to take on the pub's lease. The White Lion has been in good hands under Jon & Mandy's stewardship, with well kept beer, community values, a friendly atmosphere and live entertainment most nights. We wish them both well for the future!

The **Dog & Partridge** on Trippet Lane celebrates the tenth anniversary under the current management this year and are throwing a party on Friday 10 February. Keep an eye on their social media for details.

Voting and surveying for our Pub of the Year is now underway, as is the selection process for pubs to be awarded places in the *Good Beer Guide 2024*.

All our local CAMRA members are invited to take part in the process.

Please look out for an email with details (if your contact preferences are set to permit this) or come along to the February branch meeting.

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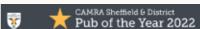


## COMMUNITY PUB

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## Brewery taps

## Andy Cullen's tourist guide to local brewery taprooms and pubs

A growing number of breweries in our area have opened taprooms, offering the chance to drink their beer at source. Some have pubs that can be considered brewery taps.

Taproom (regular opening)

Taproom (special events)

Shop

Pub/bar (near brewery)

Pubs/bars (elsewhere)

Established

1996

## Intrepid



2022

Based at Hope Valley in the Peak District National Park. they commenced brewing in the summer of 2014 on an eight barrel plant. There are four core beers, plus seasonal specials supplied in cask, keg and bottle. A pop-up shop opens in the brewery on most weekends and there are occasional open days in the summer when there is a bar in the brewery, while outside in the yard they have seating, music and a food vendor. Buses 271/272 (Sheffield-Castleton) that are routed via Bradwell stop at the end of the drive.

## **Bradfield**





Established in 2005 on a working dairy farm on the edge of the Peak District, initially as an exercise in diversification. Following the success and expansion of the brewery it has pretty much replaced the farming business! The brewery has its own Millstone Grit spring providing the water to brew with, and produces a range of mostly simple, classic beers, with the biggest selling being Farmers Blonde. There is a shop at the brewery, while the original tap pub is the Nags Head Inn which is a short distance from the brewery in Loxley (buses 61/62 go there). Since then two other tap pubs have been added - the King & Miller in Deepcar and Wharncliffe Arms (both on bus route 57).

## Loxlev



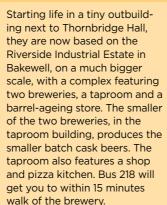


Established in 2018 and based at the Wisewood Inn. this brewery uses a five barrel plant. Buses 61/62 (Hillsborough-Bradfield) go there. They also have a second pub where you can try their beers. the Raven in Walklev.



Waggon & Horses

## Thornbridge





## Collyfobble



Intludobble

Based in the Derbyshire village of Barlow, near Dronfield (bus 16 Dronfield-Chesterfield). Beer names are generally references to local dialect and sayings. The brewery is attached to the **Peacock** pub and hotel.

# **True North** Details over the page. Chantry Brewery Tap ROTHERHAM Cutlers Arms New York Tavern Chantry

## Little Mesters T



Chantry



Located at Meadowhead and named after the traditional Sheffield craftsmen who manufactured things like knives on a small scale. This is a small brewery based in a shop unit. Neighbouring Mitchell's Wine Merchants sell their range of bottles and cans. There is a small range of regular beers, plus the occasional special - mostly traditional beers given a twist. The brewery has an upstairs taproom, which is currently just used for special tasting events but there are plans to open it as a public bar in the near future.

Based in Parkgate, Rotherham and founded in 2012. The name is taken from Rotherham's most historic building - the Chantry Bridge Chapel. It has since expanded, with an 80 barrel capacity and lagering tanks. A range of mostly traditional cask ales are brewed, along with a couple of lagers. The most recent development is the opening of the Chantry Brewerv Tap and live music venue within the brewery, a short walk from the Parkgate tram train terminus. Note on gig nights (including the Saturday of the CAMRA Members' Weekend) tickets are required to enter. They also own three pubs - New York Tavern and Cutlers Arms in Rotherham town centre, near the football ground: and Chantry Inn at Handsworth in Sheffield (buses 30, 30a, 52, 52a, 80 and X5).

