

555  
APR 2026  
FREE

# BEER MATTERS

## THE GARDEN AND THE REST

Neepsend community-run gem  
voted April Pub of the Month

## CANNON BREWERY DEMOLITION

End of a chapter in Sheffield brewing history



CAMRA  
Sheffield & District



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# NEW CHANGE TO PLANNING LAW THREAT TO LOCALS

CAMRA is calling on the Government to rethink plans to weaken protections in the planning system in England, which it says could lead to thousands of pubs being lost forever

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is consulting on plans to change the National Planning Policy Framework. Existing planning rules mean local councils have to protect all pubs, as they are considered vital community facilities.

Pubs are offered protections in the planning system including the need for planning permission to be granted before a pub can be demolished or converted into houses, shops or takeaways.

But under the Government's new plans, protections would only apply if a pub were the last one in the local area.

CAMRA is warning that this could see thousands of pubs converted into flats, houses, shops or takeaways by greedy developers – even when local people want to save it as a community local.

The proposal comes shortly after a Government rethink on business rates bill increases for pubs in England which threatened thousands of local pubs across the country.

CAMRA argues that it doesn't make sense for the Government to give help with business rates bills to stop pub closures and then change planning rules which could lead to more pubs being lost forever.



**Paul Ainsworth, CAMRA National Planning Policy Advisor said:**

"We strongly object to these plans which could spell the end for thousands of viable pubs across England.

"Strong planning protections are needed to give local people the right to try to save their pub if it is under threat of demolition or

conversion. Crucially, this must apply to all pubs so that communities can save their local even if there are other pubs in the same area.

**"Pubs are offered protections in the planning system ... But under the Government's new plans, protections would only apply if a pub were the last one in the local area."**

"Without protections for every pub, we risk seeing greedy developers cash in and try to turn pub buildings into other uses like houses, shops or takeaways. This would be devastating for communities who would lose a vital part of their social fabric.

**"This would be devastating for communities who would lose a vital part of their social fabric."**

"CAMRA wants Government ministers to rethink this proposal and keep strong protections for all pubs in the planning system so our locals can keep serving their communities instead of being lost forever."

**Paul Ainsworth**

**CONTACT YOUR MP NOW!**

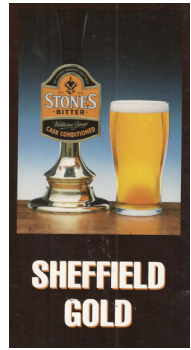
DERBY RAILWAY  
TERRACE BEER  
FESTIVAL



Brunswick Inn & Victoria Inn

JOINT BEER & CIDER  
FESTIVAL

April 15th - 18th 2026  
(60 cask ales between 2 pubs)



## DEMOLITION OF STONES CANNON BREWERY

The Cannon Brewery site in Neepsend, the original home of Stones Bitter, is currently under regeneration. The brewery closed, almost thirty years ago, in 1999, when Bass acquired their Burton-on-Trent neighbour, Ind Coope, and decided that their Sheffield Brewery was surplus to requirements.

The brewery was named in 1868 by William Stones (1826–1894) and purchased by Bass Charrington in 1968. William started brewing in 1847 with Joseph Watts. Fol-

lowing Watts' death in 1854, Stones continued. In 1868 he bought the lease of the brewery of Shepherd, Green & Hatfield (the Neepsend Brewery), renamed it the Cannon Brewery and continued to brew there until his death. Shortly afterwards, the company was registered as William Stones Ltd. This success saw him become one of the richest men in Sheffield.

*Stones Bitter* was introduced by Head Brewer, Edward "Ted" Collins in 1948. It was popular with Sheffield's steel workers and was originally available across South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire. Increasing demand saw the beer brewed at other Bass breweries from the 1970s onwards. Distribution was extended to the rest of the north of England in

1977, and accompanied by a considerable marketing push, nationwide from 1979.

The beer's popularity reached its peak in 1992 when it was the country's highest selling bitter, selling over a million barrels. In 1994–96, the "Sheffield Gold" campaign was set in a steel foundry: it was filmed in the Czech Republic because Sheffield's own foundries were considered to be too clean and automated for the desired gritty, industrial effect. The beer has been lauded as "one of Sheffield's most famous exports."

At closure, the site consisted of buildings of differing ages, character and size clustered around a large triangular internal courtyard. Little of the original Victorian and Edwardian buildings remained:





the water tower and some internal features. In August 2024, Capital & Centric obtained hybrid planning permission. Their outline plans included the repurposing of several buildings, new builds of cultural and workspaces and over 500 homes, a new public square and an urban park. Subsequent investigation has shown the grain

store to be in a critical state of disrepair: Regent Street Disease, corrosion of the steel frame within a masonry-clad building, is prevalent. There is also cracking of concrete on the façade and deterioration of the roof slab.

Demolition is now in progress: the end of a significant chapter in the city's brewing history.

The planned redevelopment, with support from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, will see further growth of the community living around Kelham Island and Neepsend.

**Dave Pickersgill**  
Pub Heritage Officer

## 2 THREE B'S MICROPUB 2

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# HARDER TO REACH PUBS

Over the last three months we've featured guides to Peak District pubs in our branch area that can be easily reached by bus or train.

