

BEER MATTERS

548
AUG 2025

KIT AND CABOODLE

Kelham Island Tavern still has
it all; celebrating another PotY win

SHEFFIELD BEER CENSUS

This year's results are in



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BEER MATTERS

548
AUG 2025

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and may not represent those of CAMRA, the local branch or editor.

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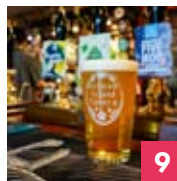
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SHEFFIELD BEER CENSUS

On Saturday 31 May, members of the Sheffield & District branch headed all around the city and its surrounds to complete the Sheffield Beer Census (last one was Feb 2023). The aim is to take a snapshot of the range and cost of real ales and hopefully confirm Sheffield's rightful status as Beer Capital of the UK.

Groups on different routes set off at mid-day 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 two surveys the weather was extremely good.

COUNTS

158 pubs surveyed	629 beers surveyed	376 unique beers	149 breweries
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158 pubs were surveyed (27 more than last time), with a respectable 629 beers recorded. From this data 376 unique beers were identified from 149 different breweries.

We believe these figures maintain Sheffield's claim to be the Beer Capital, offering the widest choice of cask ales.

For the 138 pubs which were surveyed in person (rather than using data available via social media) an average of 4.34 cask ales per pub were available for sale on the day. Only slightly down from 4.6, the last pre-COVID figure.

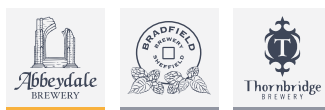
For the 79 pubs which were surveyed both in Feb 2023 and May 2025 there was a small drop of 1.5% in the number of beers available.

PRICES

£1.79 cheapest	£4.13 average	£6.50 dearest
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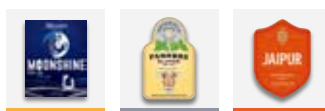
The average cost of a pint of real ale was £4.13 (up 50p/13.8% compared to Feb 2023). If Wetherspoons and Samuel Smiths are excluded from this data the average cost per pint was £4.44 (up 54p/13.8%). With no beer duty increases since the last survey, prices are up 6% per year which represents an above inflation increase (average inflation being around 4.5% per year over the 2.3 year period). The cheapest beers were Green King's Ruddle's Best and IPA at £1.79 a pint. The dearest was a 5.7% Big Hoppa by Little Critters at £6.50 pint.

BREWERIES



Again this year local breweries dominated the pumps with Abbeydale having 62 recorded beers, followed by Bradfield and Thornbridge both on 44 beers each.

BEERS



Beer availability wise the top spot this year was **Abbeydale's Moonshine** available in 28 of the pubs surveyed, with **Bradfield Farmer's Blonde** second in 26 pubs and **Thornbridge's Jaipur** third in 16 pubs. Sharp's *Doom Bar*, third place for many years, has dropped down to seventh place.

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

Phil Ellett



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Brothers Arms have announced details of their "Summer Bash". It is taking place on Saturday 30 August from 2pm to 1am with a musical line up of 6 live acts plus DJs Tink and Mojo.

Old Shoe opened their Speak-easy wine bar "Not Open, Don't Come" on 28 June. It is open every Friday and Saturday night from 7pm to 2am. The entrance is around the corner from the Old Shoe via what used to be a fire exit door in the red wall!

Heeley Artisan bar is a new opening on Chesterfield Road in Heeley in a former restaurant premises. It is brought to you by the same people as Mesters Tap in Woodseats and of course Little Mesters Brewing. A range of both mainstream and craft keg beers are available along with bar snacks including loaded wedges and burgers. The bar has a handpump installed with cask ale from Little Mesters new brewery in Attercliffe, the first being "Mesters Mate", a hazy session pale ale.

Coach House Cafe in Hillsborough Park have withdrawn their planning application for an outside drinks kiosk.

Bessemer in Sheffield City Centre has been closed for a refurbishment and was due to reopen on 18 July.



Jabbarwocky on London Road in Highfield has had a change of ownership with a leaving party held over the weekend of 11/12 July followed by a week of being closed for a bit of a spruce up before relaunching in time for Tramlines festival fringe!



Cremorne, also on London Road in Highfield, are proud of their hand painted A-Board produced by Greg of @ayup.art!

Crown in Totley is celebrating the current management's 10th anniversary on bank holiday Monday 25 August with festivities including live music, food truck, bouncy castle and kids games.

The new management, **Dan & Casper**, are now in at the White Lion in Great Longstone and the pub is open serving food and drink.

Scotsman's Pack in Hathersage hold their annual beer festival on Saturday 9 August. Then later on in the month on the bank holiday weekend the Old Hall Hotel in Hope hold one of their regular Hope Valley Beer & Cider festivals.

The Hathersage gala took place over a week at the beginning of July. This involves scarecrows being displayed around the village, numerous events and finally on the Saturday a carnival parade through the village and stalls on the football field. **Millstone**, located in the hills above the village near Surprise Corner got involved too and did appear down in the village at events with a cask of Stancill Stainless!

Anglers Rest in Bamford has introduced Friday ABC – Anglers Beer Club. This offers 20% off drinks between 4pm and 6pm each Friday. Meanwhile there have been some changes on the food side of things for the summer with a new country tapas menu introduced whilst the traditional roasts continue to be available on Sundays. Pizzas are available for the quiz night on Wednesdays until 9pm.

George & Dragon in Holmesfield has been awarded Dronfield's summer Pub of the Season award.



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2 THREE B'S MICROPUB 2

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PUB OF THE MONTH

August 2025



HARLEQUIN
Nursery Street

The Harlequin, a pub with a history dating back to 1845, is located on Nursery Street in Sheffield, in the Kelham Island area of our branch.

