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BEER MATTERS

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OCT 2026



BRANCH
MAGAZINE OF
THE YEAR
2026

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Sheffield & District



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"ANOTHER PROMISING STEP"

CAMRA responds to the announcement of independent review of how pubs and hotels are valued for business rates in England and Wales



Ash Corbett-Collins, CAMRA chairman, said:

"This is another promising step from the new Government. Our pubs have suffered for far too long under the current ratings system, which punishes bricks and mortar businesses, and creates the ridiculous situation where global giants pay less per square metre for warehousing than a licensee does for their pub.

"An independent review is a great way to look at this, and we will definitely be taking part on behalf of beer drinkers and pubgoers. As always, the real difference will be dependent on the results. Hopefully, there will be fundamental changes to the out-of-date ratings system and publicans will have the certainty and incentive to grow their businesses.

"We hope the right stakeholders will be involved to make sure that the best outcome is found for publicans and pubgoers.

"Ordinary drinkers want their locals open, busy and at the centre of communities. Tackling our unfair business rates system will help if the review delivers lower and fairer bills."

Locally, Sean Clarke of Business Sheffield has been encouraging local publicans to participate in the call for evidence which seeks views from businesses, representative bodies, valuation professionals and other interested stakeholders; this will help inform recommendations to Government ahead of the next revaluation. The documentation is available on the government website and responses need to be emailed to pubsandhotelreview@hmtreasury.gov.uk by 16 October.

SHEFFIELD BEER MUSEUM

A beer museum? In Sheffield? We'll drink to that!

Picture it: you've just stepped out of the Sheffield Beer Museum's latest engaging exhibit. You're enjoying a locally made ale in its adjoining taproom, thinking about all of the interesting beer facts, history and culture you just learned about. You might tell a friend about this place and are already planning your next visit. What a fine way to spend an afternoon in the wonderful city of Sheffield.

The only problem? The museum doesn't exist. Or at least not yet.

The Sheffield Beer Museum has now entered a public consultation phase, which means you get to help it take shape. Do you think the UK needs a beer museum? Would you visit a museum about beer? Do you think Sheffield is a good fit for such an attraction? Whether the answer to these questions is 'yes', 'no' or 'not sure', your views are vital in helping to move the project forward. For the Sheffield Beer Museum to truly be built for the community and by the community, the feedback of residents of Sheffield and beyond is fundamental.

The idea to open a beer museum in Sheffield

The Sheffield Beer Museum project began with a simple problem: a passionate collective of beer lovers wanted to visit a beer museum in the UK and realised there wasn't one. From this initial spark came the crazy

idea to do it ourselves. And many months later, that raw vision is starting to become a tangible reality.



At Sheffield Beer Museum, we think there's more to beer than drinking. Beer is a thing to be explored, savoured, talked about and protected. It is steeped in history, from the earliest manifestations of brewing among ancient civilisations, all the way to your local micropub doing things with beer you didn't think were possible, or necessary, but somehow are. It is as much a part of our culture as fish and chips, Morris dancing and queuing, and we think that deserves to be celebrated.

Getting involved

At this year's Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival, be sure to come and find the Sheffield Beer Museum stall, where you can find out more about the project and get to know the team. Whether you've got a burning question, a brilliant idea, a crazy story about beer or simply want to drop by for a beer and a chat, we want to hear from you!

If you're not going to make the festival this year, don't panic! You'll find plenty of other ways to get in touch below.

In the meantime, watch this space. Spread the word. Something is brewing in Sheffield, and we want you on board. Fill in our survey and join the mailing list (scan the code).



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COUNTER

Beer

COUNTER

As mentioned last time, there have been some changes up and down Chesterfield Road. In Woodseats, Counter micropub opened in mid-August (in the former Mesters Tap).

At the helm are Stuart and Sonia Nunn. Stuart was previously at Guzzle just up the road, while Sonia worked at the Red Lion (down the road) some years ago.

The pub has been smartened up and given a lick of paint (an appealing green called 'Privet Hedge'!) There is some interesting artwork by local artists, such as the Ghost Cooling Towers.

On the beer front, two handpumps feature ever-changing ales, and there is real cider available. Plans are afoot to upgrade the toilets and rear outdoor area.

There is a quiz night on Thursdays, and occasional live music at the weekend.

The unusual pub name comes from the time when the premises were a chemist's in the early 1900s – get your pills at the counter. Overall, a real improvement, and we wish Stuart and Sonia all the best in their new venture.

Richard Hough

INN BRIEF

Gardeners Rest celebrate their 10th anniversary of community ownership on Saturday 26 September with live music, BBQ and a special beer. The event is on from midday until 9pm.

Dave Pickersgill will also be leading a pub heritage walk, starting from the pub at 3pm. Booking required: tckty.camra.org.uk/e/590

JD Wetherspoon's **Rawson Spring** pub in Hillsborough has a new ale champion working there and has organised a number of beer events including a Roosters tap takeover on 21 Sep, a Buxton meet-the-brewer on 22 Sep and a beer festival from 30 Sep.

Another branch of JD Wetherspoon hosting a festival is **Bluecoat** in Roth-erham – their 'October-fest' takes place 7–18 Oct featuring some speciality ales and international brewers. A range of 30 beers spread between the regular and pop-up bars. Other Wetherspoons will also feature the festival bars on rotation.

Those of you who drink in the Woodseats area may have noticed a lack of cask ale on the bar at the **Bo-ston Arms** during the heat-wave; this was due to their cellar cooling system failing. They now have a brand-new cooling system installed and cask is back.



A new venture has opened on the junction of Ecclesall Road and Rustlings Road.

