

# BEER MATTERS



Issue 523 May 2023

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# Sheffield Pub Survey

↕ compared to last survey in Sep 2019

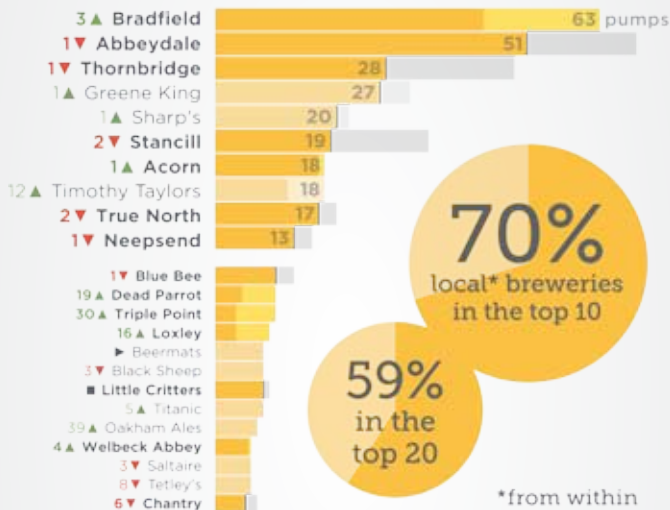
On Saturday 11 February, members of the Sheffield & District branch headed all around the city and its surrounds to complete the Sheffield Pub Survey (the first we have done since lockdown). The purpose of the event was to take a snapshot of the range and cost of real ales and to update CAMRA's WhatPub database with post-Covid opening times.

Groups on various different routes set off at midday and met up at the Red Deer in the City Centre. From here, those that could still make it, headed out to other areas and pubs which had not yet been surveyed. As during our last survey (Sep 2019) the weather was good especially considering the survey is not normally in February.

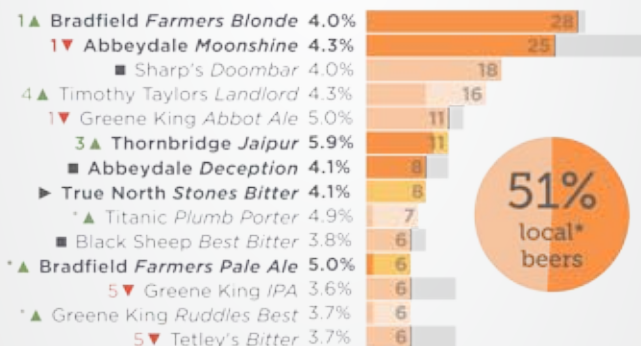
131 Pubs were surveyed (fewer than we would have liked), but a respectable 561 beers were recorded. From this data 309 unique beers were identified from 129 different breweries. Given the time of year, the general trend of reduced beer ranges post-Covid and surveying fewer pubs, we still believe Sheffield can claim to be the Beer Capital, offering the widest choice of cask ales. In fact, for the 110 pubs which were surveyed in person (rather than using data available via social media) an average of 4.6 cask ales per pub were available for sale on the day, the same number as during



## Breweries



## Beers



## Price





the pre-Covid survey in Sep 2019! For 77 pubs which were surveyed both in 2019 and again this year there was a decrease in the range of beers from an average of 5.52 beers per pub, down to 4.95. This represents a drop of only 10% in choice which with all things considered is quite positive.

The average cost of a pint of real ale was £3.63 (up 40p/12% compared to Sep 2019). If Wetherspoons and Samuel Smiths are excluded from this data the average cost per pint was £3.90 (up 56p/17%). With no beer duty increases since the last survey, prices are up in excess of 3.5% per year but we suspect most of the increase has been in the last two years. The cheapest beers were Green King's *Ruddle's Best* and *IPA* at £1.71 a pint. The dearest was a 9.5% *Monsters English Barleywine 2021* by Torrside Brewing at £6.60.

Local breweries dominated the pumps with Bradfield (63), Abbeydale (51) and Thornbridge (28) being the top three most widely available.

The top spot this year was taken by Bradfield's *Farmers Blonde* available in 28 of the pubs surveyed, with Abbeydale's *Moonshine* and Sharp's *Doom Bar* taking the second and third spots.

A special thanks to everyone involved in going out to venues and gathering all the data to make up this survey.

**Phil Ellett**



**Eddy Munnelly**  
1948-2023

All at CAMRA Sheffield & District mourn the loss of Eddy Munnelly and send our condolences to his family and friends, especially Pat Wilson, the other half of 'Pat and Eddy'.

Eddy started running pubs at the East House (subsequently Morrissey's East House) with his friend Brian Morrissey. Later he moved on to the Wortley Arms along with Pat, and then to Morrissey's Riverside.

In 1998 he and Pat bought the Gardeners Rest at Neepsend, a Mansfield pub that had been closed for a short while. Building up trade from scratch purely on their reputation for serving well-kept real ales and hosting regular live music evenings, the pub was soon established on the real ale circuit, with the local CAMRA Pub of the Year award being won in 2000. If you were lucky enough to be there when the blackout curtains were drawn and the front door locked you knew you were in for a lock-in (and that's when lock-ins were a thing!).

