

BEER MATTERS

550
OCT 2025
FREE



FESTIVAL TIME!

Beer, cider, food and entertainment at
Kelham Island Museum this October

BREWPUBS AND TAPROOMS

Guide to cask beer at source



CAMRA
Sheffield & District



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BEER MATTERS

550
OCT 2025

EDITOR

Andy Cullen

bm@sheffield.camra.org.uk

ADVERTISING

Paul Crofts

ads@sheffield.camra.org.uk

sheffield.camra.org.uk

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Sheffield & District



4 FESTIVAL TIME!
Don't miss Steel City 49, 15–18 October

8 PUB CLOSURE FIGURES TIP OF ICEBERG
CAMRA reacts to government numbers

INN BRIEF
Pub news from across the city

12 BREWPUBS AND TAPROOMS
Our local guide to cask beer at source

16 PUB OF THE MONTH
Congratulations to the Wellington!

POTM VOTING AND NOMINATIONS
Help decide the next winners of the award

18 THE YEAR SHEFFIELD'S BEER SCENE CHANGED FOREVER
As witnessed by then editor, Richard Hough

20 NEW NEEPSSEND PUB HERITAGE BOOKLET
Third installment in the series out soon!

FURTHEST BM DELIVERY?
Dan goes the extra two thousand miles

22 WHAT MAKES A GOOD HEAD
Study unlocks secrets of beer foam stability

24 ABBEYDALE BREWERY
Archangel and Dark Angel make a return

BREWERY BITS
News from Chin Chin, Blue Bee, Stancill, Bradfield, Eyam, and True North

26 CHANNEL HOPPING
Lee Vallett only went and swam the Channel!

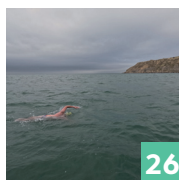
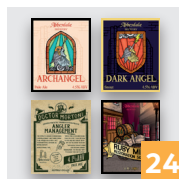
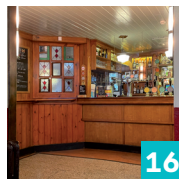
28 FESTIVALS & EVENTS
Upcoming local festivals and branch events

30 THE COMMITTEE
Contact details for our committee members



It is with deep sadness that we announce the recent passing of our social secretary and press officer, Kevin Thompson. Kevin was a great friend to us all and is deeply missed.

Rest in peace, Kevin.





FESTIVAL TIME!

Behind the scenes, beers and ciders are being ordered, volunteers allocated roles, and soon the bars and stillage will be going up at Kelham Island Museum for our 49th beer and cider festival.

This year sees an expanded KeyKeg selection, card payment available at the bar (along with token cards) and a new bar with three guest breweries showcasing their beers and answering your questions (read on for details).

OPENING

The festival will be opened by local legend **Jon McClure**, lead singer of the Sheffield-based band **Reverend & The Makers**. Their 2007 debut album *The State of Things* propelled them to national success and included the UK Top 10 single *Heavyweight Champion of the World*.

The band are currently celebrating their 20th year with a new line-up and a run of festival gigs. Their



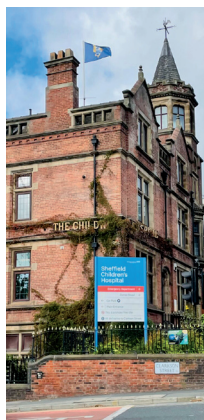
latest single, *Haircut*, features vocals from actor Vicky McClure (*Line of Duty*, *This Is England*, *Broadchurch*). Following a recent appearance on BBC's *The One Show*, the track shot to number one on the iTunes download chart. It is taken from the band's eighth album, *Is This How Happiness Feels?*

Last year, the festival was opened by South Yorkshire firefighter Brontë Jones, runner-up in the BBC's 2024 *Gladiators* series. In 2023, local BBC Radio Sheffield presenter Paulette Edwards did the honours.

CHARITY

Our chosen charity this year is **Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity**. The charity works alongside the hospital to ensure that children and young people receive the very best care, in the best possible environment.

Money raised through donations helps to buy life-saving equipment, fund vital research and treatments for thousands of children from across the world, and create comfortable, engaging spaces for patients at Sheffield Children's Hospital.



In aid of
Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity

Registered Charity No. 505002

Please support this vital local cause: all donations – including glass deposits and unused beer tokens – are gratefully received.

In recent years we've supported the Burton Street Foundation, Roundabout and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we raised £2,700 for Weston Park Cancer Charity. It would be fantastic if we could reach a similar figure again this year.



CASK BEER

There will be around 200 different cask beers available at this year's festival, served in a variety of ways: some on handpump, some by gravity, and some direct from brewery bars. The beers will be located in the **Upper Hall**, the **Marquee**, and the new **Guest Bar** in the room to the right as you enter the Museum...

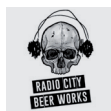
The plan is to invite three breweries each year to bring their own bar and showcase their range of beers, both cask and keg. We'll have at least one member of their team behind the bar at all times to answer your questions.

We've got a great line-up to kick things off, and we're sure you'll enjoy chatting with them and sampling their beers.



OSSETT BREWERY

From Ossett in West Yorkshire, they also own Salt, Rat & Ratchet and Riverhead breweries, and will be bringing a real mix for your enjoyment.



RADIO CITY BEER WORKS

Coming all the way from Chelmsford, Radio City launched just before Covid (and survived it!) as a small craft keg brewer. They've recently expanded into cask, so you can be sure they'll have something new for you to try.



TURNING POINT BREW CO

Based in Knaresborough, Turning Point are particularly well known for their pales, including their flagship *Disco King*, as well as some excellent collaborations.

Cask beer will also be available in the **Millowners' Arms** within the Museum complex.

A feature of the festival is our effort to source cask beer from all current breweries within the CAMRA Sheffield & District area. Expect to see about 18 Sheffield-area breweries represented, including one of the newest, **Duality**.

St Mars of the Desert, a respected keg-only brewer in Sheffield, has collaborated with **Thornbridge** to brew a cask beer, and we hope to have a cask of that. There should also be a special Thornbridge beer brewed on the Union system.

We also have one of only two casks (the rest will be canned) of **Triple Point Brewery Sheaf**, a 6.2% NEIPA brewed in collaboration with the **Sheaf & Porter Rivers Trust**, a charity dedicated to conserving and improving Sheffield's urban rivers – the Sheaf and the Porter Brook.