Manfred's is a coffee shop/bar named after owner Patrick McClure's German grandfather who hailed from Wesel, near Dusseldorf. After finishing his degree in Durham a few years ago, Patrick was lured to Sheffield by friends from the area, and has now managed to combine his love of good coffee and German lager.

The bottle fridge has an excellent selection of lagers, including some no-alcohol options, and Patrick is looking to offer a couple of draught options at some point in the future. Wine is also available. For anyone drinking in, the chilled glasses are a nice touch, and pastries are on offer for anyone feeling peckish. Hours are 8am to 8pm Wednesday to Friday and 9am to 8pm at the weekend.

Shakespeares are hosting one of the final tap takeovers of the now-closed Queer Brewing with a selection of their kegs featured on 31 Oct.

High Green Club has gone through into the national Club Awards 2026.

Blake Hotel in Walkley, which is owned by Trust Inns, is being advertised as available to lease.

It has been revealed that the refurbishment of the **Foresters** on Division Street in Sheffield city centre will bring a new

name for the pub; it will reopen as the **Six Barrel Drafthouse**, operated by the Pub People Company.

It's that time when pubs start advertising Christmas festivities. Among recent events advertised is a Christmas retro disco at the **Anchor** near Tideswell on 19 Dec.

The **George** in Castleton made it into the final of the Pub Aid Community Pub Hero Awards for their sustainability initiatives. They were up against three other pubs in the final, from Surrey, Wandsworth and West

Suffolk. The award ceremony at the Houses of Parliament was on 8 Sep.

The current tenants at the **Travellers Rest** at High Moor, Killamarsh, moved on mid-September to instead run the Red Lion in Clough-ton near Scarborough. The lease had come to its end, and the new lease being offered included a substantial rent increase. The pub is owned by Thwaites Brewery.

Shepley Spitfire at Totley is under new management. Gradual changes are planned, including extended food hours.



WHITE LION

The White Lion on London Road has had a change of management. John left at the end of August for pastures new (Croatia sounds nice?), to be replaced by Lisa Brown.

Lisa originally hails from Portsmouth, but in December 2021 she moved to Sheffield. She worked at the excellent Cross Scythes on Derbyshire Lane (world's tallest leprechaun) before stints at the Rose & Crown, Wadsley and the Nag's Head at Bradfield.



No major changes are planned at the White: up to five cask ales on the pumps, and live music at weekends. Food is limited to snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own in.

It is a CAMRA heritage pub, with a very interesting interior. Be sure to pop in if you can; we are sure that Lisa will keep the White Lion roaring!

Richard Hough

INN BRIEF

Sir William Hotel in Grindelford closed last December, and Greene King Brewery have put the property on the market.

Hare & Hounds in Barlow has reopened after being closed for at least six years. The old landlady closed the pub and retired before Covid. After she sadly passed away during Covid, the pub was put on the market, with local expectation of it being converted to fully residential use. The pub hadn't changed in many years and was listed in CAMRA's heritage inventory for its interior. Prior to reopening, the pub has had significant renovations and refurbishment, losing all the heritage and now has a smart, modern look. However, actually being open as a pub is something of a win! There are two cask ales available on the bar.

Richard Hough writes:

"I owe the good folk at the **Itchy Pig Banner Cross** a heartfelt apology. In August's Beer Matters, I wrote a piece focusing on the price of beer across Sheffield. I got the price wrong at the IPBC. All cask ales are either £4.20 or £4.50 a pint, on top of which they offer a loyalty discount scheme. Excluding JDW pubs, this makes the Itchy Pig Banner Cross one of the best value-for-money pubs I encountered. Apologies to all concerned."

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KELHAM & NEEPSEND

The real ale trail around Kelham Island, Shalesmoor, Neepsend and Hillsborough – The Upper Don Valley – is pretty much the modern history of Sheffield's real ale scene.

Much of the area is a former industrial district, but is now in advanced stages of gentrification with lots of pubs, bars, cafes, breweries and residential developments as well as a little remaining industry.

There are two key public transport corridors through the valley – the Blue and Yellow tram route down one edge and the number 7 and 8 buses down the other. Shalesmoor tram stop is a useful gateway to the whole area while the buses will take you close to the Neepsend pubs.

You can also stay on the tram to Hillsborough where there is a run of pubs and bars both small and large; however, this article focuses on the Kelham Island and Neepsend area – check out our Hillsborough guide for venues further up the valley.

At the heart of the area is **Kelham Island Museum**, host to our annual **Steel City Beer & Cider Festival**.

This year, **Steel City 50** runs **21–24 October**. See p26 for details.



● Cask ale venue

● Craft beer venue (no cask ale)

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Alder – Burton Road

Alder bar was previously the Sheffield Brewery Company and is located in the former Blanco Polish factory, which supplied the British troops in the second world war. Beer was brewed here from 2006 until the corona-virus pandemic, on kit arranged on the traditional tower principle. The bar in the brewery was rescued from a student halls of residence that has since been demolished and fits in style with the Victorian building. Currently brewing has been suspended until further notice and the bar is now operated independently as Alder with a range of guest ales and regular special events.

📍 **Bus 7,8 or nearest tram stop is Shalesmoor**



Crow – Scotland Street

One of the newest pubs on the real ale and craft beer scene with the addition of en-suite hotel rooms upstairs, brought to you by

the same people as the Rutland Arms. Bar snacks primarily include pork pies, scotch eggs and sausage rolls. A short walk up Lambert Street from Shakespeares pub and the rest of the Kelham Island circuit.

📍 **Bus 31 or walk up from Gibraltar Street**



Fat Cat – Alma Street

The granddaddy of Sheffield's real ale pub scene – the first real ale free house to feature beers from outside the area and the first to offer a no-smoking room! An old, traditional multi-room pub that hasn't changed in many years, has a great beer garden and a snack menu of sandwiches, sausage rolls and pork pies. The pub was previously associated with Kelham Island Brewery, who operated from 1990 until 2022.