The pub has a large open-plan interior with a central bar, and seating across two levels. Historically, it was known as the Manchester Railway Hotel before, and in 2006 was renamed The Harlequin after a now-demolished Ward's pub around the corner.

After closing in early 2024 it reopened in late July the same year under the ownership of Chris Bamford and Kate Major, who also run

The Rutland Arms and The Crow Inn in Sheffield. A high quality renovation was completed prior to the reopening, which included interior and exterior updates, including a new green and red frontage to match the Harlequin character on the signage. The interior decor incorporates photos of Sheffield and the pub's history. A brand new addition for summer 2025 is a pair of long benches on the pavement to the front of the pub, so with its rear courtyard the pub now offers two external seating areas. There is an upstairs room which can be used for private events.

The beer selection under the new management includes seven cask beers and three cask ciders, in addition to 12 keg lines and two keg ciders. The cask ale range typically features Kirkstall Bitter alongside a varied range of guests – Kernel, North Riding, Torrside and Big Trip are regularly seen. There is also a huge range of spirits, local mead, and a fridge full of cans and bottles of craft beer and cider.

There are regular live music nights which you can find advertised on the pub's social media, and a quiz every Wednesday night at 8.30pm.

Shortly after reopening the Harlequin introduced food at lunchtimes and evenings. There is a lunch menu of sandwiches, an all day menu including chip butties, burgers, fish and chips and vegan curries, and often specials available.

We are presenting Ethan, Lizzie, Chris, Oly, Isra and Theo with their award on 12 August at 8pm – join us there for a beer or two!

Dan Rowe

JOIN US...

...for a beer or two as we are presenting Ethan, Lizzie, Chris, Oly, Isra and Theo with their award on **Tue 12 Aug at 8pm**

GETTING THERE

buses **7, 8/8a** and **75/75a** stop pretty much outside the pub

PUB OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS

We had a great response to our last round of nominations and voting, and hope to see more this month!

Alongside our winner, **Harlequin** (Kelham Island) we also received and voted on nominations for **Beer House S6** (Hillsborough), **Three Stags Head** (Wardlow Mires), **Cross Scythes** (Derbyshire Lane), and **Beer Engine** (Cemetery Road).

Nominations are once again open until the committee meeting on **Tue 26 Aug.**

You can nominate in person at meetings, via a committee member, or online at: sheffield.camra.org.uk/potm



Dan Rowe
Pub of the Month
Coordinator



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PUB OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION



KELHAM ISLAND/NEEPSSEND AND OVERALL WINNER



KELHAM ISLAND TAVERN
Russell Street

We presented our our overall Sheffield & District Pub of the Year award winner – the Kelham Island Tavern – with their certificate on Tuesday 8 July.

A good turn out of CAMRA members and pub regulars enjoyed some excellent beer as our branch chairman Paul Manning presented the certificates to Josh, Louise and the team. Complimentary pork pies and cheeses were enjoyed too!

Congratulations on the well deserved award and thanks for the hospitality.





THORNBRIDGE

Thornbridge Brewery and Garrett Oliver collaborate on a special release to support The Michael James Jackson Foundation

Thornbridge Brewery is proud to announce a special collaboration with Garrett Oliver, Brewmaster of Brooklyn Brewery, to create a unique beer brewed on the world's only operational Burton Union set. Proceeds from this limited-edition release will benefit The Michael James Jackson Foundation for Brewing and Distilling (MJF).

In 2024, Garrett Oliver played a pivotal role in assisting Thornbridge with the rescue and restoration of an historic Burton Union Set – a legendary system once central to British brewing. Now operational at Thornbridge's brewery in Bakewell, it stands

as the sole functioning example of its kind anywhere in the world.

Since its installation, Thornbridge has used the Union to explore heritage styles and innovative collaborations. This new release marks the first beer brewed on the system with Garrett Oliver himself: a Strong Dark Mild crafted with Maris Otter, premium Crystal and Chocolate malts, and West African Fonio, an ancient grain that contributes creaminess and subtle fruit character. Dark brewing sugars further enhance the beer with complex layers of caramel and richness.

In addition to its historical and technical significance, the collaboration supports a vital cause. Garrett Oliver founded The MJF, a non-profit organisation that funds technical education and career advancement for people of colour in the brewing and distilling industries. For every

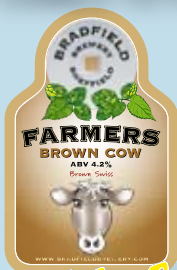
pint and can of this beer sold, 10 pence will be donated to the foundation.

"We were incredibly excited to brew with Garrett using the Union," said Simon Webster, Co-Founder and CEO of Thornbridge Brewery. "To combine this brewing milestone with the opportunity to support such an important cause makes it all the more meaningful."

Garrett Oliver continued "I'm 36 years into my brewing career, and yet this still counts as one of the most personally significant beers I've had the opportunity to brew. My journey into brewing started with British cask beers at the pub, and to brew on this singular and wondrous beast is a great privilege."

This unique beer will be available in Thornbridge bars and Free Trade pubs around the UK.

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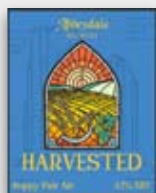
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ABBEYDALE BREWERY

August is our birthday month! We turn 29 this year – it's a privilege to have been here doing what we do for almost three whole decades and we're so excited for what the future holds in our new chapter of being 100% employee owned. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Anyway, enough of the emotional sentiments, here's what we've got coming up this month.

Live, Laugh, Loch Lomond (4.2%) is the return leg of our collaboration with Scott, previously part of our brewteam and now at, as the beer name suggests, Loch Lomond Brewery! A light biscuity base meets uniquely flavourful Krush hops to create a fruity little number with a luscious impact!