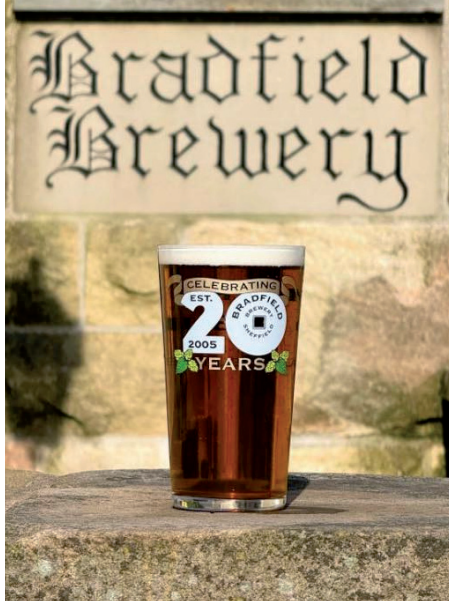
Two other specials are in the pipeline:

- A beer in support of this year's festival charity, Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. Proceeds from its sale will be donated directly to the cause.
- A beer marking the 50th anniversary of the Sheffield & District branch magazine. First published in summer 1975 as *Parish Pump*, it became *Beer Matters* in September 1978, and may now be the only branch magazine still issued monthly.

If ready, all these beers will be available from opening on Wednesday 15 October.

Check the festival website during the week of the event for a full interactive beer list!





EVENTS

These can be booked in advance, just follow the QR codes to the booking site.

PUB HERITAGE WALK: LITTLE CHICAGO

11:30am Thu 16

Explore Sheffield's "Little Chicago" quarter before fast-track entry to the Beer Festival. The walk is led by local author John Stocks and Dave Pickersgill, editor of Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs.

You'll discover the beer, social and industrial heritage of the area, with streets that feature in John's book *Sheffield 1925: Gang Wars and Wembley Glory*.

This comfortable walk (with one minor ascent) covers just over a mile and lasts around 90 minutes, finishing at Kelham Island Museum for a post-walk drink and discussion.



TUTORED TASTING: BRADFIELD BREWERY

7pm Thu 16

Join the brewers of Bradfield — Kieran Chadwick, Sam Jubb and Bruce Woodcock — for a tutored tasting of five beers. Founded in 2005 on a working farm in the Peak District, Bradfield is one of Sheffield's largest breweries and the second oldest still brewing.

The line-up includes:



Farmers Blonde (cask, 4.0%) the brewery's best seller for 20 years. A very pale, award-winning blonde with citrus and summer fruit aromas; extremely refreshing.



Farmers Jack O' Lantern (cask, 4.5%) October seasonal; amber, lightly hopped.



Farmers Brown Cow (cask, 4.2%) part of the core range since Bradfield's first year.

Farmers Milk Stout (cask) brewed for the first time this year; a long-anticipated addition.

Belted Galloway Stout (bottle, 8.4%) aged 8 months in Scottish whisky barrels. Rich cocoa and dark fruits, followed by whisky, sherry and oak; silky smooth finish. Winner of the England Country award (Flavoured Beer, Wood-Aged) at the 2025 World Beer Awards.

PUB HERITAGE TALK: LITTLE CHICAGO

4:30pm Fri 17

A short talk by Dave and John focusing on the Little Chicago area of Sheffield. Travel from the 19th century to the present day, with highlights including the *1884 Sheffield Drinks Map*, the story of a local coaching inn, and the Sheffield pub with the most CAMRA awards.



STEEL CITY 49 BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL



KELHAM ISLAND MUSEUM SHEFFIELD

15-18 OCT 2025

200 CASK BEERS

50 KEYKEG BEERS

30 CIDERS & PERRIES

STREET FOOD TRADERS

TRADITIONAL PUB GAMES

WED 5pm > 10:30pm

ENTRY: FREE

4pm

PREVIEW SESSION

For trade, CAMRA members and sponsors

6pm



CHAMPION BEER OF SHEFFIELD



MEMBER PRICES with proof of membership. Join online or at the festival.



FESTIVAL GLASS £3

Required for beer and cider at the bars. **Return for refund (or charity donation) or keep as a souvenir!**

Bars take **card or tokens**. Tokens can be bought with cash or card.



PROGRAMME £1

Includes map and drinks lists.

TALKS & TASTINGS

Booking required. See the website for details and tickets.



Accompanied children welcome until 8pm



Registered assistance dogs only

COLLECTING FOR

Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity

POSTERS AND FLYERS SPONSORED BY

GRI group



THU 11:30am > 10:30pm

ENTRY: £5 **£2**



£12

includes festival entry, glass, programme and walk booklet

11:30am

PUB HERITAGE WALK LITTLE CHICAGO



£9

7pm

TUTORS TASTING: BRADFIELD BREWERY

6:30pm

ENGINE DEMO

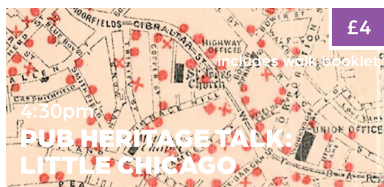
Come see Europe's most powerful working steam engine in action!



8pm

FRI 11:30am > 10:30pm

ENTRY: £7 **£3**



£4

includes walk booklet

4:30pm

PUB HERITAGE TALK: LITTLE CHICAGO

ENGINE DEMOS: 1pm, 6pm



8pm

SAT 11am > 9pm

ENTRY: £7 **£3**



2pm

Kelham Island Rapper

various times from 3pm

ENGINE DEMOS: 1pm, 4:30pm



5pm

Blyth Power

Visit sheffield.camra.org.uk/sc for more info >

BEER MATTERS 550 | 7



GOVERNMENT PUB CLOSURE FIGURES TIP OF ICEBERG

Official Government figures have revealed that more than 200 pubs have closed across the UK in the first half of 2025, with closures accelerating amid mounting tax burdens and cost pressures on the sector.

CAMRA's own figures, which show 137 pubs lost in the first six months of the year, and 149 already gone in total this year, are broadly in line with the Government's, underlining the scale of the crisis facing the industry.

CAMRA Chairman Ash Corbett-Collins said:

"These latest figures are yet more proof that pubs are being pushed to the brink by unfair and unsustainable tax burdens. We warned earlier this year that rising Employer National Insurance Contributions, alongside a cut in business rates relief, would hit pubs hard, and sadly we are now seeing those warnings borne out in closures on a devastating scale. Every pub that shuts its doors is a blow to jobs, communities and our cultural heritage."

"What makes this even more devastating is that so many of them are not just shutting their doors temporarily but being demolished or converted to other uses. CAMRA has consistently called for stronger planning protections to stop our locals being wiped out overnight. Pubs are more than just businesses; they are community lifelines. Without action in the Autumn Budget, figures like this will be just the tip of the iceberg."