KILLAMARSH

British

Oak





Established in 2021, and based underneath the **Dronfield Arms**. leasing the brewery originally installed as Hopjacker. The kit is a five barrel plant, and their aim is to produce beers that are approachable and balanced that suit an enjoyable afternoon or evening in the pub with friends. Beers are available in cask and keg, and there are usually some available on the pub's bar. You can get there on bus 44 (Sheffield-Chesterfield) or it is a short walk from Dronfield railway station.

### **Drone Valley**





A community interest company, owned by members and partly staffed by volunteers, with much of the profits going to local good causes. The beer range is fairly traditional and produced in a unit on a small industrial yard alongside the river Drone in Unstone, just south of Dronfield. They host tap sessions in a marquee attached to the brewery every weekend (buses 43/44).

### **Fuggle Bunny**





Opened in 2014 as a familv business with a theme of beers that tell a story - the pumpclips are designed like bookmarks. Ownership has since changed but it remains independent. A bar in the brewery opens for tap sessions every Friday and it is a ten minute walk from Halfway tram terminus (Blue route) or buses 26, 26a, 80 and 80a stop close by.

### **True North**







Small brewery and gin distillery in Sheffield City Centre. The brewery was opened in 2016 and the company changed their name from Forum Café Bars to True North. They supply their bars, which include the Broadfield\*. Waggon & Horses\*. British Oak\*, Forum Café Bar, Old Grindstone. Punchbowl and Horse & Jockey\*, plus the free trade. In 2020 they started brewing the cask version of Stones Bitter. which is now a Coors brand, but was originally brewed at the long since closed Cannon brewery in Sheffield.

\*Marked on the wider map.

#### **Dead Parrot**





Neepsend



The brewery name is a bit of a family in-joke as the brewer's brother is manager of the Frog & Parrot, which used to have a brewery in the cellar (under previous ownership) and the family used to run Henry's bar and associated Aardvark brewery (which has since been demolished). Much of the equipment has come from both dead ventures! The brewery produces a broad range of cask ales at their site on the edge of the City Centre, shared with their tap bar, Perch, and an events vard which will be hosting a beer festival during the CAMRA Members' Weekend.

An independent brewery established in 2015 that has since moved premises to Burton Road. Their regular beer is a blonde, with an ever-changing line-up of beers brewed alongside it available in cask, keg and can. Their nearby tap pub is the **Wellington**, located by Shalesmoor tram stop (Blue and Yellow routes), where cans and minikegs can be picked up.



BROOMHILL

## **Abbeydale**





Established in 1996 and now the oldest brewery in the city! It is most famous for Moonshine pale ale, which is widely available in cask. Over the years the brewery has expanded, now producing around 220 barrels a week, including more modern craft beers such as their Funk Dungeon and Brewers Emporium range alongside the classics. Many of the beers have the addition of Brewers Clarex to make them suitable for most gluten-free diets. They own the Rising Sun at Nether Green, which acts as their tap. showcasing their range of beers and serving good food. Buses 83a and 120 (towards Fulwood) stop right outside.

## **Triple Point**





### Stancill





Brewing a range of simple session ales and a lager using equipment relocated from the closed Oakwell Brewerv. which had been known for its Barnsley Bitter. They have two tap pubs - Albion and Closed Shop.

### **Toolmakers**





Located behind the Forest pub. in a former toolmaking factory (hence the name), the brewery was established in 2013 with a five barrel plant, principally supplying the pub and the brewery taproom which operates as a live entertainment venue.

#### **HQ Brew**





Sheffield's newest brewery is associated with the Harlequin. whose regulars contributed to a crowdfunder to start the brewery which raises funds for local good causes. The first beer hit the bar in December 2022. Buses 7/8 and 95/95a stop outside the pub.

#### Heist





Starting life as a craft beer bar in Clowne, Derbyshire in 2017, with an on site brewery opening a year later. They relocated to an old industrial building in Neepsend in 2020 and converted it into a brewery and taproom, which opened to the public towards the end of the pandemic. They produce mostly modern craft style beer in keg and can, although now and again do very interesting one-off cask ales. The taproom features 30 lines, showcasing their beers and guests, a gaming area and a branch of Slap & Pickle burgers. Buses 7 and 8 stop outside or Infirmary Road tram stop (Blue and Yellow routes) is nearby.