In 2006, Eddy and I started the Sheffield Brewery along with local business owner Peter Rawlinson. Apart from a slight hiccup when both the Gardeners and the brewery were badly flooded in 2007, the brewery flourished, winning over 20 awards. In 2011 the brewery brewed the cask ale for the Tramlines festival. Eddy hosted many brewery tours, with pie and peas suppers, and it was

also the venue for parties and four weddings. At one time six to eight 18s from the *Five Rivers*, *Seven Hills*, *Blanco Blonde* and *Crucible Best* core range were delivered to the Gardeners weekly, along with a couple of 9s each of *Sheffield Porter* and the monthly special.

Famous for his range of flamboyant waistcoats, Eddy was a keen historian and the pub hosted several local history groups as well as showcasing the work of local artists. Eddy was also instrumental in establishing the Upper Don Walk and took groups along the river delving into Neepsend's industrial and brewing traditions. Sheffield City Morris made the Gardeners their home after practice and he was keen to promote them; there was also a popular Sunday night quiz. Eddy was always a supporter of the wider community, believing there was a place for everyone. He supported those who would otherwise find it difficult to find work; Gary, who cleaned the pub for 20 years, and Andy, who washed barrels at the brewery, were just two.

In 2017, Eddy decided to retire for a life on the ocean waves, well the historic waterways of England. Our shares in the brewery were sold to Peter, who was keen to take it forward in a different direction. The pub was bought by the regulars, keen to continue what Pat and Eddy had built up, as they set sail on their narrowboat. He could be a grumpy sod at times but we loved him all the same.

**Tim Stillman**





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## Blue Ball Worrall

After raising quite a substantial amount of money for a local charity, the Blue Ball Inn at Worrall was nominated as Community Pub of the Year and progressed through to the final 50. They were invited to attend the ceremony in London where the finalists would be assessed and shortlisted to five. The Blue Ball made it through to the final but were pipped at the post by the Dog & Parrot, Eastwood, Notts. Carl and Emma who run the Blue Ball said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and whilst disappointed not to win thought the Dog & Parrot were worthy winners.



While in London, Carl and Emma took the opportunity to meet with their local MP, Olivia Blake, at the Houses of Parliament. They petitioned Olivia about the level of support publicans currently receive in light of the hike in

energy prices and how this has affected the pub trade. While accepting the points Olivia made about support to the brewery trade, they made a strong argument for this to be cascaded down to pubs or for there to be more targeted support for pubs, rather than just brewers.

Since taking over the tenancy of the Blue Ball, just prior to Covid and lockdown, they have very much concentrated on improving their cellar, their beers and developing a community focused pub. The pub we see today is very different to the one Emma and Carl took over. They now host regular community group activities such as local business club meetings, provide support and sponsorship for local activities and are soon hoping to host a local produce market in their car park on Saturday mornings.

All of this, coupled with award winning Timothy Taylor's ales on cask, makes for a great offering for anyone wanting to enjoy a warm friendly atmosphere, some great food on Friday evenings and a good pint of Timothy Taylor's *Landlord* or *Knowle Spring*.

## Inn Brief

The **Globe** closed on 10 April for a refurbishment and was expected to reopen on 22 April as one of Stonegate's Craft Union partnership pubs.

The **White Lion** at Heeley is expected to reopen in May under the same management as the Crown, just up the road.

**BALANCE**  
BREWING & BLENDING



The **Bear** on Abbeydale Road is hosting an event with Balance Brewing & Blending on 27 April. They will be treating ticket holders to a few of their fantastic mixed fermentation beers and blended wild ales, accompanied by a snack or two.

The **Ladybower Inn** reopened on 7 April. Initially it was just the bar that was open, but by the time this issue of *Beer Matters* hits the street it is expected the kitchen and accommodation will be up and running too.



# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PUB

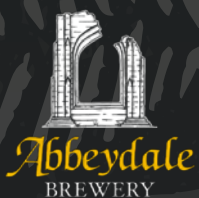


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## Commercial Chapeltown

On Friday 24 March Paul & Kate celebrated 30 years of running the Commercial in Chapeltown in quite some style with a surprise party including special beers from Abbeyle, Durham and White Rose breweries.

In addition to the cask ales, the Commercial is also renowned for its extensive range of spirits and hosts whisky tasting nights. And now there is also a special single cask whisky from Milk & Honey Distillery in Tel Aviv, to celebrate 30 years of

Paul & Kate running the Commercial. The pub is also home to Sheffield Distillery, who produce Sheffield Assay Gin and Vodka.



With chip butty nights on Wednesdays and naan bread pizza nights on Thursdays, the Commercial is an outstanding community pub and a real jewel of the North Sheffield pub scene. Here's to the next 30 years of quenching Chapeltown's thirst!