Green Room in Sheffield city centre now once again has cask ale on the bar, after a long spell with no craft beer of any description. On the newly installed handpump is *Abbeyle Moonshine*, and they now also have a couple of *Abbeyle* beers on the keg taps. The bar hosts an open mic night on Mondays, DJs at the weekend, and has a back room filled with retro video games!

Bath Hotel hosted a Titanic Brewery tap takeover on 12 September.

Washington in Sheffield city centre is one of the venues for Float Along Festival on **Sat 27 Sep** and, as ever, continues with its programme of free-entry gigs. Upcoming events include Slackr and Hunchpower on **Thu 30 Oct**, providing an evening of pop-punk. The pub stays open until 3am every night (2am on Sundays), with a rotating roster of DJs keeping the dance floor going!

Shakespeares hosted a Duration Brewing tap takeover on 13 September as part of their Ducks in a Row beer launch.

Broomhill Tavern is hosting a Timothy Taylor's tap takeover from **Thu 25 – Sun 28 Sep**.

Sheaf View in Heeley is holding its annual Winter Ales Festival, **Fri 21 – Sun 23 Nov**.

Abbeyle Ballroom, located in the basement of the old Abbeyle Picture House (previously known as **Picture House Social**), is being refurbished by True North and is due to open on **Thu 2 Oct**. It is billed as offering cocktails, food, pool, live sport, and a late-night buzz.

There is a proposal to adapt a café in Greenhill to operate as a micropub in the evening. Sara's Kitchen would morph into the 'Greenhill Tap' after hours, although the licence application has attracted objections from local residents concerned about noise and disturbance.



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INN BRIEF

New bar, the **Canary**, opened on the Waverley estate on 12 September (photo above, by Stuart Mathers, and right, by Richard Allen). It's located at Olive Lane, the new shopping area. It has three cask ales on handpump along with a number of other craft beers on tap.

Manor House Hotel bar in Dronfield has expanded its food offering beyond breakfasts and cakes and is now doing bottomless brunches and Sunday lunches.

Angel in Holmesfield is now back open and serving food.

Grouse at Longshaw reopened on 12 September following a period of temporary closure caused by issues with their water supply.

Jo Doyle, currently assistant manager at the **Old Nag's Head** in Edale, is moving down the hill with her husband Chris to run the **Rambler Inn**, which is under the same ownership. There will be some changes to the cask ale range, with Abbeydale *Deception* introduced as a regular gluten-free option alongside Timothy Taylor's *Landlord*, Theakston *Kinder Downfall* (XB rebadged for the Edale area!) and rotating local guest beers. A traditional cider will also continue to be available.

Occasional special events are planned, including whisky tastings, a monthly pub quiz and a summer beer festival in the garden. The Rambler is conveniently located right next to the railway station.



King & Miller in Deepcar reopened following refurbishment on 22 August. The pub is run by Bradfield Brewery.

As usual for the time of year, a number of venues are hosting German-themed Oktoberfest celebrations. These include:

- **Triple Point Brewery**, City Centre **Fri 3 – 4 Oct**
- **Brothers Arms**, Heeley **Sat 4 Oct**
Live music from 2pm onwards, concluding with a DJ set by Tink & Annala. Bratwursts from Worrall Foods will be available too.
- **Broadfield**, Abbeydale Road **20 Sep – 5 Oct**
- **Oxbow**, Woodhouse Mill **Sat 20 Sep**
- **Beer Stop**, Dronfield **Thu 25 Sep**
- **Red Lion**, Litton **Fri 26 – Sat 27 Sep**

The JD Wetherspoon chain is holding one of its regular real ale festivals from **Wed 1 – Sun 12 Oct**, featuring a number of international collaborations. At the **Rawson Spring** in Hillsborough, they are hosting a special preview day on **Tue 30 Sep**, with beer tastings, festival ales at just £2.15 a pint, and a special 20% discount on food for CAMRA members. You can download a copy of the festival beer list from their website or pick up a printed copy in their pubs.

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Loxley

Wisewood Inn
(LOXLEY BREWERY)

52a 61 62



7 8

Forest
(TOOLMAKERS
BREWERY)

**HEIST
BREW CO**

Neepsend

Perch
(DEAD PARROT BEER CO)

Sheffield

**TRIPLE POINT
BREWERY + BAR**

1 24 25 47 48 51

BREW PUBS AND TAPROOMS

We have many breweries in our area and a number of them offer the opportunity to drink beer at source. Some are attached to a regularly open bar, while others run special tap events on certain days.

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield Tap – This wonderfully restored bar at Sheffield railway station is also home to **TAPPED BREW CO**, with the brewery located in one of the drinking rooms behind a glass screen. On a brew day you can sit and watch the brewer at work! The bar is open seven days a week, serving their own beers plus guests. Nearby real ale pubs: **Rutland Arms, Old Queen's Head**

TRIPLE POINT BREWERY + BAR – If you aren't tempted to base yourself in the extensive outdoor drinking

area you walk through to get to the front door, almost all the indoor tables are on the other side of a glass screen from the brewery. The bar features a huge range of beer brewed on site. The majority are hoppy pale ales or European-style lagers, though not exclusively so. All are of great quality and mostly gluten-free too. You'll find this venue on Shoreham Street, on the edge of Sheffield City Centre. Nearby: **Rutland Arms, Lord Nelson**

DEAD PARROT BEER CO – This could be described as something of a Frankenstein's monster, assembled from the parts of two former