📍 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86 to Gibraltar Street**



Forest/Toolmakers – Rutland Road/Botsford St

The Forest is just that little bit up the hill away from the popular Kelham Island circuit, allowing it to remain a simple locals pub with reasonable beer prices, yet is still welcoming and comfortable. Toolmakers is a separate taproom building behind the pub that opens up on a part-time basis for special events including live music and open-mic sessions – check their social media for details. Both venues were previously associated with an on-site Toolmakers brewery, which is no longer in production.

Bus 7,8 to Neepsend Lane



Gardeners Rest – Neepsend Lane

One of Sheffield's classic real ale pubs featuring around six regularly changing cask beers. The pub has three rooms – the main lounge, snug (featuring bar billiards table) and conservatory, leading out to the quite wonderfully eccentric

riverside beer yard. The pub is now community-owned and gets involved with a lot of community initiatives. Note: card payment only.

🚶 **Bus 7,8 stops outside or Infirmary Road tram stop is walkable**



Grafters – Percy Street

Small container bar boasting a spacious outdoor garden with heating and covered seating areas. Serving cask, keg and bottled delights alongside a carefully selected range of hand-picked spirits and mixers. Note: this bar doesn't normally open in the winter.

🚶 **Buses 7,8 or nearest tram stop is Shalesmoor**



Harlequin – Nursery St

Fairly big L-shaped pub, recently reopened following refurbishment under the same management as the

Rutland Arms and Crow Inn. The bar features seven varied cask ales plus cider along with an interesting range of craft beers on keg. An ethos of only stocking independent producers where possible applies to all the beers, wines and spirits! Tutored tasting events are held now and again. The lower area at the back of the pub features a dartboard and also hosts live music some weekends. There is a small outdoor drinking area at the rear. A simple menu of good-quality, home-cooked food is served at meal times; look out for the specials board on the bar.

🚶 **Buses 7,8,75**



Kelham Island Tavern – Russell Street

One of the area's long-established real ale pubs that has won many awards over the years, including National CAMRA Pub of the Year for two consecutive years. It is a basic pub with two rooms and a beer garden that is kept well presented, large beer range with all basic styles including mild, stout/porter and traditional bitter alongside popular pale hoppy offerings and more across 13 handpumps, usually including some from Blue Bee

Brewery. A number of craft beers on keg also feature. Bar snacks include pork pies, bhajis and samosas.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86 to Gibraltar Street**



Millowners Arms – Kelham Island Museum

Formerly a museum exhibit celebrating Sheffield's pub and brewing history, this traditional pub room is now open full time as a public bar with real ale and other craft beers available along with a simple food menu.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86 to Gibraltar Street**



Neepsend Social Club & Canteen – Burton Road

Themed bar serving beer and food.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 7,8**



New Barrack Tavern – Penistone Road

Friendly multi-roomed roadhouse pub owned by Castle Rock Brewery but operated independently by Kev and Steph. Popular with the more discerning fans of Sheffield Wednesday FC and Sheffield Tigers Speedway team while the weekend live music and comedy events also draw a crowd. Usually a good selection of real ales on the bar and an extensive cider and bottled beer selection also features.

🚶 **Bamforth Street tram stop or buses 7,8,86**



Riverside – Mowbray Street

Bar owned by True North Brewery offering their beers plus guests and food is available. As the name implies, there is also an extensive outdoor drinking area overlooking the river Don.

🚶 **Buses 7,8,75,83**



Shakespeares – Gibraltar Street

One of those old places that has been around for years and dates back to the days of being a coaching inn with stables at the back for the horse and carriage. It only really became noteworthy from a beer point of view in recent years since becoming independently owned and operated. The interior is a basic ale house style with several rooms on the ground floor plus a live music room and games room upstairs. The bar offers an extensive range of craft beers on cask and keg served by knowledgeable staff. They also boast quite an extensive top-shelf spirit choice.

🚶 **Buses 57,57a,81,82,86 or nearest tram stop is Cathedral or Shalesmoor**



Ship Inn– Shalesmoor

Classic pub that won an award for its last refurbishment. Laid back atmosphere.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop is across the road or buses 57,57a,81,82,86**



Salt – Green Lane

New-build pub/restaurant, initially opened as 'Stew & Oyster' but has since been refurbished and become Salt brewery's Sheffield bar pairing craft beer with bao buns to eat.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86**



Wellington – Henry St

Old-fashioned, two-room pub next to Shalesmoor tram stop operated by Neepsend Brewery featuring craft beer on cask and keg from their range plus guests. Also known for its cheap sandwiches and whisky selection! The kind of pub where you sit and enjoy quiet conversation or read the paper. Beer garden also available.

🚶 **Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86**

Craft beer venues (no cask ale)



Church – Temple of Fun – Rutland Road

Former industrial building extensively renovated with part of it converted into a bar (the other part is a clothes warehouse for the Drop Dead Clothing designer brand). The bar features craft beer, cocktails, vegan fast food, photo booth, classic coin-op arcade games, PlayStation pods, pool table, music and riverside balcony. Sounds hipster as hell – actually a really cool, relaxed place to chill with a beer. Cask ale sometimes available.

🚶 Infirmary Road tram stop or buses 7,8,86



Heist Brew Co – Neepsend Lane

The new kid on the block, a converted industrial building containing a craft beer bar with 30 taps and a fridge full of exotica. Oh, and a mini games arcade. The kitchen is operated by a third

party, currently Firepit BBQ. On-site brewery not currently in production.

🚶 Infirmary Road tram stop or buses 7,8



Hymn to Ninkasi – Cotton Mill Walk

Small craft beer bottle shop and bar on a modern residential development.