Key public transport links include the Hope Valley railway line, bus 65 (Sheffield to Buxton), bus 173 (Castleton to Bakewell), bus 218 (Sheffield to Bakewell direct via Owlter Bar) bus 257 (Sheffield to Bakewell via Eyam) and bus 272 (Sheffield to Castleton). Timetables and maps available online at [travelderbyshire.co.uk](http://travelderbyshire.co.uk).

This month we fill in the gaps with the pubs that are in our branch area but not served by public transport, although if you fancy a country walk that may be a good opportunity to try them!



**Grouse Inn**, Longshaw, has been in the same family for over 50 years, this free house stands in isolation on bleak moorland southwest of Sheffield, and is a welcome refuge for walkers as well as climbers from the nearby Froggatt Edge. The comfortable lounge and bar are at the front with separate room at the rear reached through the conservatory in which vines manage to grow. No food Monday evenings. Well known for their excellent steak pie. Both children and dogs are welcome and a children's menu available. Nearest buses: Fox House **65** **272**



**Chequers Inn**, Froggatt, is a country inn with seven ensuite guest rooms on the main road below Froggatt Edge. It has a very attractive beer garden, melding into the wooded hillside. Up-market food menu. Three changing cask ales from Peak Ales, Bradfield Brewery, Thornbridge Brewery, and Stancill Brewery. Nearest buses: Calver **65** **257**



**Eyre Arms**, Hassop, is a 300-year-old country pub with two comfortably furnished rooms and small snug squeezed between, watched over by an imposing grandfather clock. The impressive Eyre family arms are displayed above the fireplace. Open fires in the winter. There are up to six real ales available at weekends and three during the week. Excellent, good value home cooked food using locally-sourced ingredients. Bar snacks served 4pm-6pm between normal meal times. Friendly personal service. A superb, little unspoilt pub. Nearest bus: Great Longstone **173**



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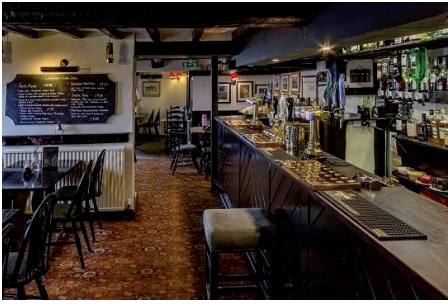
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**Barrel Inn**, Bretton. This remote former farm house, which at 1250 ft. (380 m), is the highest inn in Derbyshire. It boasts a good whisky selection, stunning views from its doorstep and a busy food trade. Nearest bus: Foolow **65**

**Strines Inn**. An inn since the 1770s based on much older buildings dating back to the 13th century. A quaint traditional country pub with plenty of brassware. The entrance lobby opens into a large central bar, the room thought to date to Elizabethan times, with a large stone fireplace. Additional bar areas are to the left and right of the main bar. Large outside parking area with several picnic benches offering glorious views over the moors and Strines reservoir. Nearest bus: Ashopton **257**

Technically Strines is served by bus – service 87, however this runs once a week on a Wednesday with buses passing the pub at 10:29am and 1:21pm!

The other Peak District pubs in our branch area serving cask ale (full map pver the page):

- Anchor**, Tideswell **65 66 173**
- Anglers Rest**, Bamford **257 257a 257b**
- Angler's Rest**, Millers Dale **65**
- Blind Bull**, Little Hucklow **173 257b**
- Bulls Head**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Bull's Head**, Foolow **65 66 257a 257b**
- Calver Arms**, Calver **65 66 257 257a 257b X66**
- Castle Inn**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Cheshire Cheese Inn**, Hope **62**
- Cow Shed Café**, Millers Dale **65**
- Crispin**, Great Longstone **173**
- Eyam Brewery Tap**, Tideswell – special events only **65 66 173**
- Fox House** **65 272**
- George**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- George Hotel**, Hathersage **257 257a 272**
- George**, Tideswell **65 66 173**
- Horse & Jockey**, Tideswell **65 66 173**
- Intrepid Brewery**, Brough – special events only **173 257b 272**
- Ladybower Inn** **257 257a 257b**
- Little John Hotel**, Hathersage **257 257a 272**
- Losehill House Hotel & Spa** **62**
- Maynard Arms**, Grindleford **65 Train**
- Millstone**, Hathersage **272**

- Miners Arms**, Eyam **65 257 257a 257b**
- Moon**, Stoney Middleton **65 66 257 257a 257b X66**
- Olde Bowling Green Inn**, Bradwell **173 257b 272**
- Olde Cheshire Cheese**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Old Hall Hotel**, Hope **62 173 257b 272**
- Old Nag's Head**, Edale **62 Train**
- Old Nag's Head**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Packhorse Inn**, Little Longstone **173**
- Peak Hotel**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Plough Inn**, Leadmill Bridge **257 257a**
- Queen Anne**, Great Hucklow **65 66 173**
- Rambler Inn**, Edale **62 Train**
- Red Lion**, Litton **65 173**
- Scotsmans Pack**, Hathersage **272**
- Shoulder of Mutton**, Bradwell **173 257b 272**
- Sir William Hotel**, Grindleford **65 257 257a**
- Stables Bar**, Monsal Head **173 257a**
- Star**, Tideswell **65 66 173**
- Swiss Tap**, Castleton **62 173 272**
- Three Stags' Heads**, Wardlow Mires **173 257a X66**
- Travellers Rest**, Brough **173 257b 272**
- White Hart**, Bradwell **272**
- White Lion**, Great Longstone **173**
- Woodroffe Arms**, Hope **62 173 257b 272**
- Yorkshire Bridge Inn**, Bamford **257 257a 257b**