**INTREPID
BREWING CO**

173 272

**EYAM
BREWERY**

65 173

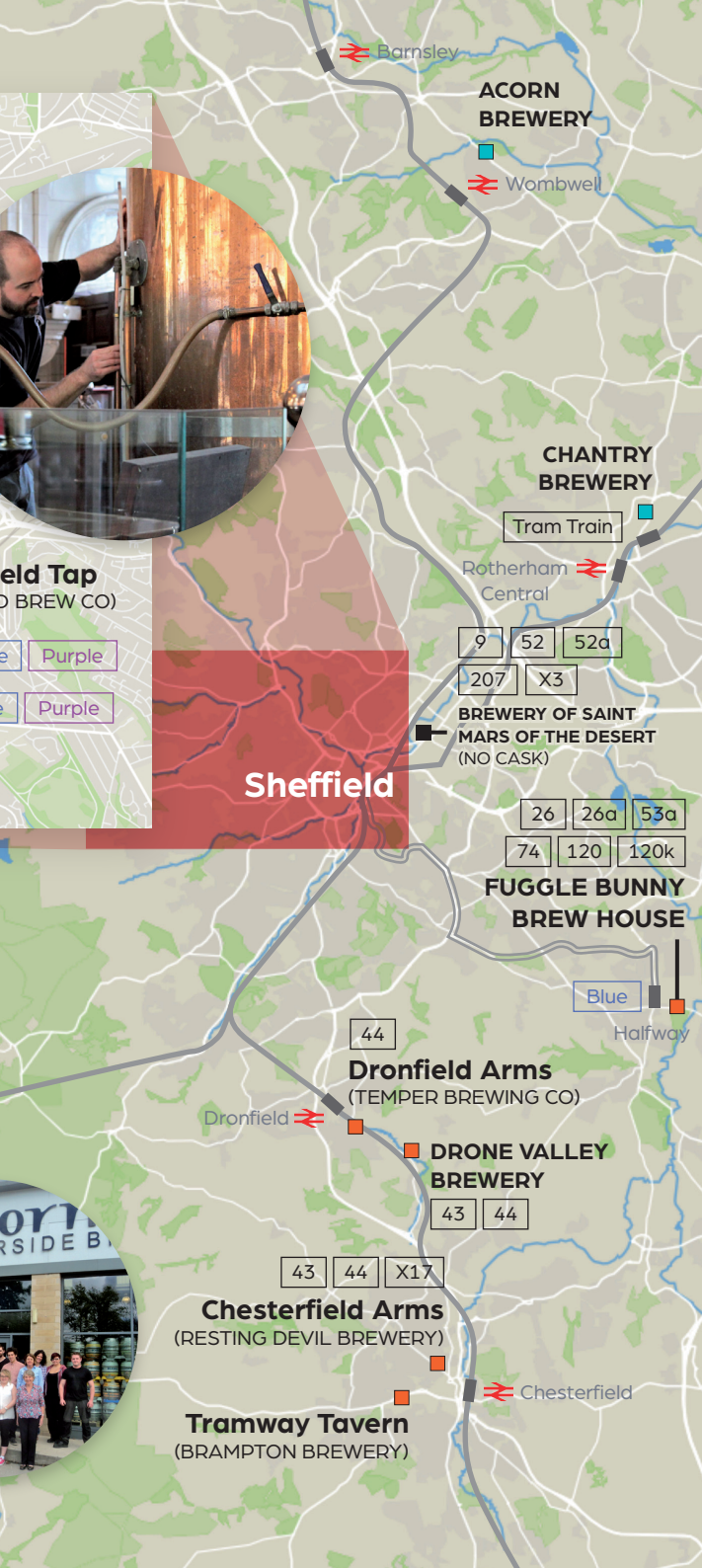
173 Transpeak

**THORNBRIDGE
BREWERY**

Bakewell

218 257





breweries – Aardvark and Frog & Parrot. The brewery tap bar is **Perch**, located on Garden Street on the edge of Sheffield City Centre (near Fagan's and Butlers Balti!) with the brewery in the building behind. At present their beers are brewed in small batches to supply the handpumps in their own bar and occasionally beer festivals. The bar also serves very good quality burgers and pizzas.

HEIST BREW CO – This is a modern craft beer tap room with in-house brewery. Following a change of ownership, brewing was briefly suspended but is due to resume shortly. The venue is on Neepsend Lane, next door to the **Gardeners Rest**

TOOLMAKERS BREWERY, off Rutland Road in Neepsend, brews a selection of traditional cask ales in small batches to supply their pub, the **Forest**, next door. They also have a separate brewery tap room across the yard from the brewhouse, which hosts events including live music and comedy shows. Nearby: **Gardeners Rest, Neepsend Social**

LOXLEY BREWERY is located at the **Wisewood Inn**, where you can enjoy a range of their beers with food also served. There is a beer garden at the rear and some lovely scenery! The pub hosts a beer festival every June in a marquee outside.

NORTH

ACORN BREWERY is best known for their *Barnsley Bitter* but also produce a varied range. They run a beer club scheme which gives access to their monthly ticket-only tap events.



CHANTRY BREWERY is based in Parkgate, Rotherham, a short walk from the Tram Train terminus. They mostly brew simple session ales – traditional bitters, pales and blondes – but also produce a stout, special reserve and lagers, along with specials. Part of the brewery building, which is two neighbouring industrial units, doubles up as a live music venue, with gigs booked for many Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. The stage is on the ground floor and the bar is upstairs on a mezzanine level, serving a range of their beers at reasonable prices. Nearby: **Little Haven**

SOUTH

FUGGLE BUNNY BREW HOUSE is located on an industrial estate a short walk from Halfway tram and bus terminus. It brews a range of mostly traditional real ales along with the occasional cask or keg special. The beer names are themed as part of a story, and the pump clips are designed like bookmarks. A bar opens in the brewery once a week, on Fridays, with a selection of their beers available. The Fuggle Friday sessions have the vibe of a local community pub, with neighbours often bringing their dogs down for a beer and a chat! During summer there is also a monthly Saturday tap event with live music and a food trader. The last one this year is an Oktoberfest event on 27 September. Nearby: **Guzzle, Belfry, Scarsdale Hundred (Wetherspoon), Craftworks**



TEMPER BREWING CO is a small-batch independent brewer that leases the setup underneath the **Dronfield Arms** pub, supplying the bar upstairs and sometimes other connected pubs including the Joiners Arms in Bakewell and the two Sheffield Beer House venues. The Beer Stop (craft beer shop) nearby is owned by the brewer but doesn't usually stock Temper beer. Nearby: **Underdog, White Swan, Pioneer Club**



DRONE VALLEY BREWERY is unusual in that it's community-owned, staffed mostly by volunteers and donates profits to local good causes. The beer range is mostly traditional cask ales – pales, blondes, bitters, stout and porter – although occasional brews include a black IPA and a Scottish Export Ale. The brewery is in an industrial unit in Unstone with the tap room located in a tent next door. This opens every weekend on Friday, Saturday and Monday, plus some special ticketed Sunday events. Nearby: various pubs in Dronfield town centre are a short bus ride away

RESTING DEVIL – This brewery is located in the former function room at the **Chesterfield Arms** pub, close to Chesterfield town centre. Nearby: **Neptune**, various town centre pubs