From the imaginarium of Doctor Morton we have the return of **Proper Gander** (4.1%). Get up really close and get a long, careful look at this Chinook and Pacific Gem hopped pale. Another returning beer to our line up is seasonal special **Harvested**, a 4.1% pale with Galaxy hops. Expect a fruity beer with refreshing tropical character alongside a clean, grapefruit bitterness and a subtle spiciness in the finish.

And on the Brewers Emporium side of things look out for **Hazelnut Frappé Stout** (5.2%) from our Salvation series, in collaboration with Castleton Coffee Co. Smooth and silky, with a bold coffee character balanced by sweet, nutty overtones and notes of chocolate and vanilla. And finally we have vibrant, juicy pale ale **Traillblazer** (4.4%) riding into town, with Amarillo, Simcoe and Galaxy hops.

BREWERY BITS

Eyam Brewery's second open day of this year is in the diary for Saturday 26 July, from 1pm to 7:30pm. This sees a bar open in the brewery serving a range of their beer on both cask and keg with bottles also available to buy to take home. Sunshine Pizza is also due to be in attendance if you want something to eat there and if the weather is good you can sit outside and take in the beautiful Peak District scenery (if not they'll have seating inside the brewery!).

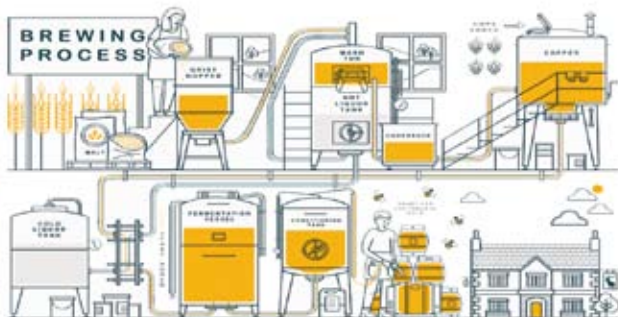
On the same weekend, not in our area but a short train ride away, **Chin Chin** Brewing Company is hosting open days on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 July, 1pm to 9pm each day featuring beer, cider, food and music. The brewery is in South Kirkby, walkable from Moorthorpe railway station (Sheffield to Leeds/York via Rotherham train).

A recent seasonal brew from **Bradfield** Brewery is **Farmers Blueberry Ale**, a fruity little number at a sessionable 4.4% ABV.

Drone Valley Brewery recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of being registered as a community interest company. Beers recently featured at their weekend tap sessions include *Bessemer APA*, *First Gold IPA* and *Amarillo* alongside the classics that such as *Dronny Bottom Bitter* and *Dronfield Station Porter*.

Recently spotted on the bars from **Neepsend** Brew Co is *Consus*, an espresso stout.

Brewery of **St Mars of the Desert's** Smofest is back for two weekends in August (8/9 and 15/16) at their Attercliffe taproom. Booking recommended.



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NATIONAL BREWERIANA AUCTION

CAMRA's 39th National Breweriana Auction; Saturday 25th October 2025

Have you ever fancied owning a slice of brewing history? Then this Auction is just the thing for you. Run by the Campaign for Real Ale, the National Breweriana Auction returns to Burton on Trent's Town Hall on Saturday 25th October. It will have circa 150 interesting auction lots; everything from mirrors to trays; advertising signs, water jugs, flagons, bottles, books and pump clips as well as a few more unusual items. Plus there will be a number of stands selling brewery memorabilia adding to the atmosphere in this wonderful Victorian venue.

There are all sorts of items from all over the country to decorate your home. What about a Guinness clock or a delightful plate from Lincolnshire's Batemans Brewery. The plate was issued to their employees after the brewery was saved from closure in 1987 when the sister and brother of George Bateman wanted to sell. One of the key components to saving the Brewery was their XXXB winning CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain, resulting in full order books.

As always, there are a number of advertising display cards including two from London's Barclay Perkins (set up in 1616 and merged with Courage in 1955) and one from the less known Simpson's of Baldock, Hertfordshire. The brewery was founded in the 1730s and renamed Simpsons in 1853 when it was bought by Joseph & Thomas George Simpson. To avoid death duties, the business was sold to Greene King with 130 pubs in 1954 for £525,000 and closed in 1965.

Another item from Barclay Perkins is a corked bottle of Imperial Russian Stout, probably 70 years old. Other items from past London brewing giants are two Toby jugs from Charringtons, who were famous for its Toby Jug logo. They were founded in 1770, merging with Bass, Mitchell & Butler, to form Bass Charringtons in 1967, which made them the largest brewery in the