## ATTERCLIFFE



SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE Forum Café Bar



#### **Blue Bee**





Т

Established in 2010 and producing a range of quality cask ales on their ten barrel kit. The range is mostly focused on well-hopped pale ales, but look out for their Ginger Beer! They also produce a traditional best bitter and a stout. They don't have an official tap, but under the same management is the Kelham Island Tavern where you will normally find a number of their beers on the many handpulls. Alternatively, Reet Pale and Hillfoot Best Bitter are regular house beers at

the Rutland Arms.

## **Tapped**





Following the successful conversion of the old Edwardian dining rooms and first-class refreshment rooms at Sheffield Railway Station into the Sheffield Tap, brewing began in 2013 at an onsite brewery with a viewing gallery. Tapped Brew Co supplies beer to venues in other cities under the same ownership.



SMOD to its friends, opened in the Attercliffe area of Sheffield after Dan Paquette and Martha Holley relocated from Boston, Massachusetts in 2018, bringing over 20 years brewing experience with them. The brewery is one of only a few in the UK with a koelschip, and the beer range has an international influence including rustic ales, monastic type beers and koelschip hopped lagers. The beer is available in keg and can. The site has two small buildings (the brewery and the taproom) around a courtyard. The taproom opens at the weekend and Dan and Martha are usually around to answer any brewery questions. Note no cask beer and card only.

For completeness, here's a quick rundown of local breweries that don't currently have taps.

#### brewSocial

Launched in 2022 and owned by social enterprise Yes2Ventures, who are all about training up people who find themselves disadvantaged in the labour market. The brewing, in an Attercliffe railway arch, is led by Richard Hough, an experienced and well-known local brewer who in the past has worked for Abbeydale and was involved in the setup of Blue Bee.

#### **Emmanuales**

This is a very small scale brewery producing interesting beers with a Christian theme to the names. Originally it was a cuckoo operation; now the kit is based at the brewer's home! Usually bottles only, but occasionally cask.

#### **Eyam**

Starting life in 2017 with a 1.5 barrel plant in the famous Peak District plague village of Eyam which has inspired many of the beer names. In 2019 they relocated up the road to the village of Great Hucklow with a bigger kit.

#### **Grizzly Grains**

Starting out in 2020 producing small batches of bottled beers in the Walkley area of Sheffield, they have since relocated to a small industrial unit on the edge of the City Centre not far from the Sheffield United stadium. As well as producing a number of traditional cask ales, some more experimental brews are produced, often in collaboration with organisations such as Heeley City Farm who can supply locally produced ingredients such as honey, apples and fresh hops.

#### **Lost Industry**

Opened in 2015 by a family of beer enthusiasts. They brew a range of creative beers that is ever changing, although some popular beers do make a comeback from time-to-time such as the Mojito Sour.

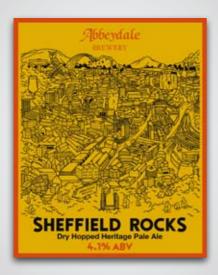
#### **Little Critters**

A small batch, family-owned brewery opened in 2015 operating on a ten barrel plant. The regular beers carry wildlife themed names and artwork (their *Nutty Ambassador* hazelnut milk stout won Champion Beer of Sheffield in 2018) alongside a series of one-off specials.

#### **Steel City**

Cuckoo brews at Lost Industry Brewing about once a month; usually collaborations producing something a bit fun!





## **Abbeydale**

Happy New Year to you all! We hope 2023 is treating you well so far. We've got plenty of new cask beers available, so hopefully there's something for everyone to enjoy a pint or two of while supporting their local pub!

First up, it went down so well during Sheffield Beer Week 2022 that we've brought back Shef*field Rocks* in time for 2023's festivities (6-12) March). A 4.1% heritage pale ale given our own modern twist. A balanced beer, completely characterised by drinkability and made using all UK ingredients including UK grown Pilgrim and Cascade hops.

Salvation - Irish Stout (4.5%) is also making a return: classic and moreish with a smooth, roasted malt character and soft notes of chocolate and coffee: bitter and sweet in perfect balance.