Sheffield Students' Union's

# Beer & Cider

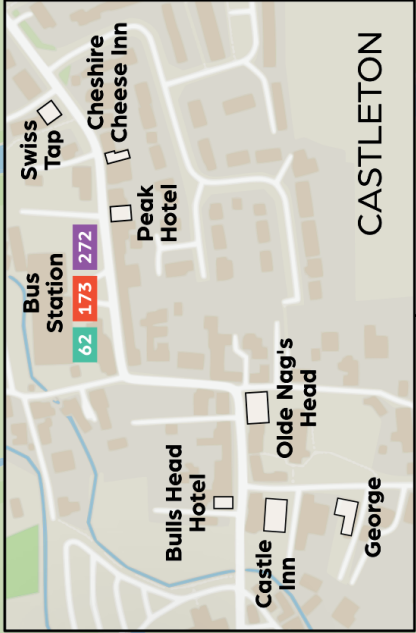
FESTIVAL 2026



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MAY | 2pm - | Bar  
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**CASTLETON**

**257**

**272**

**65**

**62**

Strines Inn

Ladybower Inn

Yorkshire Bridge Inn

Anglers Rest

BAMFORD

George and Little John Hotel

Scotsman's Pack

HATHERSAGE

Millstone

Plough Inn

Fox

Old Hall Hotel and Woodroffe Arms

Cheshire Cheese Inn

HOPE

Travellers Rest

BROUGH

WhiteHart and Shoulder of Mutton

Olde Bowling Green Inn

BRADWELL

Old Nag's Head

EDALE

Rambler Inn

CASTLETON



House

GRINDLEFORD  
Grouse Inn

218

FROGGATT  
Chequers Inn

CURBAR  
Bridge Inn

66  
X66

BASLOW

Maynard and  
Sir William

Moon Inn

Calver Arms

257 218

Miners Arms

EYAM

Eyre Arms

HASSOP

BAKEWELL

Barrel Inn  
BRETTON

Bull's Head

FOOLOW

Crispin and  
White Lion

GREAT  
LONGSTONE

257b

Queen Anne

LITTLE  
HUCKLOW

Three Stags' Head

GREAT  
HUCKLOW

Packhorse White  
Inn

LITTLE  
LONGSTONE

173

257a

Blind Bull  
LITTLE  
HUCKLOW

Anchor

LITTON

Red Lion

Monsal Head

Star and  
George Inn

Horse &  
Jockey

MILLER'S  
DALE

Angler's  
Rest

65

X66

# INN BRIEF

The opening date of **Watt Bar** on Charles Street in Sheffield City Centre has been announced – Friday 27 March at midday. You'll find it between the Red Lion and Rutland Arms in a former electricity sub station. They plan on opening all day, serving coffee and brunch in the morning from 9am with food continuing through the afternoon up to 9pm with Creole inspired dishes and DJs on in the evening.

**Beer Engine** on Cemetery Road no longer serves food with the rising cost of operation making it unviable. They continue to open serving beer Tuesday to Saturday.

**Devonshire Arms** in Dore has had a change of management. It initially closed for a refurbishment, reopening at 5pm on 20 March, and is now the third pub leased by Tom South and his team, who also operate the Castle Inn at Bradway.

Greene King Brewery are looking for new tenants to take on the lease of **Woodroffe Arms** in Hope.

The proposed JD Wetherspoons branch at Valley Centertainment has been given planning permission by Sheffield City Council. This will see the former Chiquito restaurant converted into a pub.

A little more about the new owners of the **Green Room** bar on Devonshire Street in Sheffield City Centre – it is the WaterBear music college and the venue will be rebranded as the WaterBear Green Room. In the daytime it will operate as a rehearsal space for students then open to the public in the evening as a live music bar. The venue had been run by Patrick Flynn for 23 years who is selling up in order to retire!

The annual Sheffield Folk Music Sessions festival takes place over the Easter weekend from 3 to 5 April across a number of pubs. At the time of going to press the programme and venues hadn't been announced but usually involves places like the **Dog & Partridge, Fagan's, Perch, Shakespeares, Kelham Island Tavern, Harlequin, Gardeners Rest and Forest.**

**New Inn** at Gleadless is to be refurbished.

**Broadfield** on Abbeydale Road are giving their outdoor area a bit of a fettle and we can apparently expect BBQ events in the garden over the summer!

**Queen Anne** in Great Hucklow, which is up for sale as a result of the long standing licencees retiring, was due to close after 1 March but "due to popular demand" will be continuing to trade on reduced hours until it sells. The opening hours at time of going to press are Thursday to Saturday from 5pm and Sundays from midday. If you fancy a trip to visit this pub buses 65 (Sheffield to Buxton) and 173 (Castleton to Bakewell) pass the front door!