🚶 Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86 to Gibraltar Street



Old Workshop – Hick St

Bar in, as the name suggests, an old former workshop! Features a range of craft beer, premium spirits and vegan fast food, in a laid-back atmosphere.

🚶 Buses 7,8 or Shalesmoor tram stop



Peddler Market – Burton Road, Neepsend

Takes place the first weekend of most months in an old warehouse and surrounding courtyards, featuring a craft beer bar with a different guest brewery each month, numerous street-food traders, makers' stalls, music and more.

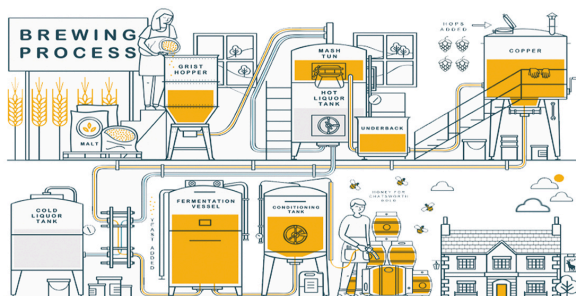
🚶 Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 7,8



Saw Grinders Union – Shalesmoor

Smart but relaxed bar and dining room serving cocktails and craft beer. Outside courtyard area also offers seating.

🚶 Shalesmoor tram stop or buses 57,57a,81,82,86



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PUB OF THE MONTH October 2026

Our October Pub of the Month is the Pangolin on Middlewood Road in Hillsborough. The bar is named for one of owner Nick Davy's favourite animals, and has a logo designed by Imogen Wood. The Pangolin opened in 2021, a challenging time for businesses, and spent some of the first part of its life not being able to have customers drinking in.

Situated next to the Hillsborough Park in-bound tram platform, the bar is over two levels in a shop unit. The upstairs has a bar to



the rear, with shelving and a fridge along the walls offering a wide range of local and imported craft beers, mead, wines and spirits. There is seating throughout the ground floor. There is a small seating area and toilets located in the basement, along with the cellar.

Alongside its numerous canned and bottled offerings, the Pangolin offers five craft keg lines and three cask real ale lines – two of these are usually on, with three in busier periods like Tramlines. Due to the configuration of the cellar, the casks are stored in a small purpose-built cooled box and are poured through a Flojet pump system via the tap wall.

The Pangolin holds regular events including a monthly quiz. On 26 September they'll be holding an Oktoberfest event, with some beers being available into October. By the time Beer Matters is on shelves, they'll also have tickets for a beer and book pairing on sale, in collaboration with their close neighbours at Hillsborough Bookshop. Details of all events can be found advertised in the bar and on their social media. The Pangolin is also the sponsor and supplier of Steel City 50's bottle bar.

Join us at the Pangolin to present their award from 8pm on **Wednesday 14 October**, with the award to be presented at 9pm.

Dan Rowe





SPECIAL AWARDS

As well as the awards we regularly give to pubs and breweries, from time to time we recognise people that have made a positive difference to the beer scene in Sheffield & District.

For autumn 2026 we will be presenting awards to:

Mark Simmonite (pictured above)

Currently of Perch bar and Dead Parrot Beer Company, he's run numerous pubs and events in Sheffield over the years. We'll be presenting his award at **Perch** during the multi-venue 2½ mph Real Ale Festival he's organising on **Fri 25 Sep**.

Jules Gray

Owner of **Hop Hideout** plus organiser of Sheffield Beer Week and Indie Beer Feast. She's also been very helpful in making our Steel City Beer & Cider Festival's Women on Tap bar happen. Presentation date to be announced.

Pat and Sue Morton

Back in 1996, they founded Abbeydale Brewery and have been influential in Sheffield's beer and pub scene ever since. We'll be presenting their award at **Beerworks**, Abbeydale's new taproom on **Thu 12 Nov**.

More about these in the November issue of *Beer Matters*.



CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2028

The selection process has now begun for regularly brewed beers that could be named the best of British in 2028. A year of judging via blind tastings at local, regional and national level takes place up to the final but the first step is for CAMRA members to vote for which beers get entered into the competition in the first place.

A network of local Brewery Liaison Officer volunteers maintains CAMRA's national brewery database ('Pilgrim') of regularly brewed real ales, and all those beers on the system are available to vote for online.

If you are a CAMRA member you can participate, whether you wish to support our local brewers or help recognise some amazing beers you have recently enjoyed from around Britain, by signing in as a member at camra.org.uk/cbob. Voting closes on 31 October 2026.

The top three beers in the Champion Beer of Britain 2026 competition were Bristol Beer Factory's *Independence* (4.6% ABV American pale ale), Cairngorm's *Wildcat* (5.1% ABV premium bitter) and Driftwood Spars' *Alfie's Revenge* (6.5% ABV strong red ale).



SHEFFIELD PUB HERITAGE WALK 4: KELHAM ISLAND

New pub heritage walk booklet launched

The fourth booklet in our pub heritage walk series is now available. Sponsored by Abbeydale Brewery and Kelham Island Brew Co, this publication concentrates on Kelham Island. Included are copious images, a map, detail on the various pubs featured and lots of information on the area and its history, including a timeline. The formal launch will be at the forthcoming Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival (21–24 October 2026).

With an RRP of £2.99 and a print-run of 1000 copies, the new full-colour A5 booklet is slightly longer than its predecessors at 34 pages. It is currently available from several local stockists, including: Abbeydale Brewery, Barrel & Anvil, Biblioteka, Crow Inn, Draughtsman (Doncaster Railway Station), Famous Sheffield Shop, Hop Hideout, Kelham Island Books + Records, National Emergency Services Museum, Rhyme & Reason, Sheffield Museums Trust and St Mars of the Desert.