The above two beers will also be available in keg and can as well as cask, but we've got some cask-only releases on the way during February too - Doctor Morton's Non-Stick will be an Abbeydale classic 4.1% pale ale with Citra, Columbus and Chinook hops: and from our new stained glass themed series we have *Renaissance*, hopped with Eureka in the whirlpool for a bright bitterness and resinous notes sitting harmoniously alongside a stone fruit character.

### Issue 520 February 2023

## **Brewery Bits**

Grizzly Grains and Torrside released a collaboration brew in time for Christmas and New Year, Big Words is a 4.8% ABV pale ale hopped with Olicana and Cascade.

Intrepid have released a winter pale exclusively on cask, designed to be drunk in the pub, dreaming of the summer to come! B'an is 4.1% ABV and brewed with all British hops (first kettle hopped with UK Cascade and then dry hopped with Ernest T90, Olicana and Jester T45), sat on a clean base of extra pale and oat malt.

**Temper** in Dronfield also released a winter brew in time for Christmas; this one was Dark Fractions, a 4.3% ABV coffee porter. A blend of kilned and roasted malts in the grist was complimented by the addition of coffee in kettle and on the cold side.



Tapped released a new beer in November called *Electric* Works. This is a 4.2% ABV extra pale ale using solely extra pale malt, which really lets the hops shine through.

As in previous years, Thornbridge are running a Year of Beer programme with a monthly changing seasonal ale available for pubs. 2023 kicked off with Cortado, a flat white pale ale. February sees the launch of *Apricity*, an extra special bitter. In March we have a peanut butter brown ale to look forward to.

Richard Hough, brewer at brewSocial, was recently pleased to see a photo opportunity of a rainbow over the railway arch in Attercliffe they brew in that matches their pump clip design!





Steel City's latest brew is, would vou believe, a collaboration... their cuckoo brewing caught the eye of Bulgaria's Alchemik, who cuckoo brew at Sofia Electric and another smaller site. Alchemik are best known for their dessert sours, so the three-way collab (Lost Industry being the third brewery) is a lemon cheesecake sour. The brew features a lot of oats for the biscuity base taste of the cheesecake, followed by lactose, vanilla and lemon zest. Fermentation was with Voss kveik veast, a new one to the UK breweries but standard for Alchemik, so who were we to arque!

Yellowcake is out now in keg and can. Steel City and Lost Industry are off to Sofia in February for the return collabs, namely an imperial version of







Yellowcake and a new dessert sour yet to be decided - both versions should make their way to the UK, along with a few of Alchemik's other puddingy wares.

Nothing else may have been brewed for a while, but some barrels have been sitting quietly in the corner for eight or nine months, and were opened just in time for December. Firstly, *Astral Mariner Baltic* porter had been in a brandy barrel, emerging as Rime of the *Ancient*\*\*Astral Mariner.\*\*

Shortly afterwards, a big imperial stout went into brandy and rum barrels, emerging as *Cask* of the *Red Death* and *Rum to* the *Hills* respectively. All three are out now in keg and can and will be available in cask exclusively at the Shakespeares' festival in January. There is also a single mega-blend (40% *Rime*, 40% *Hills* and 20% *Red Death*) at Shakespeares.

Other 2023 plans include a collaboration with Ukrainian brewery Didko to raise more funds for Brew for Ukraine – Didko also entered a can each of Steel City's two previous fundraising beers into a charity auction, raising over £100 for the cause.





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## Festival staff trip

Each year the Steel City Beer Festival committee arrange a free day trip for the volunteers, as a thank you for their hard work.

This year's destination was Halifax, so on a Saturday morning, a few weeks after the festival, a packed 52seater coach set off to see what the West Yorkshire town had to offer.

First stop was Cock o' the North, the tap room for Halifax Steam Brewery, just on the outskirts of town. The brewery had experienced some difficulty getting staff for the day, so two of our committee ended up acting as temporary barmen to ensure everyone got served without too much of a wait. They seemed to enjoy themselves, no doubt helped by the free pint they received for their efforts.