BRAMPTON BREWERY – Located in an industrial yard just off the end of Chesterfield's famous 'Brampton Mile' pub crawl, producing a range of traditional ales. They have a tap pub – the **Tramway Tavern** – on the main road near the brewery, and a bar in the brewery itself which opens for brewery tours or open days. Nearby:

numerous on and near Chatsworth Road, including the **Rose & Crown** (Chesterfield CAMRA's Pub of the Year)

PEAKS

THORNBIDGE BREWERY started as a small kit in a brick shed in the grounds of Thornbridge Hall but is now spread across multiple industrial units in Bakewell. One unit houses the modern kit brewing beers like Jaipur IPA in large volumes and also a bottling plant, while a second unit is home to the smaller, traditional kit where small-batch seasonal cask ales are produced, along with barrel-aged beers. This second unit also contains their huge tap room, where you can try a wide range of beers alongside pizzas. You can also book a "Thornbridge Experience," which includes a talk about the brewery and a guided tasting. Nearby: various in Bakewell town centre, including the **Joiners Arms** micropub



EYAM BREWERY – The name of this Peak District brewery is slightly misleading, as when they upgraded to bigger kit they relocated from Eyam to nearby Great Hucklow. The beer names still retain the same theme, playing on Eyam's history as the plague village. Located in a beautiful rural setting, they host three open days a year, opening a pop-up bar and shop in the brewery with seating and a street food trader. Nearby: **Queen Anne**

INTREPID – A part-time operation located in the Peak District hamlet of Brough. Regular beers include pale ales and a stout, with the brewer also experimenting with "more interesting" one-offs. An open day is hosted at the brewery twice a year in summer, featuring a pop-up bar with a pizza stall, seating and music in the yard. Nearby: various in Bradwell and Hope

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50
YEARS

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

Around **40,000** copies of **BEER MATTERS** are distributed to pubs and downloaded from our website every year.

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sheffield.camra.org.uk/ads





PUB OF THE MONTH October 2025



WELLINGTON
Shalesmoor

Built in 1839 and refitted in 1940, the Wellington has a three-room layout with a beer garden to the rear. In September 2023 it was added to the South Yorkshire Heritage List, and also features as the cover image of the fifth edition of Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs.

The pub serves as the taproom for Neepsend Brewery, which can be found regularly occupying several of its six handpumps. Neepsend Blond is always available, with the rest of the line-up including at least one pale, one dark, one stronger ale over 5%, and a bitter. The Wellington often has guest ales from breweries such as Bang the Elephant, Pentrich and Shiny.



They also have a good range of craft keg, including four lines from Neepsend and a further four guest taps.

Every Tuesday at 20:30 there's a pub quiz, and there are often whisky tastings which require advance booking. The Wellington offers a large selection of whiskies, often with a featured "whisky of the week."

However, there is another element of the Wellington's popularity – the sandwiches. The Wellington doesn't offer hot food, but it does (while stocks last) serve giant pub-style clingfilm-wrapped sandwiches, usually with potted meat, cheese & onion, or dripping – all for £1. They're mentioned in countless online reviews, forums and social media posts – and in the nominations and votes for this award!

Dan Rowe



JOIN US...

... for the presentation and a pint or two at
8:30pm on Wednesday 20 October.

GETTING THERE

Tram (Shalesmoor) or buses 57/57a,
81/82, or 86.

POTM VOTING AND NOMINATIONS

We've now awarded a monthly PotM for three consecutive months. If you have any feedback on the process so far, feel free to get in touch at potm@sheffield.camra.org.uk.

Nominations for awards usually open after the first Tuesday of the month (branch meeting) and close on the fourth Tuesday (committee meeting). You can nominate in person at meetings, via a committee member, or through the website.



WHEN IT COMES TO FINE ALES ...



... you'll find us
outstanding in our field



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THE YEAR SHEFFIELD'S BEER SCENE CHANGED FOREVER

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Sheffield CAMRA's branch magazine. Here, Richard Hough looks back to the time when he, and wife Kathryn, could call themselves *Beer Matters* editors.

We edited for a couple of years towards the end of last century – I know... During one barely believable six-month period, we witnessed upheaval that changed the Sheffield brewing scene beyond recognition.

Stones

In January 1999, production of Stones' Bitter came to an end in Sheffield with the closure of the Cannon Brewery.

William Stones established the Rutland Road site when he bought the lease of Neepsend Brewery in 1868. (That's right, you read that correctly. The current Neepsend operation down the road, where I brewed for a while, is a resurrection of an old brewery name.)

Over the years, the brewery expanded, and Stones' became the country's biggest-selling bitter, with one in every ten pints drunk in Britain being Stones'. At its peak, the Cannon Brewery was producing 50,000 hectolitres of cask-conditioned Stones' each year. (1 hl = 176 pints – that's a LOT of beer.) Such was the demand that the brewery was paying up to £1.5 million per month in duty by 1991. After that, the quality – and strength – of Stones'

Bitter deteriorated, as Bass chose to promote Worthington instead.

Following the closure of the Cannon Brewery in January 1999, Stones' became known as the "beer on wheels" after Highgate (Walsall), Thwaites (Blackburn), and Everards (Leicester) all had a go at brewing it.

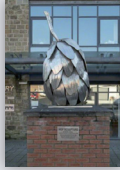
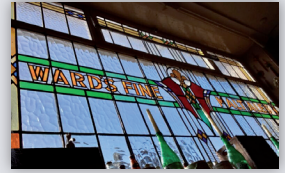
As for the brewery site, it is now a derelict shell and a bit of an eyesore, although the Urban Artists of Sheffield would strongly disagree! The more modern reception centre is currently occupied by an accountancy firm.

(The site is about to be redeveloped for housing, with a little encouragement from the South Yorkshire Mayor! – ed)

Years later, production of Stones' returned to Sheffield, albeit on a much smaller scale. True North took on the name, the old recipe and, happily, returned the ABV to its original 4.1%.

Ward's

In 1868, Septimus Henry Ward moved to Sheffield and joined an ailing brewery. Due to his financial clout, the primary brand was named Ward's Best Bitter. In 1876, they bought the Soho Brewery on Ecclesall Road and renamed it the Sheaf Island Brewery (after the brewery on Effingham Street). Later the business became SH Ward & Co, and the Eccy Road site became the Sheaf Brewery.



There was wartime suffering when, in 1940, three incendiary bombs landed on the brewery, killing four workers. Ward's recovered post-war and continued to brew their distinctive bitter, all the while improving and expanding their pub estate.

[This is from David Lloyd Parry's excellent *STINGO*: "Then in 1973 a successful bid for the company was made by Vaux of Sunderland. Ward's continued healthily up to the time of writing (1995) with 229 tied houses."]