The first two booklets are sold out and there are a dwindling number of the 2025 Neepsend booklet. The Sheffield Pub Heritage Walk series will continue with Riverside in 2027 and Hillsborough in 2028.

For copies by post and retail enquiries, please contact: pubheritage@sheffield.camra.org.uk



As part of Heritage Open Days 2026, we led two pub heritage walks. The Kelham Island walk commenced at the **Wellington**. Thanks to their staff for holding the fort while the walk leader was delayed due to a traffic accident: he was not involved but the incident involved an over-turned car and several members of the emergency services.

After this slightly delayed start, 18 attendees took in the delights of the area before concluding with the mighty River Don Engine.

Later in the afternoon, John and myself took 23 attendees round Little Chicago. This includes a break at the Crow when we took over the lounge.

These walks encompassed aspects of industrial, and social, heritage and of the 'beer capital' status held by the city of Sheffield. Thanks to everyone who took part and to both the Wellington and the Crow for en route hosting.

The next planned walk is part of Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival – John and myself will lead the Little Chicago walk on the Thursday morning: bookings are now open (scan the code).



The latest edition of *Sheffield's Real Heritage Pubs* and our *Sheffield Pub Heritage Walk* booklets are available as free downloads from sheffield.camra.org.uk/rhp.

Dave Pickersgill



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Some of the awards from our previous venue



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ABBEYDALE BREWERY

'Tis the season and yep, you guessed it, **Pilgrim** is back! Our 5% pumpkin-spiced pale ale heralds the arrival of autumn and we can't wait to see this one on bars again.

This year, our pilgrimage has become that little bit EXTRA as our autumnal icon has brought along a fun and frivolous friend! Introducing **Marshmallow Pilgrim**, a pumpkin-pie-inspired stout, also 5% ABV. Featuring the familiar lip-smacking blend of warming pumpkin pie spices, here enveloped in a cosy, roasty stout, with the addition of sweet, fluffy marshmallow that'll have you coming back for s'more...

Of course, it's not all pumpkin-spice-themed though, and we've got two completely new cask-only pale ales being released this month. In our lithograph-inspired series, we have **Royal Agave**, 4%, hopped with Cashmere and Wai-Iti. Expect refreshing lemon-lime notes along with soft, juicy melon and a smooth finish. And **Nereides** will be a 4.2% pale ale with artwork from our mythical creatures-inspired series. This one uses Calypso hops, which fellow mythology nerds will understand is rather fitting! Flavour-wise, these bring along a tasty combination of orchard and tropical fruits. Vibrant peach and pineapple on the nose, followed up with elegant notes of apple and pear.

Finally, in terms of returning beers, we're bringing back our classic UK-hopped **ESB** in the Restoration series (5.2%), and **Dr Morton's Aftersave** (4.1%) will be making a re-appearance too.



TASTING FUNK DUNGEON HISTORY

On a Sunday in August that marked Abbeydale Brewery's 30th birthday, a select crowd that had managed to get tickets gathered at their Beerworks tap room for a guided Funk Dungeon beer tasting led by the dungeon master himself, Jim Rangely, along with Laura Rangely, Abbeydale's marketing manager.

Funk Dungeon is Abbeydale's project that experiments with things like barrel-ageing, alternative fermentation and sour beer styles.

The tasting event focused on the Funk Dungeon's story so far with bottled beers that have been laid away over the last few years and in some cases were the last ones remaining at the brewery.

There was a range of three beers produced for the 'Funk Fest', held at the brewery, including a brettet saison – both the original beer and a version aged in red wine barrels – along with a beer that had been live-brewed at the event using a portable koelship for spontaneous fermentation from wild yeast in the air. In total seven beers were sampled in the tasting.

To finish off all, were offered a slice of birthday cake along with the opportunity to sample more recent brews on cask and keg that were on the bar that day!



OPEN DAY

As part of their anniversary, Abbeydale Brewery also recently held a brewery open day, complete with birthday cake! On Saturday 15 August, one day before the official birthday, the brewery saw a special shop opening, plus a series of brewery tours. The event was enjoyed by all: we look forward to another 30 years!



BREWERY BITS

Kirschewalder, the **St Mars of the Desert** collaboration with Torrside Brewery, a Rotbier using cherry-wood-smoked malt, is likely to be a special pour from a Stichfass barrel at Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival.

Also expected at Steel City 50 is a collaboration beer with Thornbridge, brewed on the Union, a SMOD first!

Thornbridge Brewery has had a good summer for their lager, with sales up on last year by 15%. Their regular lagers are *Lukas*, *Bayern* and *Czech Mates*.

Stancill's special brews for September included *Secret Potion* (4% ABV), *Flapjack* (oaty pale ale, 4% ABV), *Bavaria* (golden ale, 4.5% ABV), with *No 7* English pale ale also making a comeback.

The brew schedule at **Blue Bee** slowed down a bit recently due to holidays, but new in the tanks has been a Nelson single-hopped pale ale alongside a fresh batch of their blonde. Looking ahead the popular *American Five Hop* series continues, and by the time this magazine appears in print, *version 93* is likely to be out there on the bars!

Blue Bee are also scaling up the recipe of one of the four winners of the homebrew competition organised as part of Steel City 50, with the other three beers being produced by **Little Critics**, **Little Mesters** and **Duality**. You can try all four at the festival, where we'll be judging them to name an overall winner.

Drone Valley Brewery's latest seasonal beer is an American pale ale. The previous special was *Abbey Valley First Gold*, an amber ale brewed with First Gold hops in collaboration with Welbeck Abbey Brewery.

Bradfield Brewery's autumn seasonal beers are *Farmers Harvest Gold*, *Farmers Dust Settler* and *Farmers Jack O' Lantern*. These will then give way to the annual November release of their Christmas beer – *Farmers Belgian Blue*.