**Anchor Inn** at Tideswell saw their tractor space in the car park make the news again with a local young farmer and his date turn up for a valentines meal there in his tractor!

**Cow Shed Cafe** at Beltonville Farm in Millers Dale are hosting a beer & music festival on 23/24 May and 29/30 August. Advance tickets advisable and camping available.

## PUB OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION



Our March Pub winner was **Two & Six Micropub** in the City Centre.

The certificate was presented to Juliet and Dan by our *Beer Matters* magazine editor, Andy Cullen.

Almost all the beers on the bar were from local breweries as part of their Sheffield Beer Week celebrations and customers were treated to some lovely complimentary sandwiches too!



To the rear is a conservatory which leads out into an eclectically decorated garden overlooking the Don.

Up to six cask ales are typically available, with a regularly changing lineup sourced from independent breweries from across the country. CAMRA members can receive a discount.



## PUB OF THE MONTH April 2026



**GARDENERS REST**  
Neepsend

The Gardener's Rest on Neepsend Lane is our April Pub of the Month. Sitting on the River Don, the pub has long been a favourite with local real ale drinkers and continues to attract both regulars and visitors to the area.

The pub dates from 1898. After significant flood damage in 2007 the building underwent refurbishment before reopening in 2009, and in 2017 it was purchased by the Gardener's Rest Community Society, making it Sheffield's first community-owned pub. The 382 initial investors raised over £237,000 between them, and in the years since their numbers have increased to over 430.

The pub is split into several areas. There is a main bar area where music events are held regularly, and to the left of the entrance is a small billiards room in the former dram shop.

The Gardener's Rest is well known for its community focus, hosting live music, quizzes and a range of local events throughout the year, including beer festivals. They are also the host for CAMRA Sheffield & District's beer festival planning meeting in preparation for Steel City each year. With its welcoming atmosphere, varied beer selection and strong ties to the neighbourhood, it is a deserving winner.

**Dan Rowe**

## JOIN US...

...for a beer and the presentation of the award at the pub on **Tuesday 21 April** from **8pm**.



# PUB OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to this year's winners!

**KELHAM ISLAND & NEEPSSEND/OVERALL:**

**Kelham Island Tavern**, Russell Street

**CENTRAL:** **Dog & Partridge**, Trippet Lane

**NORTH:** **Blake**, Walkley

**SOUTH:** **Sheaf View**, Heeley

**EAST:** **Chantry Inn**, Handsworth

**WEST:** **Rising Sun**, Nether Green

**DISTRICT (DERBYSHIRE):** **Red Lion**, Litton

**CIDER PUB OF THE YEAR:** **Old Shoe**

**CLUB OF THE YEAR:** **Crookes Social Club**



## OVERALL



**KELHAM ISLAND TAVERN**  
Russell Street

Our overall 2026 Pub of the Year and also Kelham Island & Neepsend Area Pub of the Year is the outstanding Kelham Island Tavern. The Kelham Island area is now a Sheffield beer tourist attraction, with excellent bus and tram connections from the City Centre.

The overall winner is selected by judges visiting all the area winners, which were voted for by our members, and objectively scoring them against nationally set criteria.

Constructed in the 1830s as part of a terrace, and originally operating as the Sawmaker, the pub was later renamed the White Hart, and in 1995 became the Kelham Island Tavern, before closing in 1999. In March 2002, the derelict building was purchased and reopened, specialising in real ale.

Over the last 22 years, the pub has continued to thrive and since 2018, under the management of Josh and Louise, it has continued to offer a wide

range of both cask and craft beers always including a porter, stout and many IPA's and bitters.

It has an excellent rear beer garden and the pub maintains the standards to which many others aspire. The beer range is consistently excellent, always including at least one from Blue Bee.

A simple snack menu is available including pork pies. The Kelham Island Tavern was the first pub to be CAMRA National Pub of the Year two years running (in 2008 & 2009). It has been CAMRA Yorkshire Pub of the Year five times and now Sheffield Pub of the Year on 19 occasions: a record which is highly unlikely to be overtaken.

**Paul Manning**

## JOIN US...

...on **Tuesday 30 June** from **8pm** as we present the well deserved awards to Josh, Louise and team.



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FRIDAY 17th • SATURDAY 18th • SUNDAY 19th APRIL

ECCYFEST  
BEER TRAIL MAP

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## PARTICIPATING BARS:

PORTLAND HOUSE | CRAFT & BERRY | THE LOCAL | THE ALE CLUB  
BOTANICAL ARMS | BEER HOUSE | NO.3 | DARK HORSE | ITCHY PIG



## WEST SHEFFIELD



Congratulations to Garry and the team at the Rising Sun (471 Fulwood Road, S10 3QA), winners of the CAMRA Sheffield & District, Area Pub of the Year 2025 (West Sheffield).

Owned by Sheffield Beerworks EOT Ltd., the Employee Owned Trust which also includes Abbeydale Brewery, the Rising Sun has been an Abbeydale community pub and dining room since 19th December 2005 when the brewery took over from the University of Sheffield Union of Students. The Union had run the building for just over 23 years. Previous management includes the Sheffield & District Public House Trust Co.Ltd. and John Smiths Tadcaster Brewery.