YOUR BEER – YOUR BREWERY proclaimed the gold lettering shining proudly atop the tower.

Then greed took over. In April 1999, it was announced that Ward's Brewery was to close. At the time, the company was making £4 million profit a year. But the new owners, Swallow Hotels, wanted more. It closed in July 1999, and 600 jobs went to the wall.

"It was revealed later that the price achieved was several million pounds less than the buyout that would have saved the brewery." Swallow Hotels, hang your heads in shame.

The old entrance arch still remains, but the site of the Sheaf Brewery has been converted into apartments, with the ground floor now occupied by a Wetherspoon pub, The Sheaf Island. A large metal sculpture of a hop cone serves as a reminder of the days when the aroma of brewing filled the air on Eccy Road.

The closure of Ward's left the tiny Kelham Island as Sheffield's largest brewery. It had only been established in 1990! Astonishing that they could now call themselves the biggest in the Steel City. Not far down the line, they became the best too, when their flagship *Pale Rider* was voted Champion Beer of Britain in 2004.

This brewery is sadly no more, with Kelham Island-branded beers now being brewed at Thornbridge in Bakewell.

Some breweriana from the old Ward's site can be seen at the Millowner's Arms at the Kelham Island Museum, while Chris at the Harlequin is collating an interesting collection of Ward's memorabilia.

Suffice to say, our short period editing *Beer Matters* back then saw change beyond belief. Interestingly, this upheaval paved the way for Sheffield to become the Beer Capital of Britain – something I will explore in future issues.

Richard Hough

STOP PRESS! Last month it was announced that True North is to discontinue production of *Stones' Bitter* – see elsewhere in this issue for details. What next for this famous Sheffield brand, we wonder.





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"...triple-fermented beers have the most stable foams..."

The study found that triple-fermented beers have the most stable foams, while the froth created by single-fermentation beers, including lagers, is more likely to collapse.

Like any foam, a beer head consists of tiny air bubbles separated by thin films of liquid. Over time, gravity and the pressure from surrounding bubbles cause them to burst, and the foam collapses. The speed of this process depends on a barley-derived protein called Lipid Transfer Protein 1 (LTP1).

In single-fermentation beers, LTP1 proteins have a globular shape and form dense, small spherical particles on the surface of the bubbles. "It's not a very stable foam," says Prof. Jan Vermant, a chemical engineer at ETH Zurich who led the study.

During the second fermentation, the proteins slightly unravel and form a net-like structure that acts like an elastic skin on the bubbles. This makes the liquid more viscous and the foam more stable.

By the third fermentation, the LTP1 proteins are broken down into fragments. These fragments help stabilize foams in many everyday applications, such as detergents. Some triple-fermented beers produced foams that remained stable for 15 minutes.

As Vermant notes: "We now know the mechanism exactly and can help breweries improve the foam of their beers."

Dave Pickersgill



Photos: Dave Pickersgill

WHAT MAKES A GOOD HEAD

Study reveals how fermentation cycles affect beer foam stability

The tendency of a beer to foam, and the stability of its head, is often seen as an indicator of successful fermentation. A detailed research paper on foam stability was recently published by the American Institute of Physics in their journal *Physics of Fluids*.

The authors compared the heads produced by six beers: four Belgian – Bosteels *Tripel Karmeliet* (8.4%), Westmalle *Tripel* (9.5%), Westmalle *Dubbel* (7%), and Westmalle *Extra* (4.8%) – and two Swiss lagers: *Chopfab* (4.7%) and *Feldschlösschen* (4.8%).



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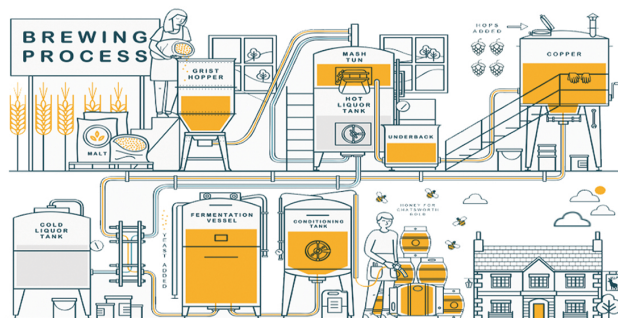
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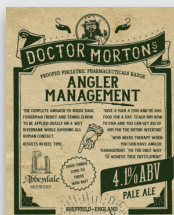
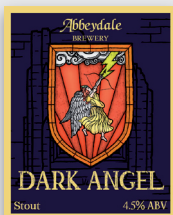
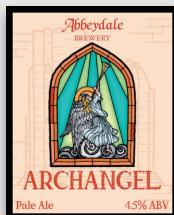
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ABBEYDALE BREWERY

This month, as the evenings start to draw in, the light vs dark duo of **Archangel** and **Dark Angel** make a return – both 4.5% and hopped with the combination of Simcoe and Vic Secret, but there the similarity ends! In the pale version, expect a bright tropical character and a piney, fresh finish. In the stout, the hops meld with the rich malt backbone for tasty fruitcake flavours and a long-lasting bitter finish.

Also hitting bars this month, **Doctor Morton's Angler Management** (4.1%) is fishing for compliments with its pleasant floral aroma and delicate lychee flavours. Very refreshing with a pleasingly crisp bitterness.

And our next collaboration is with the fantastic North Riding Brew Co, friends of ours for many years and joining us to create the latest in our acclaimed Travel Poster series. **Ride North to Scarborough** (4.2%). Columbus, Citra and Vic Secret hops combine in this classic, convivial pale with a vivid, citrusy character and a juicy finish.

From the Restoration series we'll be releasing our first ever **Ruby Mild** (4.8%) – rich, smooth and full bodied, with unsung heroes of the UK hop world Fuggles giving a gently floral blackcurrant character to balance out the mellow and moreish malt bill. Subtle yet satisfying and the perfect choice as we head into autumn.

Hope to see lots of you at the Steel City Beer Festival!

BREWERY BITS

Chin Chin Brewing Co are hosting another open weekend from 26–28 September, open 1pm to 9pm each day. It will feature a bar showcasing their own cask ales plus keg beers from guest craft brewers, along with cider, music and food. The brewery is on the Langthwaite Industrial Estate in South Kirkby, a ten-minute walk from Moorthorpe railway station (Sheffield to Leeds/York via Dearne trains).

Blue Bee are best known for their pale hoppy beers, and their ginger beer has something of a following too. However, they do brew dark beers now and again, and one of their recent brews is **Parkwood Porter**, at a sensible 4% ABV. In contrast, an extra pale ale has also been brewed at a sessionable 3.7%, using Columbus, Chinook and Citra hops.