RAMBALE

REPORTS

Sheffield has some absolutely breathtaking countryside and cracking rural pubs on its doorstep and a large chunk of the Peak District falls into the Sheffield & District CAMRA branch area.

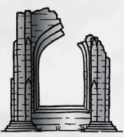
August's RambAle saw us walking around the backwacks, gennels and nature reserves in the Woodhouse and Woodhouse Mill area while visiting the **Stag Inn**, **Oxbow** and **Royal** for some refreshment.

We were in the company of and led by members of the Steel City Hash House Harriers (part of an international group of non-competitive social running clubs which began in Malaysia back in 1938, who term themselves a "drinking club with a running problem") who joined us for the day and our 4.5-mile circular walk. An enjoyable day out in good company.



For the **Saturday 26 September RambAle** we travel a little outside our area but continue with an ongoing theme of the Chesterfield Canal. We shall set off walking from the Mallard Inn at Worksop railway station at 1pm for a 5.5-mile walk to the Chequers Inn at Ranby, mostly along the canal towpath. We return to Worksop by bus to catch a train back to Sheffield. The recommended train from Sheffield is at 11:38, which offers about 40 minutes to relax with a beer in the Mallard before the walk.

Malcolm Dixon


Abbeydale
BREWERY

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We recently made use of our bus passes and the X17: an hourly service which runs from Barnsley to Matlock via Sheffield and Chesterfield. My colleague, Paul, went for the longer journey, commencing in Barnsley while I joined him at Sheffield Interchange. The full journey takes well over two hours with the leg from Sheffield to Matlock taking around 80–90 minutes (the top deck offers excellent views).

On arrival in Matlock, we alighted at the **Red Lion** bus stop and visited the family-owned pub, the home of Moot Ales, a 10-barrel operation which has brewed since 2018. The name pays homage to the history of Matlock: the original meaning of the name was 'the oak (tree) where a moot was held'. A moot was an assembly, which symbolises a spirit of community, discussion and coming together.

We sampled two of their beers: Matlock Best (4.3%) and a 5.3% IPA, *Giddy Edge*.

We then adjourned to two other local outlets: the **Remarkable Hare** and **bod Matlock**. The Hare

had a good range of cask beers served in a smart front bar. The rear of the building includes a large eating area.

Across the road, bod is a 2022 conversion of a former furniture shop which provides six cask ales: we went for the legendary *Titanic Plum Porter* (4.9%). In 2023, the pub was highly commended in the national CAMRA Pub Design Awards (Conversion to Pub Use category).

The return journey was punctuated by a stop in Chesterfield and visits to the **Chesterfield Ale-house** and the recently reopened Grade II* listed **Royal Oak**.

The latter is the oldest pub in Chesterfield. It includes an old sign for Sheffield brewery William Stones. This was uncovered in 2025 – Stones having purchased the pub from the Batteson family in 1897.

On return to Sheffield, the X17 passed the **Rutland Arms**: the provider of my last beer of a long, but enjoyable, day.

Dave Pickersgill

BERMONDSEY BEER MILE

A few days in London gave me my first chance to visit the Bermondsey Beer Mile, a beery bucket list item. So post a mind-bending visit to the Escher exhibition, Sheena and I set off on a hot and sunny Friday afternoon, and found the first challenge was to find somewhere open. It seems 3–5pm onwards is the opening time for most venues!

Thankfully the **Kernel Taproom** is open from midday. Not in a railway arch to my surprise, but a modern, plain venue that lacks a little charm, but makes up for it with an extensive beer list (if only one cask beer). We started sensibly on the very tasty table beer, followed by the *Dunkel*, a style of lager not seen brewed often in the UK.

The next bar was in a railway arch, the **Enid Street Tavern**, more what I was expecting as a venue, with a list of ten beers, one on cask; several from Bianca Road Brew Co situated in the Beer Mile, and only one beer I'd seen before. Their own pale was gone in a flash, always a good sign, but we kept on moving.

Next was a cidery as I love a good cider. Against the Grain is perhaps just that on the Beer Mile, but the *Heart of Oak*, dry oak cider made on the premises took me back to my youth in all the best ways.

The Anspach & Hobday **Arch House** taproom was the best fitted out railway arch venue we visited, very modern, and plush. I only really knew of their London Black nitro porter, so was pleasantly surprised to find 13 beers from the brewery on, including a cask beer. The cask beer *Tack!* was a collaboration with O/O Brewing in Sweden; Dan Rowe told me it would be worth trying, and I'm glad he did. Tasty, hoppy, very well kept, and cool on a hot day, an excellent 6.5% IPA.

Final destination was **Hiver Taproom** as Sheena loves honey beer (and beekeeping).

The taproom has a beehive in it, but, don't worry, we were never bothered by them, and the three honey beers were all tried and enjoyed, plus some honey to take home.



As a first experience of the Beer Mile, I felt we only scratched the surface, with plenty of venues still to go out. We enjoyed how chill it was, but will go in the evening next time, if only so more of the venues are open.

Paul Rugg

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STEEL CITY 50 PREVIEW

Steel City Beer & Cider Festival celebrates its golden jubilee this October, and we've lined up a few extra things to add to the festivities. Here's a rundown of what to expect when visiting Sheffield's original and best beer festival.

200+ CASK BEERS
80+ KEYKEG BEERS
30+ CIDERS AND PERRIES

Spread across four bar areas, we have a fantastic range of beer, cider and perries to offer.

MARQUEE



In the courtyard,
straight ahead

UPPER HALL

Upstairs, across
the bridge



KEG BAR



Via the
ENGINE ROOM

GUEST BAR

On the right as
you enter



THE BEER

The festival will feature around 200 different cask beers, and it is intended that all will be available from the start of the festival on Wednesday 21 October. Some will be served on handpump, some by gravity and some direct from brewery bars themselves.