The original pub opened around 1860. The name refers to pubs which face east and receive early-morning sun, as did the earlier Rising Sun. The current pub opened when the, then, owners, the Sheffield Town Trustees agreed to provide land for the widening

of Fulwood Road to Sheffield Corporation in return for the demolition and reconstruction of the original pub. The current building opened in July 1904. Abbeydale carried out an extensive refurbishment in 2014.

There are two comfortably furnished rooms with a log burning fire between the main bar and the glass roofed extension. The large beer garden includes covered, heated areas. The pub is also both child and dog friendly. Quizzes are on Sunday evenings.

In 1914, the Sheffield and Rotherham Red Book and Almanac (p.407) stated that: 'many pleasure seekers finding this suburban house very convenient for the supply of general refreshments.' To-day, the situation is similar: the pub provides 13 cask beers, including a large Abbeydale range, together with several rotating guest specials across both cask and keg. There is also an ever-changing cider selection, a carefully curated wine list, a large range of quality spirits and plenty of non-alcoholic options. In addition, the creative, seasonal food menu aims to showcase the best of British produce and sees the pub working with a host of local suppliers.

**Dave Pickersgill**

## JOIN US...

...for the presentation on **Tuesday 31 March from 8pm**. On the evening we'll also be holding an Abbeydale Brewery tutored tasting event, led by experts from the oldest established brewery in Sheffield. This event will explore the depth and breadth of the Abbeydale range. You will be introduced to five beers, each in a third pint measure. Tickets for this are available online in advance for £10.



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# CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN



**Abbeydale Brewery Black Mass** (a black IPA at 6.66% ABV) made it as a finalist in the Barley Wines & Strong Ales category of the Champion Beer of Britain awards. The winter ale categories were judged at Liverpool Beer Festival.

To reach the competition's final in Liverpool all the beers had progressed through a year of local and regional blind judging heats.

The winner was London Brewing's Beer Street. Judges were blown away by this winner, with judging panel coordinator Christine Cryne describing Beer Street (4.0%) as: "A sparkling golden amber bitter, with spicy rye and a roasty nose, sweet biscuit on the flavour, where the spicy rye notes increase and linger in the dry and slightly bitter finish. Very easy drinking."

Taking the Silver award was **Cairngorm Black Gold**, 4.4%. A black session stout with red hues and oyster head. Aromas of black treacle and faint hits of dark fruits. Caramelised fruits on a sweetish chocolate base with some plums create a moreish stout. The dry finish is slightly sweet with some spicy notes.

The Bronze winner was **Green Jack Baltic Trader Export Stout**, 10.5%. A dark ruby brown imperial stout, with aromas of sweet black treacle with some damsons. A rich smooth mouthfeel with bitter black chocolate, sweet molasses and damsons. The finish is sweet, smooth with bitter roasty notes remaining. Very warming.

The category winners now go forward to the final judging in May at CAMRA's Cambridge Beer Festival where they'll battle it out to take the crown of Supreme Champion 2026.

Reacting to the win, Director of London Brewing Sean Sexton said: "We're absolutely delighted that our best bitter, Beer Street, has been named Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2026 by CAMRA. We've been brewing Beer Street since we founded the brewery in 2011, and it's a real testament to the skill and dedication of our head brewer, Alex, that he has continued to refine and elevate the recipe over the years.

"This accolade means a tremendous amount to a brewery of our size. It's not only a proud moment for our team, but also a fantastic boost that celebrates the enduring appeal of high-quality cask ales enjoyed in pubs across the UK."

CAMRA's Awards Director, Shelly Bentley, said: "Our Champion Beer of Britain competition is the only truly independent beer contest in the UK. Brewers can't simply enter their beers into it; they have to be nominated by beer lovers or expert tasting panels.

"London Brewing are incredibly deserving winners of the winter crown, and everyone taking home a category win or top three placement should be proud that their beers have been declared the cream of the crop by expert judges."

## CATEGORY WINNERS



### Brown Ales, Red Ales, Old Ales and Strong Milds

Harvey's Old Ale, 4.3%



### Session Stouts and Porters

Cairngorm Black Gold, 4.4%



### Strong Stouts and Porters

Green Jack Baltic Trader Export Stout, 10.5%



### Barley Wines and Strong Ales

Driftwood Spars Alfie's Revenge, 6.5%



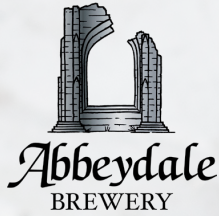
### Speciality, Differently Produced

London Brewing Beer Street, 4.0%



### Speciality, Differently Flavoured

Farm Yard Hoof, 4.3%



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# ABBEYDALE BREWERY



Due to popular demand, **Dark Mild** is BACK! A classic 4.0% true to style mild, Expect smooth, balanced malt sweetness, a touch of roast character and hints of coffee. The ultimate classic British hop, Fuggles, provides a gentle bitterness.

New to the imaginarium of Dr Morton we find **Mental Polish** (4.3%), hopped with Galaxy and Idaho 7 for a vivid and vibrant fruity character, notably tropical and soft citrus flavours.