**Thomas Sturgess**

## Inn Brief

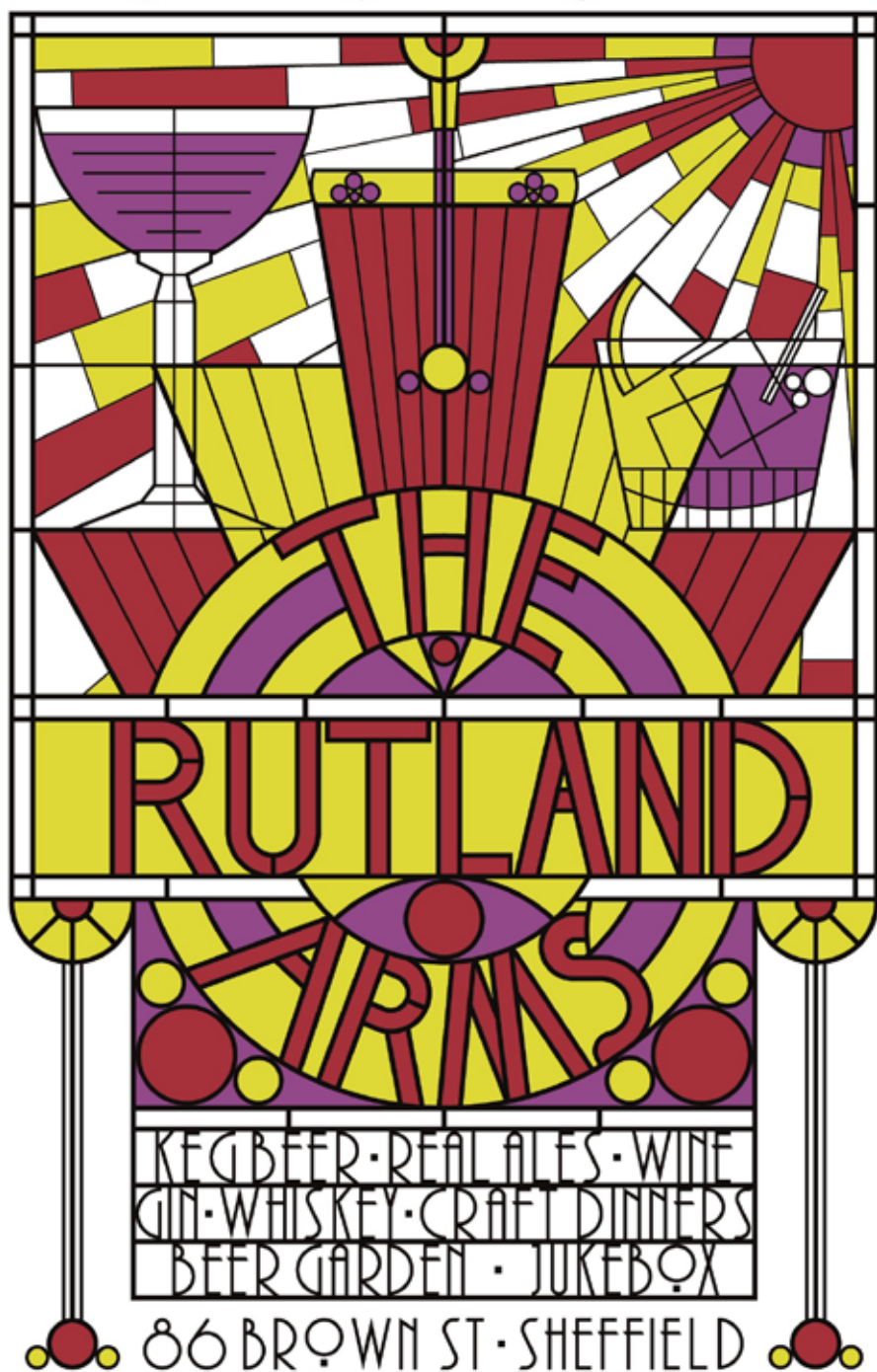
The **Rose House** at Walkley has now lost its "wooden curtains" and has new windows, with the pub being prepared to reopen at the end of April. The pub is owned by Stonegate and is being leased to a local operator.

**Vocation & Co** launched their Sheffield bar on 14 April. This is the former Old House on Devonshire Street. It features five cask ales and 22 keg lines, with beers from Vocation and guests. Cocktails are also available. Food is described as "upmarket burgers and subs".

The **Hallamshire Hotel** on West Street, Sheffield City Centre, reopened on 20 April, under the same management as the Washington. It nailed its colours to the mast of being a music orientated venue from the word go, with Barry Krisp & The Bangers performing on opening night. They are keen to reclaim the pub's musical heritage with an ongoing programme of live music and DJs.

The initial opening saw the venue still configured as it was when it closed as Bloo88, but there are plans longer term to make changes which will include bringing the upstairs function room back into use, and a bar refit that will introduce cask ale alongside craft beers and cocktails.









## Cider... Bear?

City Centre

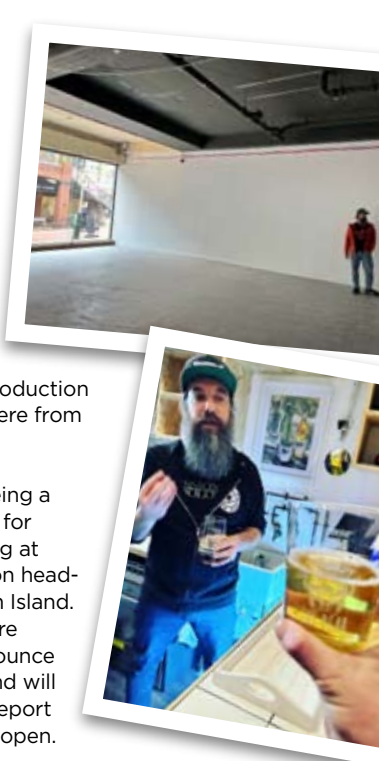
Exciting news broke recently about a joint venture between Matt from **Bear** on Abbeydale Road, and Mike at **Cider Hole** in Shalesmoor. A unit inside Orchard Square is in the process of being fitted out as we speak, with a planned opening sometime in June, although a name hasn't yet been chosen.