The cask beers will be located in the **Upper Hall**, the **Marquee** and the **Guest Bar** to the right after entering the museum, with cask beer also available in the Millowners Arms within the museum complex.

A feature of the festival is that we try to obtain cask beer from all current breweries that fall within the CAMRA Sheffield & District branch area, so expect to see about 16 Sheffield-area breweries represented with a cask beer. As well as local beers, we are hoping to get a number of beers from Derbyshire micro-breweries, some from the North East of England and some from Kent breweries. We've also managed to get a few beers in wooden casks, and have brought in some beers which were at the very first festival.

St Mars of the Desert, a well-respected keg-only brewer in Sheffield, has returned to **Thornbridge Brewery** to brew a collaboration cask beer on the Union system, and we hope to have a cask of that. They'll also be serving two beers from their very popular German Stichfass keg on Wednesday evening. We'll have some special ciders this year too, courtesy of the **Old Shoe**.



Our separate room featuring guest breweries proved a big hit last year, so we've added another bar this year. (see Women On Tap below) **Ticking Clock** from Shireoaks, **Black Lodge** from Liverpool and **Trig** from York will be bringing their own bars where you can try their beer, and it's hoped that staff from these breweries will be on hand to talk about their own beers and breweries.

Three special beers are in the pipeline for this year. The first is in support of this year's festival charity, Support Dogs, and the proceeds from the sale of this beer will be donated to that charity. The second marks our 50th beer festival, and the third is in memory of CAMRA stalwart Alan Gibbons.



Photo by Ryan Walsh

Sheffield & District breweries expected at the festival



WOMEN ON TAP

An exciting addition for 2026 is the **Women On Tap** bar, which will be celebrating women in brewing by featuring seven different beers (three cask and four keg), all brewed by women at nearby breweries. Some of the brewsters will be on hand to talk about their beer as well as their experiences in the brewing industry.



NEW

CHAMPION HOMEBREW OF SHEFFIELD

For the first time, we are having a homebrew competition, and with the four finalists already chosen we can tell you that the standard is very high. The finalists' beers are being scaled up and produced commercially by four local brewers – **Little Critters**, **Little Mesters**, **Blue Bee** and **Duality**. On the Wednesday night, we'll be judging those four to see which is crowned Champion Homebrew of Sheffield. This will be presented at the same time as our regular Champion Beer Of Sheffield award.



TALKS AND TASTINGS

We've a variety of events to keep you entertained and informed. Well-known beer writer **Pete Brown** will be hosting his beer and music pairing session; **Kelham Island Brewery** will be talking about the history of the brewery and how it connects with Sheffield's recent brewing past; our ever-popular **heritage walk** takes you through the history of the locality; **Abbeydale Brewery** will be hosting a guided tasting through a number of their beers; and **Women On Tap** founder **Rachel Auty** will be talking about the role of women in the beer industry (see p30 for more information).



COMMEMORATIVE GLASSES

Of course you'll need something to drink out of, and we have a fantastic new design on the two festival glasses. Here's a preview to help you decide which to choose when you arrive.

RIVER DON ENGINE

Due to popular demand, we've increased the number of runs of the mighty River Don Engine, giving visitors even more chance to experience it in action.

NEW

HAWLEY TOOL COLLECTION

An interesting part of the museum which is usually closed to festival-goers is the Hawley Tool Collection, and we're pleased to announce that this will be open on **Thursday** and **Friday** afternoon with Museum staff on hand to discuss the exhibits.



MUSIC

We've brought back five of our favourites from previous years' festivals, so visitors on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will have some top-quality music to keep them entertained. **Highway Child**, **Soul Battalion**, **Loxley Silver Band** and the **88s** will be playing in the Upper Hall, and **Kelham Rapper** will be popping up all over the venue with their riotous sword dancing.



CHARITY

Our charity for this year is **Support Dogs**, who provide dogs to people for a variety of support needs. They will be bringing a few of their dogs to meet visitors on Thursday and Friday afternoon, and will also have staff collecting for the charity at other times, who will be happy to talk about the charity and the work it does.



STALLS

You'll be spoiled for choice when it comes to eating at the festival. Eight different stalls will be on site offering a variety of sweet and savoury treats, including several vegetarian options. Our tombola stall will be making its usual appearance, giving visitors the chance to win some 'finest quality merchandise', and the CAMRA shop has a vast array of historical items recently gifted to us from members who have sadly passed away in the last year. A highlight of the shop, though, will no doubt be our limited edition Henderson's Relish bottles.

VOLUNTEERS

And finally, a massive thank you to all our volunteers who help to organise and run the festival. It literally couldn't happen without their hard work and enthusiasm. If you fancy joining our happy band, please sign up online at sheffield.camra.org.uk/volunteer



21–24 OCT 2026

Come raise a glass to 50 years!



Photo by Ryan Walsh

WOMEN ON TAP

Women's involvement with beer dates back millennia. Throughout the 9,000-year history of fermented drinks, archaeologists and historians have charted the role of women, both in the production and sale of beer. For example, in Medieval Britain, it was women that took charge of the production of beer, both for consumption within the home and for commercial sale.

However, women remain significantly under-represented in beer – as makers, drinkers, and buyers – and in some areas, the numbers are heading in the wrong direction.



WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN?

TUTORED TASTING AND DISCUSSION

1pm Sat 24 Oct

POWER ROOM

As Women On Tap CIC marks its 10th anniversary, founder Rachel Auty unpacks what's driving that gap: from the barriers women face working in the industry to why so many still don't see beer as "for them."