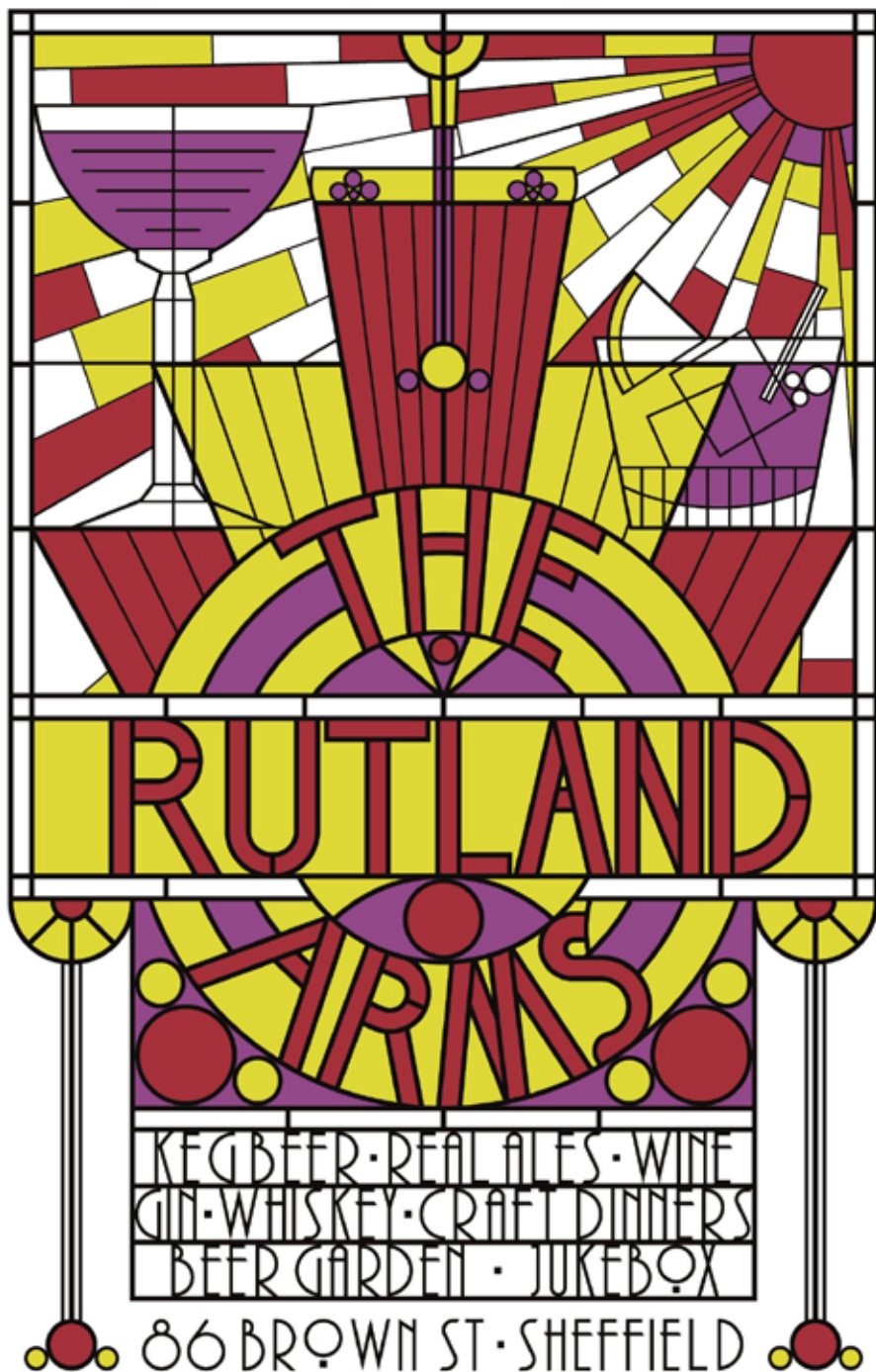
UK at that time. The London brewery was closed and brewing moved to the Midlands in 1975.

Two items, you can either use or more likely display, are trays from Wadworth of Devizes (founded in 1875 and still in family hands) and the less known Tennants. This is not the better known Scottish Tennants Brewery but a brewery established by two brothers in 1840 in Sheffield. They were acquired by Whitbread in 1961 with 700 tied houses becoming Whitbread East Pennines but closed in 1993.

These are just a few of the items on sale, each with a history to tell. You don't have to be an expert to attend the National Breweriana Auction. The Auction is great fun to take part in (or even just to watch) and it's an opportunity to get some great bargains plus many of the items on sale can appreciate in value. And, of course, like any CAMRA event, there is some good beer on sale all day (from a local brewery).

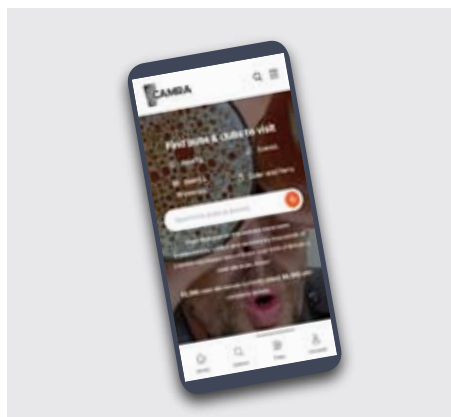
Burton on Trent is less than an hour by train from Sheffield and the Town Hall is just a short walk from the railway station. The event starts at 10.30am with the opportunity to view the lots and browse the breweriana stands that will also be there. Bidding starts at noon and is normally finished by 3pm, giving a chance to have a final perusal of the stands before visiting some of Burton's iconic pubs and heading home.

Entrance is by catalogue (£3.00), available on the day, or in advance by post: £6.15 (first class) from Bill Austin: 07831 688276 or baustin1951@btinternet.com. If you can't get there, postal bids are accepted, just contact Bill. Similarly contact Bill if you have Breweriana items you would like to enter into the Auction. Wheelchair accessible. For more details see: gandc.camra.org.uk.



CAMRA WEBSITE

Here's just a few of the great resources worth checking out on the CAMRA website.



PUB GUIDE

CAMRA's national online pub guide has now been integrated into the main CAMRA website at camra.org.uk/pubs and given a fresh new look as part of the "CAMRA Experience" development. We aim to have every pub in Britain in the database and keeping this up-to-date relies on volunteers submitting updates. Anyone can do this – members, publicans and the general public.

The online guide should hopefully provide information for people visiting a new place and looking for a pub they'll enjoy while CAMRA members that are logged in have extra filters available and they can also use the site to submit beer quality scores, which the local branch will take into account when choosing which pubs get awarded a place in the next edition of the *Good Beer Guide*.