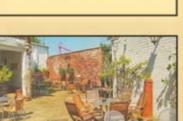
An hour later and everyone made their way back to the coach, only to find out that the driver wasn't able to start it! A mechanic was apparently being despatched to sort it











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out, but in the meantime we all had to make our own way into Halifax. Some chose to book taxis, some took a short walk to the nearest bus stop and a few others walked into the centre.

Once in town, there were plenty of excellent venues to choose from. A particular favourite was **Grayston Unity**, a Grade II listed building advertising itself as the smallest live music venue in the UK. By a coincidence of timing they had just had a Sheffield breweries event, so the pumps featured beers from Abbeydale and Little Critters.

Guided by a local CAMRA member, a small group of us got on a bus and left the town centre in search of the (almost) legendary Big Six. A short ride and a myriad of tight streets later, we arrived at the award-winning building. Dating from 1857, this pub has an unmade road on its garden side and is set within a row of terraced houses. Erected as a purpose-built beer house with its own brewhouse, it has an unusual layout and retains many of its internal fittings.

These include oak-framed fitted seating, wood-panelling and a fine bar back-fitting, all probably dating from soon after its 1928 acquisition by local brewers Ramsden's. The layout consists of a central corridor with two partly opened-up rooms, plus a bar-lounge and an excellent cosy snug. In addition, four cask beers were available. An excellent interlude in a packed day.



Back in town, Meandering
Bear, Victorian Craft Beer
Café and Square Chapel
Café & Bar were all visited
and found to have a good
range of well-kept beers.
All have won recent awards
from Halifax & Calderdale
branch. Slightly out of town
at Dean Clough Mills was the
Stod Fold brewery tap, also

a recent award winner, and a large number of the volunteers all met up in the final pub of the day, **Kobenhavn**, the Halifax & Calderdale Pub of the Season Autumn 2021. Six cask lines and 24 keg lines gave us plenty of choice for a last drink.



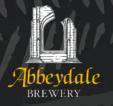
Finally, a quick walk through a very festive looking Piece Hall and we were back at the coach, now thankfully working again. Overall a great day out, with a good range of top-quality pubs, which it was pleasing to note were very busy. If anyone fancies taking a day out to sample Halifax's drinking establishments, a copy of the pubs list and map that was produced for the trip is available from our website.



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## Festival organiser, Paul Crofts, looks back at Steel City 46 and forward to 47

After a three-year break, we were finally able to return to Kelham Island Museum for our annual beer festival. For obvious reasons, the world has changed dramatically since our last festival in 2019, and we approached the 2022 event with a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

The general feeling amongst the organising committee was that there would be some pent-up demand for a festival, and that visitors would be keen to return to what has become a very popular event. However, information we were getting from CAMRA HQ was that visitor numbers at other festivals were down. There was also the background of rising prices and uncertainty about the future impacting how much people would have to spend.

Needless to say, the feedback from local breweries and on social media was positive. The hospitality industry has been particularly hard hit by the economic

festival was seen as something that would help generate a bit of interest and encourage people back into going out and celebrating the Sheffield

beer scene.

So when it came to opening time on the Wednesday. we were somewhat relieved to see a queue of punters actually wanting to come in! Over the next four days though, it became clear that despite a steady stream of visitors we were not going to achieve the attendance numbers we were hoping. Probably a

combination of poor weather on some days, post-Covid

wariness and a per-

manent change in some people's habits meant an overall reduction on 2019 numbers. Luckily those that came spent a little more and by the

time we closed on Saturday the committee were satisfied that we had produced another great festival.

One particularly popular feature was the half pint glasses, featuring the Henderson's Relish logo. We ordered 35% more half pint glasses than usual in

anticipation of these

being popular and they sold out! Visitors also had a good range of food stalls to choose from, along with the usual exciting live music, with festival favourites Kelham Island Rap-

per doing their riotous routines in every bar.

Two noticeable changes this year were an expansion of the ticketed events, and a new keg bar position. Beer and cider tasting sessions, hosted by Hop Hideout and the Cider Hole, and pub heritage talks by Dave Pickersgill were an excellent addition to the festival, building on the 2019 talk by Roger Protz. The keg bar had to be repositioned due to the Millowners Arms becoming a commercial venture, and moved to the rear courtvard. A number of visitors commented that this felt separated

situation. The

from the rest of the festival, and we will probably look to find a better spot this year.