She'll share what Women On Tap is doing to change that – from bursaries breaking down financial barriers to entry, to events and initiatives designed to bring more women into beer, as drinkers, brewers, and industry professionals. It's a talk about why closing this gap matters – not just for equity, but for the future health of an industry we all love.

You will be introduced to three beers, brewed by brewsters. The choice of beers will be finalised closer to the event and will provide a variety of styles and strengths.



Book at tckty.camra.org.uk/e/589 or scan the code



SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT

Steel City volunteers got together recently for an afternoon social in the **Gardeners Rest**.

Following a successful event last year, a Shuffleboard tournament was held again, with beer vouchers on offer for the lucky winners.

After a few hours of competitive shuffling, and a few pints, of course, Paul Rugg emerged as the knock-out competition winner, and Geoff Downing took the prize for the day's highest score, a very respectable 106.

A post-match visit to a couple of nearby pubs rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon. Roll on next year's competition.

(We couldn't resist sneaking a bottle of our limited-edition Henderson's Relish in to the photos!)





Derby
Market
Hall



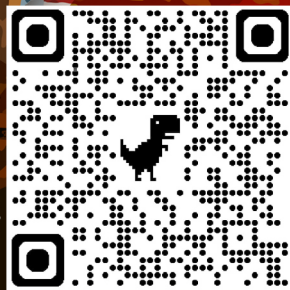
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FESTIVALS

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.

SEPTEMBER



Calderdale (CAMRA)

Thu 24 – Sat 26 Sep

Now held at **Arden Road Social Club** in Halifax, featuring around 60 beers plus a dozen traditional ciders.



Sheffield 2½ mph

Thu 24 – Sun 27 Sep

Perch and a number of other city centre pubs team up for this event.



Special Award: Mark Simmonite

8pm Fri 25 Sep

Join us at **Perch** for a drink as we present Mark with his award.



RambAle: Workshop to Ranby

11:30am Sat 26 Sep

We return to the Chesterfield Canal with a 5.5-mile walk from **Mallard Inn** at Worksop station (1pm) to the **Chequers Inn** at Ranby, mostly on the towpath. We return to Worksop by bus for a train back to Sheffield. Train from Sheffield at 11:38, to allow for about 40 minutes at the Mallard to relax before the walk.

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Brunswick, Derby
Wed 30 Sep – Sat 3 Oct
 Regular pub beer festival.



Bluecoat, Rotherham
(JD Wetherspoon)
Wed 7 – Sun 18 Oct

A range of 30 beers, including some specialty ales and international brewers, spread across the regular pub bar and a pop-up festival bar. Regular buses, trams and trains go to Rotherham from Sheffield.

OCTOBER



Beer Under the Clock, Retford
Thu 1 – Sun 4 Oct

The fourth edition of this regular event – Clockfest – held at this micropub, with a focus on new beers you might not have tried before. Northern trains on the Sheffield–Lincoln line call at Retford every hour.



Worsbrough
Fri 2 – Sun 4 Oct

Annual charity fundraiser held at the **Worsbrough Sports & Development Association** (Worsbrough Miners Welfare). Open 2–10pm Fri/Sat and 2–4pm Sun. Tickets are sold on the door at £12 with souvenir glass and four beer tokens included.



Pub of the Month

8pm Wed 14 Oct

Join us for a beer or two as we present the award at the **Pangolin** micropub, located on the inbound platform of Hillsborough Park tram stop.



Derby Heritage (CAMRA)

Wed 14 – Sat 17 Oct

The Derby Heritage beer festival relocates for 2026 to **Derby Market Hall** and will offer over 100 cask ales, keg beers, ciders and perries. Regular fast trains run from Sheffield to Derby.



Branch meeting

8pm Tue 6 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 **Old Shoe** in Orchard Square.



STEEL CITY 50 (CAMRA)

Wed 21–Sat 24 Oct

At Kelham Island Museum.

Volunteer staff also needed on site to help set up from Sun 18 Oct and take down on Sun 25 Oct. The festival features a huge range of beers plus cider and perry, street food, entertainment and more. See p26 for details.



Nottingham (CAMRA)

Wed 7 – Sat 10 Oct

At Trent Bridge Cricket Ground featuring over 500 different cask ale and other craft beers, over 100 traditional ciders and perries plus live music and food traders. Trains run from Sheffield to Nottingham every half hour.



Gainsborough (CAMRA)

Thu 22 – Sat 24 Oct

40+ ales, ciders and perries plus food and music at the Gainsborough Trinity Supporters **Blues Club**. Northern trains on the Sheffield–Lincoln line call at Gainsborough Lea Road station every hour.



Norwich (CAMRA)

Mon 26 – Sat 31 Oct

Back at their classic venue – the **Halls**. More information and advance tickets online at norwich.camra.org.uk. EMR run an hourly train service from Sheffield to Norwich.



Committee meeting

8:30pm Tue 27 Oct

The monthly business meeting. The venue is the **Dog & Partridge** on Trippet Lane. We also aim to have the new issue of *Beer Matters* ready for distribution volunteers.

Mallard, Workstop

Thu 29 Oct – Sun 1 Nov

"Ale'oween" edition of their regular festival, involving extra beers in their basement function room. The pub is next to the Sheffield-bound platform at Workstop station, Northern trains go there every hour.



Brewery tap social and mini RambAle

1pm Sat 31 Oct

On the last Saturday of the month **Fuggle Bunny Brew House** run tap events with street food and live music. We'll be meeting there for social from 3pm. This will be preceded by a mini RambAle around Rother Valley – if you wish to join, meet at the **Scarsdale Hundred** (JD Wetherspoon), Beighton for a 1pm start.

NOVEMBER



Branch meeting

8pm Tue 3 Nov

Venue TBC (hopefully the **Princess Royal** in Crookes).

THE COMMITTEE



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