Apparently, the new venue will feature 20 taps, including three cask lines and cider too. We can also expect the same wide range of cans,

bottles and artisan ciders for which both existing businesses are well known.

It is anticipated that Exemption Ciderhouse production will relocate here from Cider Hole.

It looks like being a great stop-off for anyone arriving at Midland Station heading for Kelham Island. We'll have more details to announce next month and will feature a full report once they are open.



# GARDENERS REST

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## Abbeydale

Loads of new stuff on the go this month! First up and guaranteeing fast acting serious relief from the most terrifying phenomenon known to mankind, **Dr Morton's Clown Poison** (4.1%) is a light and refreshing fruity pale ale with Amarillo and Mosaic hops. Phew!

Also in cask only, and coming soon to a pub near you, we have **Summer** (3.9%) hopped with Vic Secret, Enigma and Ekuanot for a tropical, approachable and aromatic pale ale. And Nelson Sauvin is the star of the show in the next of our **Through the Hopback** series (3.9%), a deliciously sessionable pale ale with delicate Sauvignon Blanc-esque flavours of white grape and gooseberry coupled with a floral finish.

And finally, in cask, keg and can – look out for the return of our dry hopped orange infused pale ale, **Splendour** (4.4%) which always pairs perfectly with a sunny day and is most definitely a returning favourite. Plus the next in our single hopped series features an awesome Aussie hop – **Obsession Galaxy** (5.9%). Expect a tantalising tropical aroma followed by fruity flavours of melon, mango and passionfruit, with a clear-cut bitterness in the finish.

May also sees us brewing a grand total of three collaborations! We're hosting Leeds-based Anthology and Nottingham's Castle Rock here at Abbeydale, and in the "away" corner we're off down to Norfolk to rustle up something special with Ampersand. Look out for more details coming soon!



## Black Mass SIBA Gold

Abbeydale were celebrating last month, with their popular beer **Black Mass**, a 6.66% black IPA, taking home a top prize at the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) Independent Beer Awards 2023.

Sheffield based Abbeydale Brewery, most famous for their *Moonshine* pale ale, received the accolade of Overall Champion of the Bottle & Can competition for their black IPA at the beer trade association's national finals, held at BeerX, the country's largest brewing industry event, in Liverpool last week. Brewer Christie McIntosh, from Abbeydale Brewery, said: "*Black Mass* is a joyous, strong, bitter, fruity dark ale. Winning the national award as a black IPA is pretty wild – we won the Speciality IPA which we were really pleased about, but to then go up again and win the Overall Gold is just amazing."



▲ Brewers Christie McIntosh and Jamie Memmott collect *Black Mass* Bottle & Can Overall Champion Award

The award, judged by a panel of industry peers and experts, recognises the very finest in UK brewing. SIBA chairman Richard Naisby congratulated the winners on their huge achievement and said “Judges had a tough job separating the pack as the standard was extremely high once again. The winners from the SIBA competition are officially the best independent craft beers in the UK, something brewers should be extremely proud of.”



Abbeyle Brewery are well known for producing a huge range of beers, blending innovation with heritage and reflecting these values across their beers. *Black Mass*, a 6.66% black IPA, has been part of Abbeyle Brewery's permanently available beers since the business was founded in 1996, and the team believe it to be one of the world's first and longest standing beers of this style in existence.

Sales director Dan Baxter says of the award “*Black Mass* has been with us since our very beginnings as a brewery, and we're absolutely thrilled that it's being recognised as being at the very top of its game. It's classic and familiar, yet simultaneously unique and boundary defying, and a true favourite of many of the team here!”.

Photo credit: Mark Newton



## Intrepid

### Brewery to host their first open day of the year

Saturday 29 April offers a day of beer, pizza and tunes amongst the Peak District hills.

A bar will be open in the brewery, while out in the yard, along with seating, will be Sunshine Pizza Oven slingin' their wood-fired pizzas and next door neighbour Calum Audio providing the soundtrack.

The brewery is located in Unit 12, Vincent Works on the road between Hope and Bradwell. Many journeys on bus 271/272 stop at the end of the drive and it is also the Hope Valley Beer Festival at the Old Hall Hotel that weekend so you can easily combine a visit to both!

## Brewery Bits



**Loxley Brewery** have a new slightly hazy *Citra* pale ale out and at 4.4% ABV it should be perfect for when it's beer garden weather!

**Emmanuel's** have invested in some new tanks and their original 100 L flat bottomed fermenters have been retired.

**Fuggle Bunny Brew House** have announced a number of additional Saturday tap events in addition to the routine Fuggle Fridays. The next few are 6 May, 27 May, 3 June and 29 July.

**Grizzly Grains** continues to open for tap sessions about once a week. Check their Facebook page for announcements. The brewery is just off Queens Road on Duchess Street, not far from Bramall Lane stadium.

**Little Critters** latest single batch cask special, *Number 20*, is a pale ale involving El Dorado and Ekuano spring hops.