And we're incredibly excited to announce the relaunch of **Matins** (3.6%) – one of the original trio of Abbeydale pales, back for a limited time only with a new home in our Legacy Series to help us celebrate our 30th anniversary! Brewery founder Pat Morton began making Matins back in 1996. With its sessionable ABV and easily quaffable flavour it was heralded as his 'breakfast beer! Crisp, fresh and clean – pleasantly grassy with a delicious noble hop character.



From the Brewers Emporium we have a new **Wanderer**, a 6.2% Hazy IPA. Hopped with oodles of Krush, backed up by Citra and Idaho 7, it sings of mango, guava and a cornucopia of citrus. We've also got the welcome return of Treehouse, a 4.5% West Coast Pale Ale – bold and punchy with Amarillo, Simcoe and Cascade hops.

Finally, keep your eyes peeled for news of the opening of Abbeydale Beerworks – our very own taproom, coming soon to 298 Abbeydale Road, just round the corner from the brewery! Our hope is for it to be a destination for beer lovers to find our latest brews and small batch specials, as well as a venue for hosting exclusive tasting events. It's something we've waited a long time for, and we hope you're all as excited as we are!

To keep up to date with all the latest developments, you can find Abbeydale Beerworks on Facebook and Instagram, where we'll be sharing our journey every step of the way!



## BREWERY BITS

Recent beers produced at **Blue Bee Brewery** have included a 5% ABV pale ale brewed with Nelson and Nectaron hops and the 4th iteration of Five Malt Mild.

A beer making a comeback after 12 years is **Sgt Pepper Stout**. This was originally brewed by David McLaren back in his Spire Brewery days, he was since involved with **Drone Valley Brewery** who are brewing it to his original recipe. The beer is a 5.5% ABV stout laced with black pepper to give it a mildly spicy kick!



Also new from Drone Valley, who are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, is **Community**, a 4.4% ABV English pale ale celebrating their status as a community owned enterprise where profits go to local good causes.

New from **Bradfield Brewery** is **Holy Cow**, a 7.8% IPA. This is a limited edition beer and is available in bottles and cask. It is the hoppiest beer Bradfield has ever brewed and the varieties involved are El Dorado, Azacca and Vista. In addition a rum barrel aged version is coming soon.

**Eyam Brewery** now has planning consent to convert their Tideswell premises into a tap room with kitchen and shop. They can now go through the process to get a permanent premises licence. Until then they will be running occasional pop up tap events again using temporary event notices, the first being Easter weekend.

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## CHESTERFIELD HISTORIC PUB TOUR

The theme of this year's Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour could be described as "The Best of Chesterfield". Visiting a total of eight pubs, six of which are in the latest edition of CAMRA's, *Good Beer Guide*, and two more that should make the cut soon.

Your guide is Shaun Stevenson, a local history enthusiast with a passion for supporting the hospitality trade. His knowledge concerning Chesterfield's pubs is extensive, despite the fact that Shaun is actually legally blind. "I know Chesterfield like the back of my hand", remarked Shaun. "If you join me on one of my tours, I'll tell you all about these fabulous places, including stories about famous people, local heroes, tragic events and even murders".

Chesterfield has managed to retain its historic town centre with its recently revamped open air market attracting many new visitors. Shaun is keen to show off his home town and promises to indulge in some history telling as the tour passes through landmarks like the Crooked Spire churchyard, The Shambles and the 800 year old market square, with its cobblestones and narrow alleyways.

The day begins at 12 noon in the **Pig & Pump** on St Mary's Gate, in the shadow of the Crooked Spire. This walking tour allows around 30 minutes at each venue to purchase the drink of your choice. The group will then move on to the next pub with interesting anecdotes along the way. An optional pre-arranged lunch is available around 3pm and the tour finishes at The **Neptune Beer Emporium** around 5pm/6pm.

Dates for 2026 are limited to Saturdays – 9 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September. Booking in advance is recommended.

Shaun has been operating the Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour since 2019 and has noticed a trend towards real ale tourism. "Organisations like CAMRA and some enterprising individuals have created an entire industry around 'making a day of it'. Structured pub tours based around locations and transport links are becoming very popular and I would like to think that my tour offers something different, within this genre". Shaun added, "I'm looking forward to welcoming friends old and new. Regulars return every year, knowing that I always tell new stories and visit new places."

Shaun also provides pub tours of Bakewell on selected Saturdays throughout the summer and a popular local drinking challenge, the Brampton Mile, on bank holiday Sundays.

For more details, visit:  
[greathistoricpubtours.co.uk](http://greathistoricpubtours.co.uk)  
 Facebook: search @CGHPT  
 YouTube: Great Historic Pub Tours



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# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

29 March sees routes 218 (Sheffield to Bakewell) and 272 (Sheffield to Castleton) switch their Sunday service to the British Summer Time schedules.

23 May is when the 2026 season for the Peak Sightseer open top bus tours launches. Again there are two routes planned, the Red tour from Chatsworth to Bakewell and Blue tour from Chatsworth to Castleton. They will run daily until 19 September then Saturdays only to 10 October. Further details haven't been announced as yet, keep an eye on [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com).