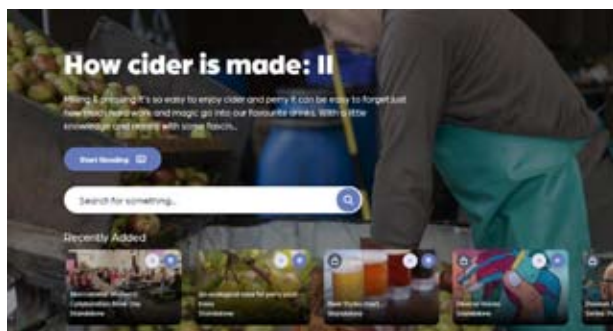


WHAT'S BREWING

Those that have been a CAMRA member for a while may remember we used to get a free members' newspaper through the post every month, until increasing postal costs made that perk unviable. The good news however is that you can now access the same regularly updated content online as part of the new CAMRA Experience website by logging in as a member at wb.camra.org.uk.

On the *What's Brewing* website you'll find articles featuring news from the industry and the campaign, opinion pieces from informed writers, event listings and more.

To log in you'll need your membership number and password, if you don't already have a password simply click on the "forgot password" link and you can set yourself a new one.



LEARN & DISCOVER

For beginners, for experts, for everyone: CAMRA's award-winning learning platform, Learn & Discover, has been relaunched, promising a brand new experience and helping to expand people's knowledge about beer, cider, perry and pubs.

The newly improved website is the go-to platform for education and knowledge sharing. It gives beer and pub lovers unique access to a wide range of information, insights and views, with content provided from trusted voices across the industry and CAMRA's volunteers. It is a fantastic resource for people to enjoy, regardless of their knowledge or experience.

Whether you are a beginner, enthusiast or connoisseur, the site is perfect for you to discover more about beer, cider and perry and take you on your journey to more enjoyable experiences down your local or

when enjoying your favourite drinks at home. With every word, frame and decibel put together by our in-house experts, respected drinks writers and creators it has ensured quality and credibility in every aspect of Learn & Discover's output.

Learn & Discover is home to articles written by hugely respected authors such as Roger Protz, Laura Hadland, Ruvani de Silva, Jonny Garrett and it also features many more renowned and award-winning drinks experts. With more than more than 140 articles, videos and audio guides, Learn and Discover has something for everyone.

Our extensive Beer Dictionary has been upgraded to help you gain a deeper understanding of beer while you explore the site.

We currently have articles ranging from the history of wassailing to the history of beer

dispense to a video series on the journey of a cask – and everything in between. A bunch of exciting new, creator-driven content will also be arriving at the launch of the platform. With a nine-part series on pub companies, by CAMRA's National Planning Policy Adviser Paul Ainsworth; articles on cask beer and cider by Rachel Hendry and a riveting series on US heirloom cider apples by Ruvani de Silva.

On top of the entertaining and educational existing content, the updated platform hosts brand new features designed to make your learning accessible and curated. Learn & Discover's new features include:

- The ability to curate your own lists of content.
- Convenient linked courses to enhance your learning journey.
- A new way to search for content, including a filtering system making it easier to find the content you want.
- A widget that tracks your progress through an article.
- A guide to beer styles to assist your adventure through the varying styles of beer.

All CAMRA members can enjoy the new platform, including exclusive access to premium features and expert content, as a part of their membership. This is one of the many benefits of becoming a CAMRA member, which also includes £30 worth of beer vouchers, our quarterly BEER magazine and so much more. Join at camra.org.uk or start your learning journey at learn.camra.org.uk



SKEGNESS 80S WEEKEND

Having been on the 70s weekend at Butlins last year, we moved a decade on this time.

Gordon and I decided we'd chill on the train, with a few cans of course. So, after setting off at 07:23 from Sheffield, we got down to the task. The journey was nice and smooth, just a short 15 minute change at Grantham. Our friend drove, so arrived at camp earlier, where we had to queue, and only two staff later in the day.



On exiting the station in the town centre, you have a short crossing to the **Lumley**, it only had two ales, but they were OK. I had both, a

Batemans *XB Bitter* of 3.7%, and the Theakstons *Hairy Bikers Bitter* at 4.2%. Across the road is the **Red Lion**, Skegness's Wethersoons. A quick pint of standard cider, before our real goal of the **Crafty Local Ale House** five minutes walk away.



We ended up visiting this micropub three times, and what a gem. The building was originally a guest house in 1929, but then underwent changes of use as a college facility, blind institute and a dental practice, among others. There's a nice outside, perfect for the weather we had. Inside is a small room with the bar, and a larger room to the right for entertainment.

There was three cask, 4-5 box ciders and a new keg. Talking to the owner, he said later this year onwards will see further improvements. My choices over the visits were Salopian *The Thirteenth Hat NZ* pale, 3.9%. Milestone *Son of a Beach IPA* of 4.5% and Celtic Marches *Tutti Frutti* cider, only 3.4%, but plenty of flavour. My friends chose cider as one likes it and the other requires GF drinks.

Although we wanted to see the music at the camp, we were thwarted as it was far busier than last year and most arenas were bursting. We managed to get room to see Kim Wilde, Marty's daughter, after 15 minutes of Black Lace (and no, I didn't do the actions to "I Am the Music Man" and "Agadoo"). She put on a fantastic show of around 70 minutes covering all the hits.