## Tax reforms

### Tax reforms are brilliant news for small brewers and cider makers, but changes needed to avoid a stealth ban on takeaway pints

Nik Antona, CAMRA national chairman, has responded to the publication of details on reforms to the Alcohol Duty System, coming into force on 1 August 2023.

On the new draught duty rate for beer and cider: "CAMRA has campaigned for many years to secure a draught duty rate, and we are pleased that this has come to fruition. We particularly welcome the confirmation that traditional gravity dispense will be captured within the new, lower, duty rate.

"With the Chancellor extending the differential between the general and draught duty rates to 9.2% in the Budget, we look forward to campaigning to further increase that differential to the benefit of pubs, social clubs, and consumers."

On the new Small Producer Relief Scheme: "Small brewers and cider makers will be pleased to see the details of the new Small Producer

Relief Scheme, so that they can start planning for the future.

"With stubbornly high inflation and the impending cliff-edge drop-off in energy bill support, small producers need more help than ever to compete with the purchasing power and economies of scale enjoyed by the global producers that dominate the UK beer and cider market.

"Small cider makers will also benefit from a progressive duty system for the first time ever, supporting them to grow and increase choice of artisanal ciders for consumers."

On the announcement that decanting from draught-duty paid containers for consumption off the premises will be prohibited:

"Despite our formal representations and extensive engagement with the Treasury, a workable solution to allow pubs and social clubs to make incidental takeaway draught sales has not been found. It's good that specialist bottle shops will be able to buy casks and kegs with the general duty rate paid on them to make takeaway sales, but most publicans – who the draught duty rate is designed to benefit – won't be able to afford or accommodate extra draught containers just to make takeaway sales.

"This, if implemented, will equate to a stealth ban on takeaway pints and is extremely disappointing for licensees and consumers, and especially designated drivers that like to take away a pint or two to enjoy responsibly at home. We will continue to campaign for a workable solution."



## Energy bills

### Cut in help for energy bills could spell end for nation's locals

Commenting on the impending reduction in the Government's help for businesses with their energy bills from 1 April, CAMRA chairman Nik Antona said:

"Sadly for publicans, this isn't a bad April Fool's joke from the Government. With our pubs and breweries continuing to face rocketing costs and customers tightening their belts, the last thing licensees need is vital support with sky-high energy bills to be pulled out from under them.

"This change puts the future of many of the nation's beloved pubs, social clubs and breweries under threat of having to close their doors for good – with communities losing vital parts of their social fabric as a result.

"CAMRA is urging the Government to think again, reinstate more help for the licensed trade with their energy bills – as well as making business rates fairer and cutting VAT so that pubs can survive and thrive in the months and years ahead."



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# Pubs of the Year 2023

Our annual competition sees all Pub of the Month winners from the past year, along with pubs in the current *Good Beer Guide*, listed for our members to vote for.

The best two in each region of our branch area then get subjectively judged to pick regional and overall winners – and here they are!

**Kelham Island Tavern** is our overall Pub of the Year, with **Sheffield Tap** and **Chantry Inn** coming in second and third.

Kelham Island Tavern has now been put into the Yorkshire entry round of the national competition, while the Red Lion has been put forward for North Derbyshire.

Kelham Island  
and Overall



**Kelham Island  
Tavern**

Russell Street



North Sheffield



**Gardeners Rest**  
Neepsend



West Sheffield



**Rising Sun**  
Nether Green



Sheffield City Centre



**Sheffield Tap**  
Sheaf Street



East Sheffield



**Chantry Inn**  
Handsworth



District (Derbyshire)



**Red Lion**  
Litton



South Sheffield



**Sheaf View**  
Heeley

## Cider Pub of the Year

In this separate competition the winner is selected from member nominations by a vote at the March branch meeting and recognises venues offering and championing

# VOTE

for

## Pub of the Month

Vote online by visiting  
the address below, or  
vote in person at branch  
meetings.

- ☐ **Harlequin**  
Nursery Street
- ☐ **Old Hall Hotel**  
Hope
- ☐ **Perch**  
City Centre
- ☐ **Two Sheds**  
Crookes
- ☐ **Walkley Beer Co**  
Walkley

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



**Cider Hole**  
Shalesmoor

proper cider. The winner this  
year, the **Cider Hole**, has now  
been put forward into the  
Yorkshire entry round.



Issue 523  
May 2023



# LOXLEY BREWERY

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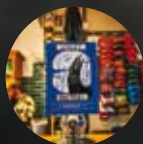


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# Sofia & Plovdiv

## Postponed Bulgarian brew but...

After brewing *Yellowcake* with Bulgarian cuckoo brewers Alchemik, a return collab in Sofia was a given. I found return flights to Sofia (Wizz from Luton) for £18.84 each so a plan was hatched and flights booked for myself and Jimothy and Helen from Lost Industry... hotels seemed more expensive than usual for that weekend but for £60 a night I found a whole two-bed apartment on Airbnb right in the centre of the city. The flight wasn't due to land til 02:00, so we took a taxi straight to the apartment rather than faff around with public transport, and as the brew got postponed we were at least able to have a lie-in.

Next day we headed (via a quick visit to the cathedral) to **Sofia Electric** brewery, where we had been planning to brew, and had a quick tour along with trying some of their beers including the brand new **Tracksuit**, an 8% dessert sour with cherries, along with various DIPAs and imperial stouts.