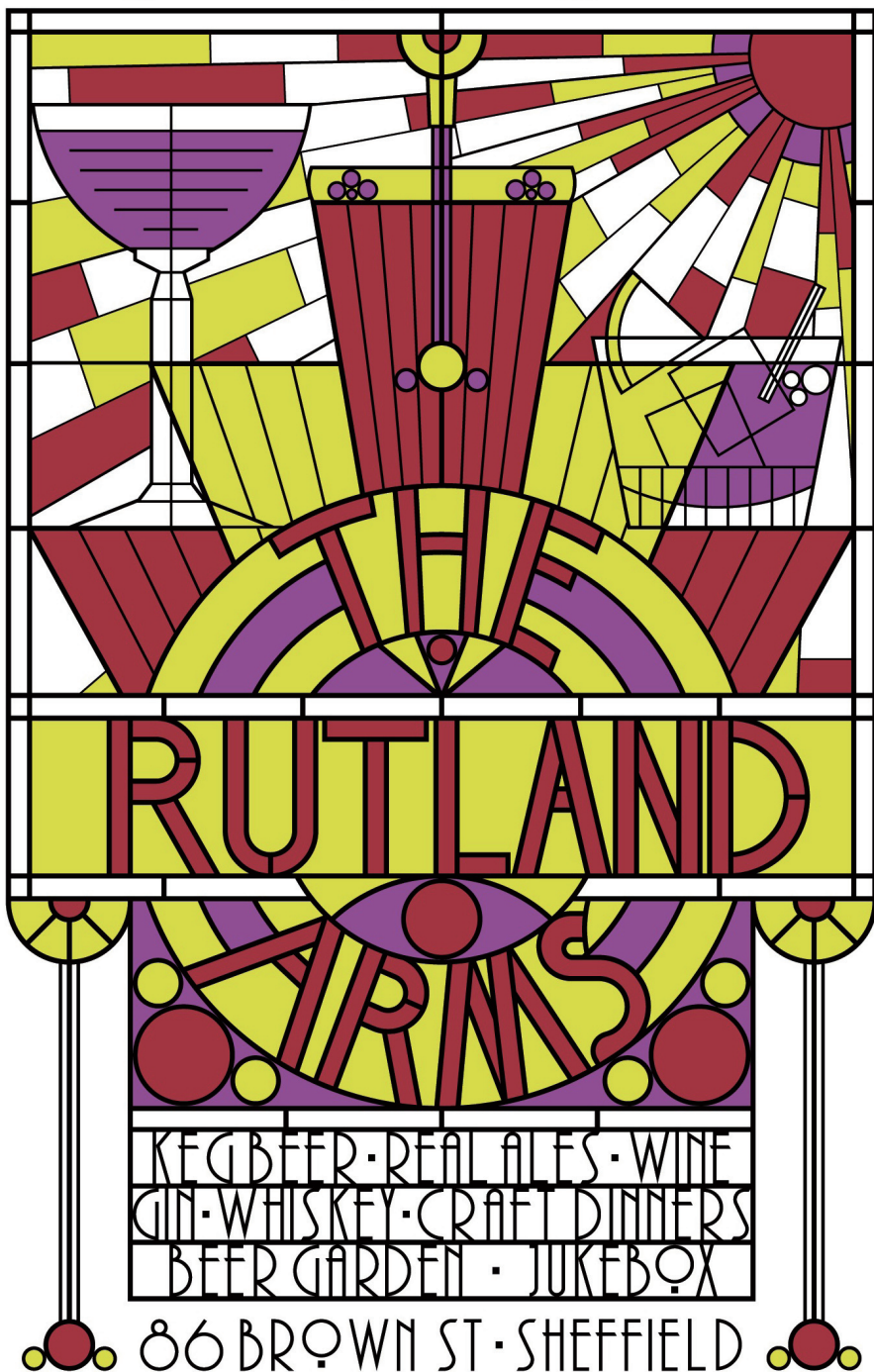
Stancill Brewery have unveiled their autumn range of seasonal beers, including **Bavaria** (golden ale), **Secret Potion**, **Casper** (ghostly pale) and **Treason** (parkin porter).



Bradfield Brewery are building up to the usually much-hyped annual cask launch of their Christmas beer, **Belgian Blue**, available from 3 November. However, something that has been taking place more quietly is their growing range of gluten-free bottled beers, which now includes **Farmers Blonde**, **Brown Cow**, **Belgian Blue**, **Pale Ale**, **Sixer**, **Stout** and **Yorkshire Farmer**.

Eyam Brewery, based in Great Hucklow, are running a crowdfunding initiative to open a brewery tap, bar and shop in Tideswell, as they are unable to do so at their current production site.

True North Brew Co is saying goodbye to brewer Dean, who is moving on to pastures new. A decision has been made not to employ a new brewer but instead to lease the brewery to an independent operator, who will be given the opportunity to supply True North's venues.



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CHANNEL HOPPING

This summer, our Festival Cellar Manager, Lee Vallett, accepted a challenge even more difficult than sorting the cooling for 200 casks of beer: swimming the English Channel!

At 04:17 on 2 July 2025, I set off from England to swim to France. I'd been preparing for three years to do this.

Lee's group signing the wall in the White Horse in Dover — a tradition with Channel swimmers for over 20 years

The water was 16.5 degrees and it was still dark. It all seemed fine for the first hour, having already swum six hours at 14 degrees earlier in the year. But then, so soon into the swim, I started with shoulder pain and had to slow down a bit, which led to me feeling cold. I felt defeated. I wanted to quit. When I stopped to tell my team, they had other ideas! "Just do 15 more minutes with some paracetamol and see how it goes," was their response. So I swam on.

Fifteen minutes came and went, the shoulder improved, and so did my pace. I also warmed up and felt a glimmer of hope. Fifteen minutes became 30, which became my next feed, and 45 minutes later the feed after that. The 45-minute blocks soon added up and, at six hours, I was halfway. It was then I started to believe I was going to do this!

I even had a couple of jellyfish stings! I strangely welcomed them, as they took my mind off the never-ending repetition of left arm, right arm.

Nine hours in and we could see land! Time to push on and make sure the tide didn't sweep us past the finish at Cap Gris-Nez. For the

last hour I was just fighting the tide, giving it everything against the power of the sea. It was just enough. I landed after 12 hours 24 minutes and hauled myself out of the water. A Channel Swimmer! Then back to the boat for the ride home.