A couple of CAMRA employees who came up from the St Albans head office to work with us were impressed with what they saw and we believe it enhanced Sheffield's reputation as well as justifying the decision to hold the 2023 Members' Weekend here this April.

### Steel City 47

Looking forward to this year's festival we have looked at some of the changes forced on us by the pandemic and are planning several improvements.

It has been obvious for a while now that we have an enthusiastic but ageing band of volunteers, and the physical work of running the festival is becoming more of a challenge. We have a concern that this may now be putting off some people who might otherwise be only too willing to help. Therefore we have plans to use third-party companies to cover some of the more strenuous and time-consuming elements of the build. From discussion with a number of existing volunteers it appears these moves will be very popular and we hope that it will help in recruiting new volunteers as well as encouraging back some of our previous volunteers.

We also plan to work more on attracting new volunteers to specific areas. Something in particular that we want to improve is the number of people in our cellar team. Anyone who thinks this may be something they would be interested in can email festival@sheffield.camra.org. uk and we will be happy to give them more details on what is involved. We would like to have a larger team so we can share out the workload and make it easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

One pleasing aspect of this vear's festival, which will be vital for the coming year, is the great camaraderie between the volunteers. This was evident both during the festival and at the subsequent staff trip to Halifax. We'll be keeping this going during planning meetings, with ongoing communication with all volunteers and by arranging a couple of social events over the summer.

Again, anyone wanting to know more can email us or call in to one of our planning meetings, which are held the third Tuesday in each month at the Gardeners Rest in Neepsend, I can guarantee that being part of our team will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

The dates pencilled in for Steel City 47 are 18-21 October 2023.

Photos by Dave Pickersgill





Generous customers at our Steel City 46 raised £1.200 for the Children's Hospital Charity by donating unspent drinks tokens or chucking cash in donation buckets around the festival.

We were delighted to discover that Sheffield Children's Hospital put our name to one of their Xmas Snowflakes as a thank you for our donation. We'd like to pass on those thanks to everyone who donated money at the festival.

Our snowflake is (or maybe was, if you're reading this in Beer Matters) on one of the columns above the doors to the Memorial Hall at the rear of Sheffield City Hall.

This year's Xmas Snowflake project has already raised over £360,000, which will go towards building a helipad and making facilities at Sheffield Children's Hospital even better than they already are.



## Festival guide

## **January**

#### Mallard - Winter

Thu 26 - Sun 29 Jan

The winter edition of the Mallard's regular beer festival at the pub, located at Worksop railway station (Sheffield-Gainsborough-Lincoln line)

## **February**

#### **Chesterfield CAMRA**

Fri 3 - Sat 4 Feb

After a break for Covid, Chesterfield CAMRA's beer festival is back at the Winding Wheel Theatre in Chesterfield town centre.

#### **Liverpool CAMRA**

Thu 16 - Sat 18 Feb

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

#### **CAMRA GBBF Winter**

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 on Trent
at Burton Town Hall (the
usual CAMRA beer festival
venue).

### **Rotherham Real Ale & Music**

Thu 23 - Sat 25 Feb

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

## March

#### **Indie Beer Feast**

Fri 3 - Sat 4 Mar

The craft beer festival organised by Jules Gray of Hop Hideout and Sheffield Beer Week. This event primarily features brewery bars staffed by representatives of the brewery with a rotating selection of interesting beers along with cider and street food.

## **April**

#### **Hope Valley**

Fri 7 - Mon 10 Apr

The Easter edition of the Old Hall Hotel's regular bank holiday beer and cider festival. Hosted in a marquee in the car park, featuring a festival bar and entertainment. A festival food stall usually operates alongside the pub's own menu. The Old Hall Hotel is in Hope on bus routes 271/272 or a ten minute walk from Hope station.

#### **Hope Valley**

Fri 28 Apr - Mon 1 May

## May

#### **Barrow Hill Rail Ale**

Thu 18 - Sat 20 May

The atmospheric beer and cider festival in the railway roundhouse featuring drinks, trains, music, food and more.

#### Lincoln CAMRA

Thu 25 - Sat 27 May
At the Drill. Details on their website.

#### CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference 2023 Fri 21 - Sun 23 Apr

In April, we are hosting the 2023 national CAMRA Members' Weekend at the Octagon Centre, University of Sheffield. It officially starts at 4pm on Friday 21 when both registration and members' bar open. The AGM and conference occur over the weekend, with many trips and activities also taking place. A full schedule will be available nearer the time.

We're expecting over a thousand CAMRA members to attend; most will register in advance so they don't miss out on information about booking trips and activities. They will also take the opportunity to visit several of the many excellent breweries and pubs across the city. We'll also require volunteers to assist with the many jobs that will need covering.

Hope to see you there!

Register and volunteer at camra.org.uk/agm.





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Friday 28th April - Monday 1st May

Spring Bank Holiday

Summer Bank Holiday

Friday 26th - Monday 29th May Friday 25th - Monday 28th August

## Branch diary

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

#### **Branch meeting**

#### 8pm Tue 7 Feb

All our members are welcome to come along, share pub, club and brewery news, discuss campaigning updates, get involved and more importantly enjoy a beer with us! The venue this month is Triple Point brewery bar.

#### Sheffield Pub Survey 12pm Sat 11 Feb

\_\_\_\_\_

In previous years we have run an annual beer census recording the range of beers on the bars of Sheffield to prove the City is indeed the real ale capital of Britain, while also taking the temperature of the beer scene and tracking any changes. This year we are aiming to give a bigger push and also check for any information about pubs that needs updating on their WhatPub entries

### Festival planning meeting

#### 8pm Tue 21 Feb

We continue planning our 2023 Steel City Beer & Cider Festival at this meeting held upstairs at Gardeners Rest.

#### **Committee meeting**

#### 8pm Tue 28 Feb

The monthly business meeting for the committee. The venue is the Dog & Partridge on Trippet Lane in Sheffield City Centre.

#### Pub heritage walk

#### 2pm Sun 5 Mar

Organised as part of Sheffield

Beer Week, this walk is in the Kelham Island and Neepsend area and goes from the Fat Cat to Alder bar. It is led by Dave Pickersgill, editor of Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs. Advance booking is required.

#### **Branch meeting**

#### 8pm Tue 7 Mar

Venue this month is Fat Cat.

#### Pub heritage walk

#### 5pm Thu 9 Mar

From the University Arms to Fagan's and led by Dave Pickersgill. Booking required.

#### Festival planning meeting

#### 8pm Tue 21 Mar

Upstairs at Gardeners Rest.

#### **Committee meeting**

#### 8pm Tue 28 Mar

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane.

#### **Branch meeting**

#### 8pm Tue 4 Apr

Venue this month is TBD.

#### RambAle

#### 2pm Sat 8 Apr

Our RambAles combine a gently paced walk, usually in the countryside, with a real ale pub or two. We're starting off with an easy one - the Woodseats Wander, meeting at Guzzle micropub and then heading off through Graves Park. Buses 24, 25, 43, 44, 75, 76, 76a or X17 will get you there.

#### **Festival planning meeting**

8pm Tue 18 Apr

TBC

## National CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference

Fri 21 - Sun 23 Apr

### Committee

#### Glyn Mansell

chair@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### Paul Manning

Vice Chair

Social Secretary
Committee Meeting Secretary

#### Phil Ellett

**Secretary** 

secretary@sheffield.camra.org.ul

#### Paul Crofts

Treasurer

Festival Organiser treasurer@sheffield.camra.org.uk

### Dave Pickersgill

Pub Heritage Officer pubheritage@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### Andy Cullen

Beer Matters Editor beermatters@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### Sarah Mills

Real Cider Champion cider@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### Alan Gibbons

Pub of the Year and Good Beer Guide Coordinator potm@sheffield.camra.org.uk

#### Andy Shaw

Membership Secretary Beer Matters Distribution Clubs Officer Beer Quality Scoring Coordinator membership@sheffield.camra.org.uk

### Malcolm Dixon

RambAles Coordinator <a href="mailto:rambale@sheffield.camra.org.uk">rambale@sheffield.camra.org.uk</a>

#### Neil Adgie

Committee Member



#### CAMRA (National)

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