After a bite to eat we headed out to a few bars, starting with **Bira Bar**, a tiny bar hidden up a side street with about ten keg taps and, more excitingly for those seeking cask conditioned enlightenment, two handpumps. Bizarrely, they had two beers on

keg from UK's Badger brewery, naturally we ignored these (not a statement on the beers, but we didn't fly a thousand miles to drink UK beer!) and went for cask **Rhombus English Porter** and **359/Divo Pivo Red Cask**. We tried the keg offerings too, including **Poncho** barley wine from **Sudaka** and **Metalhead's** new red IPA **River Runs Red**.

Next up was the nearby **Tap Local**, taproom for **Kazan** brewery, and another pretty small venue with just a couple of tables downstairs and one upstairs on a mezzanine - watch your head going upstairs if you're much more than 5' tall! Six beers in a variety of styles including **Irish Stout**, **Galaxy Pliaktor** NEIPA and **Bistrishko** pale ale.

A bit more touring ensued before our evening drinking, which was mostly at **Vitamin B** where Sofia Electric were launching two new beers, **Pin** DDH NEPA and a rather tasty (and far too drinkable for its 10.5%!) **Crazy in the Coconut** imperial stout. We tried these plus the other beers (mostly Sofia Electric plus a Polish interloper from **Pinta**) with a much-needed burger.

A slight change next as we headed to **Raketa** rakia bar, no beer worth speaking of but a colossal rakia list, we tried a Serb apricot rakia, a Bulgarian cherry rakia, and a quince rakia along with some very filling soups.

After a very welcome lie-in next day we headed out for some more sightseeing, but had gone no more than five minutes from the apartment when we spotted **Luciano** bar, marked as a brewery and not on our research - a



quick bit of googling revealed, as suspected, it wasn't a brewery, but did have beers from nearby **Riverside** brewpub: rather trad German style **Lager** and **Schwarz**.

A few more old buildings and then we found ourselves at the excellent **High Five**, a great little bar with a dozen taps (mix of Bulgarian and imports) and a seriously impressive fridge. Tap highlights included **Alchemik Barley Legal** imperial stout and **Sofia Electric Pie Strings Theory** lime dessert sour, and from the fridge we tried the four **Balkan to the Bones** imperial stouts aged in rakia barrels from four different Balkan countries, brewed by **Cohones**, some dessert sours from **Arpus** of Latvia and **Birbant** of Poland, as well as some takeaways including a dessert sour from Ukrainian **Ten Men** brewery.

We eventually dragged ourselves away from High Five to **Crafter**, literally just up the road. Ten craft beers on tap, mostly imports (including some UK which again we avoided), then a slightly longer walk out to **Pivoteka**, where the dozen or so lines were a mix of Bulgarian and imports, but as the imports were the likes of **Garden** from Croatia and **Siberia** from Czech Republic I wasn't complaining! We worked through the taps and a couple of cans before returning to the central area for last orders at **Nosferatu**, a bottle shop with a drink-in area and a few taps, run by metalheads and quite often visited by metal bands playing at the nearby concert hall.

Finally we checked out **Bez Krai** ('without end') at the recommendation of Simeon from Sofia Electric, more of a nightclub than a bar but with a couple of craft

offerings including **Hope** IPA from Serb brewer **Dogma**, after which we had a couple of cocktails.

We didn't get time to visit **Pop-up**, Sofia Electric's taproom, but I'd been at Xmas and enjoyed the cosy underground bar with a dozen or so of their beers on tap and a fridge full of their cans and bottles. Similarly I visited **Trick** on that trip but couldn't fit it in this time; a bar and live music venue with about 20 craft taps.

**Sofia is probably still the only place in Bulgaria one could consider a 'beer destination' but...**

On the last day we decided on a change of scene and took a day trip to Plovdiv, the two and a half hour journey costing around £4 each way. The singing fountains were sadly neither singing nor fountaining. Presumably the water gets turned off in winter to prevent freezing, though as it was 20 °C seemed a bit unnecessary! We headed then to **Fabrika** brewery tap, a slightly odd place looking nothing like a bar from outside, but serving beers from the eponymous brewery elsewhere in Plovdiv. The beers on tap were trad German in style, a pils, a dark and a weizen.

Another cultural stop next, with a hike up to the Roman amphitheatre – it's only 100 yards or so on the map, but it's a fair way up and to reach it means walking all the way round. We then descended to the Roman stadium, then back on the beer at **Wunderbar**, the brewery

tap for **Hills** brewery. The beers were a bit more adventurous than the previous place, including **Weinbier** grape ale and a few IPAs including **Heart Beet**, beetroot IPA, though none were outstanding, but all decent enough. A short walk took us to **Kotka i Mishka** (Cat & Mouse), a small trendy bar packed even on a Sunday evening, with two beers shown as house beers but actually from Fabrika, however they were much more interesting than at the tap, being an IPA and a pale. Round the corner is **Hopium**, a tiny place no more than seven feet wide but with ten taps, half Bulgarian and half imported. The German sour that interested us was off, so we had **Pelta Revolt** NEIPA and **Elevation** milkshake IPA along with German import **Sudden Death STS: Live and Loud** TDH IPA. We then headed back to the station for the train back to Sofia. We still had some train beers but unanimously decided to have a nap instead. We alighted at Podjane on the outskirts of Sofia for a short walk to our final bar of the trip, **Kanaal**. This has probably the biggest taplist of any bar in Sofia, but a lot is imported. I generally look for the local stuff, but wasn't gonna complain at finding Belgian **Hof ten Dormal Lambiek Barbera 2021** on draught!