We covered Ingoldmells on Saturday, just drinking standard keg as real ale only seems to be on in one pub, the Countryman, and we were informed their brewer has left to become head

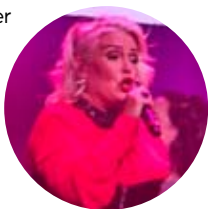


brewer at the recently revived Jennings. We then returned to Skegness on Sunday and visited the **Three Monkeys** on the front, just one ale in Batemans XB, a decent pint for £3.50. Then it was back to the Crafty, before Gordon and I went in the **Red Lion** for a drink. We sat in the outdoor area where I sampled a Little Valley *Today's Blonde*, an IPA of 5%.

Back to camp and more keg. A quieter night just chatting before retiring at a reasonable 00:00 for bed. Showered, breakfast and out. We had a quick one before the train. Five carriages to Grantham, then someone decided only two on to Nottingham and Sheffield, not the best logistics planner?

Next year we plan on either a 60s, or soul weekend. We're pretty sure we'll be there though, and hopefully more people will have followed the Crafty's idea and opened a micropub.

Kevin Thompson



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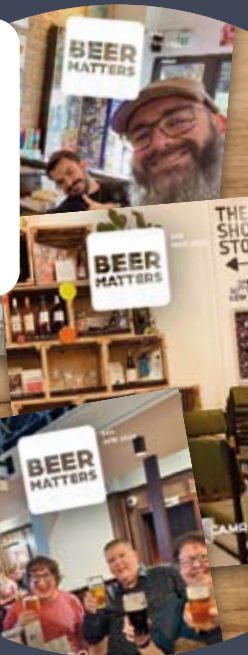
2025 marks **50 years** of this branch's li' monthly magazine.

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BELGIUM: BEER ON THE TRACKS

I recently returned from Belgium after a few days on a trip which involved beer, trains and trams. We stayed in the home of Belgian rail, Mechelen: my visit including several visits to mostly volunteer-run, tram/train rides/museums.



Steam Train Maldegem-Eeklo is a heritage railway based at the former National Rail station of Maldegem. This houses the largest number of operational diesel and steam locomotives in Flanders. All enjoyed the trip on a narrow gauge line in old open wagons pulled by one of their diesel locomotives.



The **Dendermonde-Puurs Steam Railway** (a standard gauge heritage service) took us on a 45 minute return journey from Puurs (Signal Box) to Baasrode-Noord station. The track winds through the Scheldeland through the provinces of Antwerp and East Flanders. On board was waiter service: Dilewyns *Vicaris Tripel* 8.5% and the house train beer, Brouwkeet *Stomerke* 6%, were sampled.



Rail Rebecq Rognon (RRR or Petit Train Du Bonheur – The Small Train of Happiness) explores the old SNCB Lines 115 and 123 on a 4 km line crossing the Rebecquoise countryside along the Senne and the Vallée des Oiseaux.



The diesel loco took us on a return ride on the narrow gauge line between Rebecq and Rognon. *Floreffe Triple* 8% was available at the station café.

Our major tram ride was Tram 44 from Montgomery Metro Station (Brussels). This starts underground before emerging onto Avenue de Tervuren. It then rumbles past Stoclet House and the tram museum before plunging into the forest. The journey ends some 20 minutes later at the 19th-century tram station in Tervuren, a royal suburb of Brussels within the once great ancient Sonian Forest. The Tram Museum (opened 1976) housed in the 1897 tram depot has a vast collection of 130 vehicles including a 1869 horse-drawn tram.

TramSite Schepdaal (Dilbeek) is the only remaining local (or vicinal) tramway depot in Belgium, the line closing in 1970. This depot served the first tramway in Flemish Brabant: Brussels to Ninove (1888). The oldest buildings at Schepdaal date from then. The station café provided local beer, *Angerik Dilleke* 5.1%.

We also visited **Duvel Depot** in Breendonk, the tap of the family-controlled Duvel

Moortgat brewery (1871), and the Batteliek microbrewery on the outskirts of Mechelen. The latter is an old red brick church, now a brewery, bar and eatery under the auspices of Het Anker. The tasting flight was chosen: *Baobab Tripel* 8.8%, *Ipapotamus* 7.7% and *Derkal* 8.3%. The Het Anchor Brouwerij tap (Mechelen) also provided a flight: *Gouden Carolus Hopsinjoor* 8.0%, *Gouden Carolus Whisky Infused* 11.7% and a Batteliek *Bieren*.



Several other bars were visited – recommended in Mechelen are **Beer Central**, **Hanekeef**, **Het Maanlicht**, **Kuub** and **Moemoe**. Het Maanlicht provided one of the most interesting beers of the trip: *De Blauwe Kuip Burton* 5.2% – an (almost) British bitter served in a half-pint 'jug'. Other recommendations include: **De Cuytegemhoeve** beer cafe (Puurs-Sint-Amands) and **Eet-cafe D'Akte** (Lennik).



Strangest sight of the trip was undoubtedly an open-air tango dancing class in the Veermarkt in Mechelen – only in Belgium ... the next trip is planned for September.

Dave Pickersgill



The sun was out, and even at 10:30 it was hovering around 21°. I arrived at the **Sheffield Tap** with time to spare for a pint before the 11:37 train. The selection as ever was good, so I went for a new one to me Pentrich's *Hollywood Forever*, a nice APA of 4.5% to start the day. Nearing 11:25, I made my way to the departure board, and found it not working. On speaking to a member of staff, I found it was Platform 2.



Awaiting to board, I thought this may be a solo reconnaissance trip, but with five minutes to spare Graham and Paul turned up to join me. The 30 minute journey on a relatively quiet train passed quickly, and before we knew it we were alighting at Worksop.

Through the main doors we went to pop in for a drink at the **Mallard**. This is a fantastic little bar has a legendary status with four cask ales from varying regions. My tippie of choice was Welbeck's *Elder Maria*, a pale of only 3.9% but packed with flavour, there was also Badger and Great Divide on the bar. Graham and Paul opted for the darker bitter on offer.