I took some pretty big life lessons out there, in the 21 miles between England and France:

1. You can do anything with the right team behind you. A team who builds you up when you're in doubt, cheers you on when you need it the most, and celebrates with you when you achieve your dreams.



▲ Lee's group signing the wall in the White Horse in Dover — a tradition with Channel swimmers for over 20 years

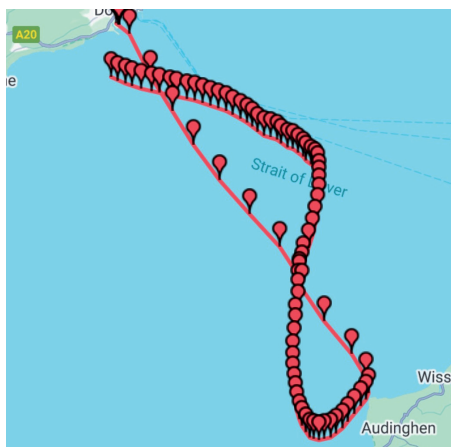
2. Sometimes we set ourselves huge goals and targets. It always seems like a great idea at the time. And then you find yourself at the start, waiting to jump in. This could be a sporting event or a new project at work. Faced with the whole thing, it can be overwhelming. All you can do in these situations is get through the next 15 minutes. And then the next. It soon adds up and, before you know it, you'll be home and dry!

I fundraised for Alzheimer's Society, a terrible condition my grandma suffered with. Through incredible support, we have raised over £5,000. My page is still open if you would like to donate: search "lee is off to france" on justgiving.com.

To finish, lots of people ask me why I wanted to do it. I think a quote from one of my favourite authors says it pretty well:

"Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying 'End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH', the paint wouldn't even have time to dry."
(Sir Terry Pratchett – Thief of Time)

▼ The recorded route showing how they had to account for the tide



Thanks again to everyone who supported – I'm forever grateful.

Lee Vallett

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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

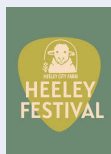
FESTIVALS

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.

SEP/OCT



Heeley City Farm Sat 27 Sep

This is a fundraiser event with craft and food stalls, harvest produce show, live music and a bar. Open mid-day to 8pm.



Brunswick Inn (Derby) Wed 1 – Sat 4 Oct

Pub event with an additional bar expanding the range to 50 cask ales and 20 ciders/perries. BBQ 4–7pm Fri and Sat, weather permitting. Couple of minutes' walk from Derby station.



Branch meeting 8pm Tue 2 Oct

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 **Hillsborough Tap** (upstairs room).



Clockfest III (Retford) Thu 2 – Sun 5 Oct

"Beer Under The Clock" in Retford present their third Clockfest featuring up to 20 new and interesting beers. Open from noon (11am Saturday) until 11pm each day. Northern run direct trains from Sheffield to Retford.



Oktoberblest Fri 3 – Sat 4 Oct

The annual fundraiser for **St Matthew's Church** on Carver Street in Sheffield City Centre featuring local beers, gin, food and music. Open 4pm to 10pm, advance tickets are available from their website.



Wirksworth Sat 4 Oct

Held at the **Maltings** on St Marys Gate featuring beer, live music and local food. Open midday to 11pm. Bus X17 runs from Sheffield to Wirksworth via Chesterfield and Matlock.

Heeley Oktoberfest Sun 5 Oct

Held jointly between the **Sheaf View** and **Brothers Arms**.



Nottingham Robin Hood (CAMRA) Wed 8 – Sat 11 Oct

Held at **Trent Bridge**.



Festival setup 9am Mon 13 – Wed 18 Oct

We move into an empty venue and build a beer festival including the bars and stillage.



Steel City 49 (CAMRA) Wed 15 – Sat 18 Oct

See the start of the magazine for details about our annual festival at **Kelham Island Museum**, Sheffield.



Festival takedown 9am Sat 18 – Sun 19 Oct

We dismantle everything, pack it away and return the venue to its original state.



Pub of the Month 8pm Wed 22 Oct

Join us at the **Wellington**, next to Shalesmoor tram stop.



Gainsborough (CAMRA)

Thu 23 – Sat 25 Oct

Held at the **Blues Club**, this event is free to all. Live music on Friday and Saturday. Hot and cold food available. Commemorative glasses are £4, but are redeemable, as are all unused tokens.



Committee meeting and BEER MATTERS distribution

8:30pm Tue 28 Oct

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



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NOVEMBER



Branch meeting

8pm Tue 4 Nov

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 **Lord Nelson** in Sheffield City Centre (TBC)



Beer Festival wash up meeting

7:30pm Tue 18 Nov

We look back at our 2025 Steel City Beer & Cider Festival and review what went well and what less so. The meeting is held upstairs at the **Gardeners Rest**. Get there on bus 7/8 which stop outside the pub, alternatively it is a 5–10 minute walk from Infirmary Road tram stop.



Rose & Crown (Chesterfield)

Thu 20 – Sun 23 Nov

The **Rose & Crown** in Brampton, Chesterfield CAMRA's Pub of the Year, celebrate their 16th birthday with a beer festival featuring two bars filled with a variety of beer and cider along with food and music.



Sheaf View

Fri 21 – Sun 23 Nov

The **Sheaf View** in Heeley hold the winter edition of their regular programme of beer festivals. All the festivals involve the main pub bar being supplemented with extra beers spread across a pop up bar in the conservatory and the shed bar outside plus live music at times. The winter ales festival tends to see a few strong warming beers along with other interesting brews!



Committee meeting and BEER MATTERS distribution

8:30pm Tue 25 Nov

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane.

THE COMMITTEE



Paul Manning

Chair

chair@sheffield.camra.org.uk

Committee Meeting Secretary
Pub of the Year Coordinator
Good Beer Guide Coordinator



Glyn Mansell

Vice Chair

vicechair@sheffield.camra.org.uk



Phil Ellett

Secretary

secretary@sheffield.camra.org.uk



Paul Crofts

Treasurer

treasurer@sheffield.camra.org.uk

Festival Organiser

festival@sheffield.camra.org.uk

BEER MATTERS Advertising
ads@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



Andy Shaw

Membership Secretary

membership@sheffield.camra.org.uk

BEER MATTERS Distribution
Clubs Officer
Beer Scoring Coordinator



Malcolm Dixon

RambAles Coordinator

rambale@sheffield.camra.org.uk



Dan Rowe

Pub of the Month Coordinator

potm@sheffield.camra.org.uk

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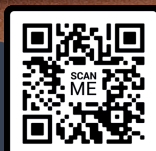
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