Overall a great trip even though we didn't get to brew. Sofia is probably still the only place in Bulgaria one could consider a 'beer destination' but there's options for decent beer should you happen to find yourself in Plovdiv, Varna or Burgas. Beer, food and travel are all cheap compared to UK and flights and hotels can be cheap as chips if you time it right.

**Dave Szwejkowski**



## New Zealand

### Vice chair Paul and wife Bev's fabulous trip

We started on **Harvey's IPA** at the Hilton Heathrow Terminal 2 with some great runway views. Singapore Airlines took us to Auckland via a lengthy stop at Singapore due to cyclone Gabrielle but time for a few beers including **Archipelago's Summer IPA**.

Auckland was very blowy but our one night stay allowed samplings of **Emerson's Hazed & Confused IPA** and an excellent **Black Duck Dark Ale** from **Hawkes Bay** together with **Tuatara Hazy Pale Ale** and **Speight's Gold Medal Ale**.

We moved onto Mount Mangonui for a six night stay for the first test. A lovely sunny and hot seaside resort. Canned beers included **Puha Road IPA** and **The Island Dawn Daze IPA**.

We enjoyed hospitality at the cricket, met England legends Mike Gatting and Gladstone

Small [pictured above with Paul... that's not Bev]. It meant all our drinks were included with the beer offering being **Boundary Road Haze of our Lives** hazy IPA. An England win in four days allowed time for a spectacular wildlife boat trip.

We then flew to Wellington after a short visit to a Maori thermal village for a Haka ceremony. Wellington was different again being very hilly and windy. Trips to see the Pinnacles famous for the *Lord of the Rings* film trilogy and wine tasting at Martinborough; a great little town set up by an English settler with streets in a Union Jack flag orientation. Many beers were sampled including **Fortune Favours The Optimist** and **Bean to Beer** double chocolate stout.

A Wellington craft breweries tour started at **Garage Project** brewery for **Pernicious Weed**

(8% IPA) and **Garagista** (5.8% bitter). Next stop was **Baylands** brewery taproom for a taster flight of **Esplanade**, **Woodrow Vero**, **Rail Slider** and **Hop Enforcer**. The highlight was then a visit to **Brewtown** in Upper Hutt. This was a craft brewery mecca in an old Dunlop tyre factory with numerous breweries including **Panhead** and **Bonaface**. More taster flights followed with a favourite being **Unf\*ck the World** 8% **Double IPA**.

The second test match was very exciting but England lost by just one run. We drowned our sorrows in a great little dive bar sampling **Wired Wireless Black IPA**, **Garage Projects Leeds Street Rye** and **Birdseye** hazy IPA from **ParrotDog**.

A super trip for the beer and cricket with many fabulous memories.



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## Festival guide

### April

#### Sheaf View

**Fri 28 – Sun 30 Apr**

The spring edition of the Sheaf View pub's beer festival is an all vegan affair. 14 cask and eight keg beers spread across the main pub bar and a pop up festival bar along with food provided by Make No Bones. There will be music Friday and Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon. Special beer quiz on Sunday evening.

#### University of Sheffield Students' Union

**Fri 28 – Sun 30 Apr**

Over 100 real ales, craft beers and ciders plus gin, street food and live music spread across the Raynor Lounge, Bar One and Interval Garden. Open from 2pm until midnight each day. Open to the public. Entrance is on Glossop Road, it is close to the City Centre and the University tram stop or buses 6, 120 and 271 go there. More details on their Facebook page.

#### Penistone

**Fri 28 – Sat 29 Apr**

A fundraiser for St John the Baptist Church organised in collaboration with the Penistone Tap and Woodland Brewing, featuring over 30 beers and ciders, food and entertainment. Entry tickets are sold online in advance via Eventbrite for £10 which includes three half pint beer tokens. Tickets also available on the door but including less

beer in the price. More details on their Facebook event page. Northern run regular trains from Sheffield to Huddersfield via Penistone.

#### Hope Valley

**Fri 28 Apr – Mon 1 May**

The May Day edition of the Old Hall Hotel's regular bank holiday beer and cider festival.

### May

#### Hope Valley

**Fri 5 – Mon 8 May**

The Royal Coronation edition of the Old Hall Hotel's regular bank holiday beer and cider festival.

#### 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. A special shuttle bus operates there from Chesterfield railway station or the Stagecoach bus 90 runs there from Chesterfield town centre and Whittington Moor. More details and advance tickets are on the festival website.

#### Skipton CAMRA

**Thu 18 – Sat 20 May**

At Skipton Town Hall.

#### Ridgeway

**Sat 20 May**

Multi-pub based event in the village of Ridgeway with beer, music and charity fundraising. Bus 252 goes there.

#### Lincoln CAMRA

**Thu 25 – Sat 27 May**

At the Drill. Details on their

website. Regular Northern trains run Sheffield-Lincoln.

#### Hope Valley

**Fri 26 – Mon 29 May**

The spring edition of the Old Hall Hotel's regular bank holiday beer and cider festival.