In Sheffield First bus have registered a number of timetable changes from 3 May. Details have not yet been announced at the time of going to press.

On Supertram, rail replacement works are taking place between Sheffield Station and Gleadless Townend (Blue and Purple routes) from 28 March to 12 April with replacement buses in operation. Buses replace trams on the Meadowhall/Parkgate line over the Mayday bank holiday weekend. There are also engineering works in the Rotherham area on some Saturday evenings – the 11, 18 and 25 April – with replacement buses from 1730hrs onwards.

April is expected to see the opening of the new Tram Train station at Magna, just in time for the Rotherham Real Ale & Music festival there! The Tram Train service runs from Sheffield Cathedral to Parkgate via Attercliffe, Meadowhall South and Rotherham Central station. Look out for news on this online at [supertram.com](http://supertram.com).

National Rail timetables change for the summer season on 17 May.

As we arrive into Spring, it is a time of year that is great to head out to pubs in Derbyshire and there are a number of regular bus routes from Sheffield to take you there:

- 65 to Buxton via Calver, Tideswell and Litton (Stagecoach)
- 218 to Bakewell via Baslow and Chatsworth (TM Travel)
- 257 to Bakewell via Bamford and Eyam (Andrew's of Tideswell)
- 272 to Castleton via the Hope Valley (First bus and High Peak)
- X17 to Wirksworth via Chesterfield and Matlock (Stagecoach)

Check out the features in the last few issues of Beer Matters for Peak District pubs along bus routes, if you don't have a printed copy you can download PDFs from [sheffield.camra.org.uk](http://sheffield.camra.org.uk).

For general public transport information in our area online visit [travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://travelsouthyorkshire.com) or [travelderbyshire.co.uk](http://travelderbyshire.co.uk). You can also track buses live on a map at [bustimes.org](http://bustimes.org), an independent website that will also show you timetables for individual stops.



## ROTHERHAM REAL ALE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Rotherham Real Ale & Music festival takes place at Magna (between Meadowhall and Rotherham town centre) from 22 to 25 April and is a fund raiser for Rotherham Cancer Care and the Magna Trust.

The theme this year is "Rack & Roll", reflecting the fact the festival takes place at the same time as the World Snooker Championships at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and also features live music!

There will be a preview evening on Wednesday from 6pm to 9pm with CAMRA members and publicans invited to come along and try the beers while the full range is available.



The festival proper kicks off Thursday at 6pm with Funky Business taking to the stage.

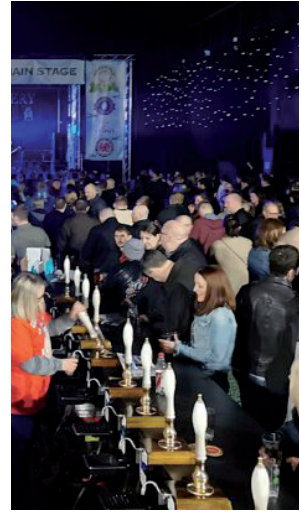
On Friday the festival opens at midday with entertainment announced so far being Richard Ford (acoustic/piano) in the afternoon then Handsome Dan & The Mavericks in the evening. Saturday is another midday opening and Maltby Miners Welfare Band will be performing in the afternoon with the Leathernecks on stage in the evening.

More entertainment is yet to be announced at the time of going to press!

Tickets are available online in advance or simply pay on the door – more information at [magnarealeale.org.uk](http://magnarealeale.org.uk). Entry tickets cost £5 for the Wednesday preview, £10 for Thursday evening and £15 for the all day sessions on Friday and Saturday. A season ticket is also available including all the sessions for £25.

The venue is even easier to get to this year with a new tram stop opening right by the front door! The Tram Train service runs between Sheffield Cathedral, Meadowhall South, Magna, Rotherham Central station and Parkgate every half hour until around midnight. Note that Network Rail engineering work will affect Rotherham area services on the Saturday night with replacement buses in operation.

First bus X3 (Sheffield to Doncaster via Meadowhall and Rotherham) also provides a regular service dropping off on the main road behind the venue.



Public transport information is available at [travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://travelsouthyorkshire.com) and combined bus and tram passes are available on the Travelmaster app. For tram only tickets use the TSY app or buy from the conductor on board.

At the time of writing there was still sponsorship opportunities available (contact Matthew Ridsdale by phoning 01709 321585 or emailing [matthew@cannonpr.co.uk](mailto:matthew@cannonpr.co.uk)) and volunteer staff are still being recruited – fill in the online form to get involved.



# DIARY

## FESTIVALS

Local beer and cider festivals we're aware of. Email the Editor if you know of any more! **In 2026, all CAMRA festivals offer free entry to members (glass charges still apply).**

## EVENTS

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

## MARCH



### Neepsend & Hillsborough pub tour 11:45am Sat 28 Mar

We're hosting pub blogger Micropub Adventures for a guided pub crawl led by our Pub Heritage Officer, Dave Pickersgill. Meet at **Infirmiry Road tram stop** at 11:45am.



### Area Pub of the Year (West) 8pm Tue 31 Mar

We present the award to the **Rising Sun** at Nether Green.