A short hop through the car park and we were at the **Station Hotel**, a nice decorated pub with two wickets. One being Glamorgan *Ffresh* EPA, a beer I had never seen before, but thoroughly enjoyed in the nice beer garden outside. A short walk downhill saw us enter town and the very strangely named Wetherspoons – the **Liquorice Gardens**. The choice was the usual 4–6 cask, I went for the Titanic *Raspberry Pale*, a weighty 4.7%.



On most of our trips, we have a little issue with Google Maps. This time it was finding the Millhouse. The sat nav took us in a circle again, before a lady told us it was way down the road the other way. Some 15 minutes later, we arrived at a smart outside and inside pub with 3 cask. You don't see Everards much around Sheffield, so I gave the Tiger – Bitter, 4.2% a punt. I'm glad I did, as it was a nice biscuity, malty ale.

Worksop Rugby Club was indicated as being round the corner, and this time the map worked, which was handy as a deluge was threatening. Luckily we missed it both arriving and leaving, thus ensuring dry shirts and shorts for the trip home. This bar advertises two changing ales on Worksop's CAMRA website, but needs changing.

We arrived after the walk through a private housing estate, to find no real ale. There was an explanation on enquiring of "we had some yesterday," but that was of little use for us. Graham and Paul had bottled ale, while I went for a reasonable pint of Belhaven *80 Shilling*, not bad to say it was keg. If visiting,

I would give them a ring to check on cask beer availability.

Hunger was creeping in and we'd spotted a chippy on the way, so we popped in. I had a fishcake, and again the contentious issue was that it was really a rissole, but we weren't in Yorkshire, so I suppose you have to cut them some slack. So food consumed we took the lengthy road back to the station.

A walk to town again, and a slight uphill to the station saw us get a return train fairly promptly. We had intended to hop off at Kiveton Park for the Tap, but we'd had a long day and decided to finish in the Sheffield Tap and in no

time we made our farewells.

Despite it only being the three of us, we had a nice tour, and a laugh. At least next time, we know the route, and could possibly add one or two more.

Kevin Thompson



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

FESTIVALS

Local beer and cider festivals we're aware of. Email the Editor if you know of any more!

EVENTS

Branch meetings, socials, heritage talks, RambAles and other activities. Email our Social Secretary for more info and bookings.

JULY



Area Pub of the Year (Sheffield District)

8pm Tue 29 Jul

We present the certificate to the **Old Hall Hotel** in Hope prior to their quiz night commencing! Get there by train or bus 272.



Abbeydale Road

Thu 31 Jul – Sun 3 Aug

The 2025 edition of this annual initiative with a number of venues collaborating.

AUGUST



Branch meeting

8pm Tue 5 Aug

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 the **Victoria** at Heeley Green. Buses 18/18a, 73 and 252 go there, alternatively it is walkable from Heeley bottom (buses 20, 24/25, 42/43/44 and X17) up past the Sheaf View and Brothers Arms.



Great British Beer Festival Summer (CAMRA)

Tue 5 – Sat 9 Aug

Held at the new venue of the **Birmingham NEC**, which is a 5 minute walk from the station.



Scotsman's Pack (Hathersage)

Sat 9 Aug

The pub's annual event with extra beers on, food and live entertainment. Open from midday. Get there on bus 272 or Peak Sightseer Blue route, alternatively bus 257 and Hathersage railway station are a short walk away.



Pub of the Month

8pm Tue 12 Aug

Join us at the **Harlequin** on Nursery Street as we present our August Pub of the Month award.



Old Shoe

Sat 16 Aug

The Orchard Square beer festival in Sheffield City Centre is back and bigger than before! Described as a huge party of beer vendors spread across the **Old Shoe**, Not Open Don't Come and Sheffield Plate. Vendors include Beak Brewery, Sinnister Brew, Weekend Project Brew Co and Sheffield's own Duality Brewing Co – among others. Advance tickets are required and include a festival cup and wristband that gets you access to all three venues along with discounts on food at participating Orchard Square traders. The event is open in two sessions, midday to 4:30pm and 5pm to 9:30pm.



Festival planning meeting

7:30pm Tue 19 Aug

Our monthly festival planning meeting upstairs at the **Gardeners Rest**.

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Peterborough (CAMRA)

Tue 19 – Sat 23 Aug

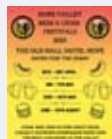
A huge tented festival that takes place on the river embankment with lots of bars, entertainment and more inside whilst outside there are food traders and other attractions. Direct trains run from Sheffield to Peterborough operated by East Midlands Railway.



Seven Hills

Fri 22 – Sun 24 Aug

The annual beer festival at **Sheffield Tigers RUFC** at Dore Moor. The festival bar, entertainment stage and food traders are all outside by the pitch with additional facilities in the club house. Advance ticket packages are available that save money compared to buying your beer tokens and souvenir glass on the day. Buses 65, 271 and 272 pass the end of the drive or bus 81 is a short walk away.



Hope Valley

Fri 22 – Mon 25 Aug

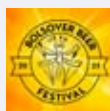
Held at the **Old Hall Hotel** in Hope on bank holiday weekends, the festival features a marquee outside filled with a range of beers and ciders, many locally sourced from around Derbyshire, along with food and music. Buses 2673, 257c, 2726 and 272 pass the pub or Hope railway station is 10 minute walk away.



Committee meeting & BEER MATTERS distribution

8:30pm Tue 26 Aug

Monthly business meeting at the **Dog & Partridge** on Trippet Lane. We also aim to have the new issue of **BEER MATTERS** from the printers ready for distribution volunteers to come and collect from the afternoon onwards. It is also quiz night.