#### Lees Hall Golf Club

**Fri 26 – Mon 29 May**

Featuring a range of ten cask ales plus other craft beer and cider, live music and food. All welcome. Buses 18 and 20.

### June

#### One Valley (Dronfield)

**Sat 3 Jun**

A number of pubs, social clubs and breweries around Dronfield and nearby villages jointly put on something of a party featuring food, drink and music. Buses 15, 16, 43 and 44 link most venues with the town centre venues walkable from Dronfield station.

#### Stockport CAMRA

**Thu 22 – Sat 24 Jun**

A new venue this year – the Guildhall on Wellington Rd, ten minutes from the station and on high frequency bus route 192. Features over 150 cask ales plus cider, perry and European bottled beers along with entertainment, food and stalls.

#### Loxley

**Fri 23 – Sun 25 Jun**

The annual beer festival held at the Wisewood Inn, which is home to Loxley Brewery. The range of beers on the pub bar is supplemented by a festival bar in a marquee at the rear and there is also a food counter and brewery merchandise

stall. If the weather is decent you can enjoy your beer in the garden with a lovely view over the valley! Buses 31, 61, 62.

### **Eckington Beer & Music**

**Sat 24 Jun**

Venues across Mosborough, Eckington, Marsh Lane and Hundall work together to provide a day of music, food and drinks in both urban and rural settings. A minibus shuttles between venues.

## July

### **Brunswick (Derby)**

**Wed 5 – Sun 9 Jul**

The Brunswick brewpub, close to Derby railway station, host their summer festival which claims to be the city's longest running pub beer festival! The pub bar is joined by a festival stillage offering a total of 40 cask ales and 20 real ciders and perries.

### **Pax in the Park**

**Fri 21 – Sun 23 Jul**

Free-entry music festival and bar in Heeley People's Park.

### **Wortley Beer Festival**

**Fri 21 – Sun 23 Jul**

Wortley Men's Club annual event with beer, cider, food and music. Bus 29 Chapel-town to Holmfirth goes there.

## August

### **Great British Beer Festival (CAMRA)**

**Tue 1 – Sat 5 Aug**

One of the big ones, a national event held at the Olympia Exhibition Centre in Kensington, London.

### **Hope Valley**

**Fri 25 – Mon 28 Aug**

The late summer edition of the Old Hall Hotel's regular bank holiday beer and cider festival.

## September

### **Bolsover**

**Fri 1 – Sat 2 Sep**

Bolsover FC.

### **York (CAMRA)**

**Wed 13 – Sat 16 Sep**

St Lawrence's Church.

### **Rail, Ale & Blues (Cleethorpes)**

**Fri 15 – Sun 17 Sep**

Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway's Lakeside Station.

## October

### **Robin Hood (Nottingham CAMRA)**

**Wed 11 – Sat 14 Oct**

Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

### **Steel City (Sheffield CAMRA)**

**Wed 18 – Sat 21 Oct**

Kelham Island Museum.



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## Branch diary

Info and bookings:

[social@sheffield.camra.org.uk](mailto:social@sheffield.camra.org.uk)

### Branch AGM

**2pm Sat 13 May**

As well as the usual branch meeting (where 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) we have the formal business of the AGM which includes presentation of the accounts, electing the committee and debating any motions. The venue is the Lescar at Sharrow Vale, we'll be in the Project Room at the back. Buses 81,82,83,88 and 272 stop on Ecclesall Road.

### Festival planning meeting

**8pm Tue 16 May**

We continue planning our 2023 Steel City Beer Fest at this meeting held upstairs at the Gardeners Rest.

### RambAle

**Sat 20 May**

We're getting the 218 bus out to Bakewell (departing the Interchange at 09:40) and heading to Birchover, Rowsley and Stanton in the Peak.

### Committee meeting

**8pm Tue 23 May**

Monthly business meeting for the committee. Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane.

### Branch meeting

**8pm Tue 6 Jun**

Venue TBC.

### Matlock bus trip

**11:30am Sat 10 Jun**

We take advantage of the £2 per ride bus fare offer to take the X17 from Sheffield to Matlock for an afternoon visiting some of the pubs in the town. The bus departs Sheffield Interchange at 11:35 (also picks up at Arundel Gate, Heeley, Woodseats and Meadowhead) with buses coming back roughly hourly up until around 7pm.

### RambAle

**11:50am Sat 17 Jun**

This month we're in the Dronfield area starting at the Royal Oak in Coal Aston at 12:30 and walking via Troway, Ap-perknowle and Hundall down to Dronfield. Bus 44 departs Sheffield Flat Street at 11:56.

### Festival planning meeting

**8pm Tue 20 Jun**

Upstairs at the Gardeners.

### Committee meeting

**8pm Tue 27 Jun**

Dog & Partridge.

### Branch meeting

**8pm Tue 4 Jul**

Venue TBC.

### Torrside Brewery and

### New Mills train trip

**11am Sat 15 Jul**

We take the train from Sheffield station at 11:14 (also picks up at Dore & Totley) to get to New Mills Central at midday for the tap session at Torrside brewery followed by a pub or two in the town before heading back towards Sheffield on the train, with the option of stopping off somewhere in the Hope Valley on the way if desired.

## Committee

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Vice Chair

Social Secretary

Committee Meeting Secretary

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**HEALTH BENEFITS**  
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