## APRIL



### Crowle & Ealand Thu 2 – Sat 4 Apr

The third annual Crowle & Ealand Beer Festival returns to **Victory Hall**, Ealand. Selection of real ales, cider and food. 5–10 minute walk from Crowle railway station, on the Doncaster–Scunthorpe line.



### Hope Valley Fri 3 – Mon 6 Apr

The regular bank holiday weekend festival hosted at the **Old Hall Hotel** in Hope. Marquee with festival bar, food stalls. Live music and DJs. Buses 173 and 272 go past the pub or it is a short walk from Hope railway station.



### RambAle – A Tale of Two Taps 12:15pm Sat 4 Apr

Our RambAles are gently paced country walks that start and end at a pub that serves real ale. We kick off this year in April with a short walk down the Loxley Valley from the **Nags Head** at Stacey Bank, run by Bradfield Brewery, to the **Wisewood Inn**, home to Loxley Brewery. Getting there: bus 61 from Hillsborough Interchange at 11:55, connecting tram available from Sheffield City Centre (Castle Square) at 11:28. The suggested travel ticket is a CityWide all day bus & tram pass for £7.20, available from the tram conductor, bus driver or on the TravelMaster app.



### Eccyfest Sat 4 – Mon 6 Apr

The spring edition of the event where a number of venues along Ecclesall Road collaborate to offer a pub crawl with a variety of different beers to try at each stop. Grab a stamp card and if you visit all the participating venues, you get entered into a prize draw.



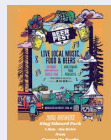
### Branch meeting 8pm Tue 7 Apr

The venue this month is the **Broadfield** on Abbeydale Road (upstairs room). We will be accepting motions for debate for our **branch AGM** (1:30pm Sat 9 May @ Two & Six). We'd also like to hear from anyone interested in joining the committee.



### Victoria & Brunswick, Derby Wed 15 – Sat 18 Apr

These two pubs close to Derby railway station team up for a joint beer festival.



### Newcastle (CAMRA) Wed 15 – Sat 18 Apr

The 48th festival is at Northumbria Students' Union, championing great real ale and cider. With over 100 beers, 30 ciders and a selection of other beverages, there is sure to be something for everyone.



### **CAMRA National Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference**

**Fri 17 – Sun 19 Apr**

in St Albans. More details including registration online.



### **Peak District pub tour**

**11:30am Sat 18 Apr**

With the arrival of spring we move out to the rural Peak District part of our branch area for this month's pub tour. We start with one of the favourites, the 173 bus (Castleton-Bakewell), offering classic country pubs and fantastic scenery. Join us on the 65 bus from Sheffield Interchange, departing 11:35 for Tideswell. We'll also be visiting the **Red Lion** for...



### **Area Pub of the Year (District)**

**3pm Sat 18 Apr**

We present the award to the **Red Lion** in Litton. Buses 65 (Sheffield to Buxton) and 173 (Bakewell to Castleton) stop outside. We'll be call-

ing in on the Peak District social if you fancy combining this with some other country pubs (see above).



### **Festival planning meeting**

**7:30pm Tue 21 Apr**

We continue work planning our 50th Steel City Beer & Cider Festival. Upstairs at the **Gardeners Rest**. Bus 7/8 stops outside or 5-10 minute walk from Infirmary Road tram stop.



### **Pub of the Month**

**8pm Tue 21 Apr**

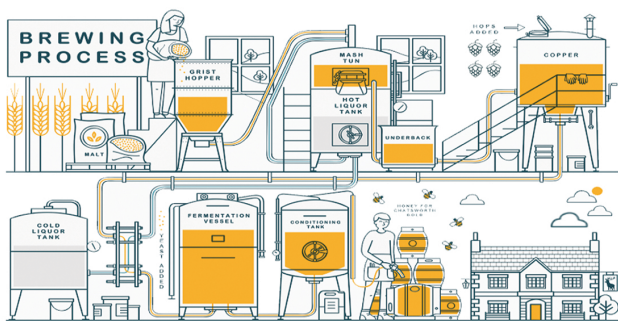
We present the award and enjoy a beer or two at the **Gardeners Rest**.



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

**Wed 22 – Sat 25 Apr**

The old festival makes its comeback at Magna! The Tram Train should be stopping at the new Magna stop by then (except on Saturday night) or bus X3 stops outside. See p26 for more details.



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### Old Nags Head, Edale

Fri 24 – Sun 26 Apr

Featuring 20 ales and traditional ciders along with live music, pub games and more. Timed to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of the mapping of the Pennine Way, the path that begins near the pub, which is about a 10 minute walk from Edale station.



### Area Pub of the Year (Central)

8pm Tue 28 Apr

Dog & Partridge presentation.



### Committee meeting

8:30pm Tue 28 Apr

Dog & Partridge, Trippet Lane, S1. Beer Matters should be available for distribution volunteers in afternoon.

## MAY (full diary on our website)



### Branch AGM

1:30pm Sat 9 May

Our formal Annual General Meeting. Two & Six. All members welcome!



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# THE COMMITTEE



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Pub of the Year Coordinator  
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Joint Social Secretary

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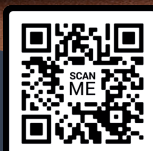
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