Bolsover

Thu 28 – Sat 30 Aug

Held at the football club to raise funds for the local Scout group.



Barnsley (CAMRA)

Thu 28 – Sat 30 Aug

Held at **St Peter's Church** on Brinkman Street, near Barnsley town centre with buses 2 and X17 passing close by on Sheffield Road. The festival features a range of mainly local real ales and other craft beers plus cider, gin, food and live entertainment. Indoor and outdoor seating available. Free entry.



New Mills social

11am Sat 30 Aug

We catch the 11:14 train to New Mills for the **Torrside Brewery** tap event which incorporates their birthday celebration. As well as their usual tap bar they are planning a pop up bar showcasing smoked beers. They should also have a food trader there too. We'll then visit a few pubs in the town before heading back to Sheffield. An off peak return ticket from Sheffield to New Mills Central costs £15.70, alternatively a Derbyshire Wayfarer all day bus & train pass costs £17.00. Trains run back to Sheffield every hour until 21:16 offering some flexibility!

SEPTEMBER



Branch meeting

8pm Tue 2 Sep

The venue this month is the **Castle Inn** at Bradway. It is a walk uphill from Dore & Totley railway station and buses 97/98/218, or a walk downhill from bus 25.



Derby Heritage (CAMRA)

Wed 3 – Sat 6 Sep

At the **Museum of Making**.

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Tamworth (CAMRA)

Thu 4 – Sat 6 Sep

At the **Assembly Rooms**. 75 different ales to choose from including many new brews and festival specials along with cider and perry. The theme this year celebrates 50 years of *Fawlty Towers*.



Festival planning meeting

7:30pm Tue 16 Sep

Upstairs at the **Gardeners Rest**.



York (CAMRA)

Wed 17 – Sat 20 Sep

The beer and Cider festival returns to the spectacular surroundings of **St Lawrence Parish Church**.



Committee meeting & Beer Matters distribution

8:30pm Tue 23 Sep

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane, S1.



STEEL CITY 49

Wed 15 – Sun 18 Oct

Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield

As our annual festival draws closer, here's a rundown of heritage and tasting events, sponsorship opportunities, and the release of our festival beer mats.



EVENTS

Please book your place in advance online by scanning the codes or visiting our website.

PUB HERITAGE WALK: LITTLE CHICAGO

11:30am Thu 16 Oct

A guided walk with a difference – you will explore Sheffield's Little Chicago Quarter before your fast-track entry to our beer festival. Led by local author, John Stocks and editor of *Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs*, Dave Pickersgill, you will explore the beer, social and Industrial heritage of the area.

The walk will explore streets that feature in John's book *Sheffield 1925: Gang Wars and Wembley Glory*, and also explore the beer, social and Industrial heritage of the area.

The comfortable walk, with one minor ascent, is just over a mile. It will last for approximately 90 minutes before concluding at Kelham Island Museum for a post-walk drink and discussion.



TUTORED TASTING: BRADFIELD BREWERY

7pm Thu 16 Oct

A tutored beer tasting (five beers) and discussion led by experts from one of the largest breweries in Sheffield. The second oldest Sheffield brewery, Bradfield were established in 2005 on a farm situated in the Peak District countryside.



PUB HERITAGE TALK: LITTLE CHICAGO

4:30pm Fri 17 Oct

Delivered by Dave & John, this short pub heritage talk will concentrate on the Little Chicago area of Sheffield, taking you back from the 19th century and up to the current day. Along the way, mention will be made of the 1884 *Sheffield Drinks Map*, the establishment of a coaching inn and the Sheffield pub with the most CAMRA awards.



SPONSORSHIP

Local businesses and individuals can get involved with our ever-popular festival with these sponsorship opportunities still available.

All come with a number of sponsor tickets which include **entry**, a **festival glass**, **programme**, **pint** of cask ale and a go on a **pub game**.

Sponsors are also named in our programme, have their logo (and link) on our website, and feature on the sponsor posters at the festival.

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

STILLAGE

A2 board with your logo atop a stillage rack

£125 + VAT (includes **3 sponsor tickets**)

BANNER

Your banner (up to **3 m × 1 m**) in a prominent position

£100 + VAT (includes **2 sponsor tickets**)

CASK

A4 logo sheet on a cask at the rear stillages

£60 + VAT (includes **2 sponsor tickets**)

HANDPUMP

A6 logo card on a handpump at the bar front

£60 + VAT (includes **2 sponsor tickets**)

Email Paul Crofts for more details at:
sponsorship@sheffield.camra.org.uk.





BEERMATS

Three limited-edition sets of 13 mint beer mats promoting the festival are to be auctioned on eBay. On one side of each mat is the festival design, with the reverse carrying the sponsor. The first set go live on 15 August: two other sets will follow at monthly intervals: search eBay using 'SCBF49'.

There are 75,000 beer mats available. Over the next few months, these will be distributed over Sheffield, the surrounding area and wider afield. However, a full set is very unlikely to be seen in one place at any one time.

The sponsors are:

Breweries: Abbeydale, Ashover, Blue Bee, Bradfield, Chantry, Ossett, Peak, Tapped, Thornbridge and Triple Point

Non-breweries: Abel Magnets, MKM Builders Merchant and Reyt Good Kitchens

Profits from the eBay sales will go to the official festival charity, Sheffield Children's Hospital. The money raised will contribute to life-saving equipment, research and treatment for thousands of children and also help to create a comfortable, engaging environment for patients.

THE COMMITTEE



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Pub of the Year Coordinator

Good Beer Guide Coordinator



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