CAMRA Branch Magazine of the Year

BEER MATTERS

562
NOV 2026
FREE



SHAKEY'S BIG TRIP FOR BIG NUMBERS

9,000th ale at Shakespeares a Big Trip collab

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OFFER

Shareholders sought to reopen Tap & Barrel

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CAMRA
BRANCH MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2026

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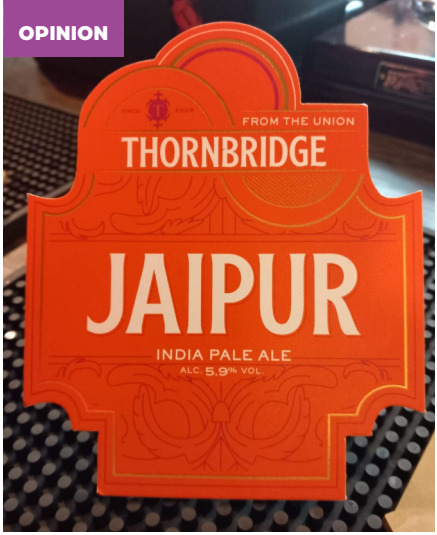


SHEFFIELD BEER SCENE GIG

Did you know that Mike Pomranz from the Old Shoe is in a band called **Pancho Grande**? Or that Dann from the Brewery of St Mars of the Desert is in a band called **Am Elektrogeist**?

Did you know that the Harlequin pub has a house band called **Children of Bamford** that also features staff members from their sister pub the Crow Inn?

Well, you'd better believe it – because all three bands are playing on the same bill at the **Yellow Arch Studios** on Wednesday 11 November, with advance tickets at a fairly reasonable £8.



HOW MUCH? PART II

CAMRA is well known for promoting good beer and pubs, but at its heart it is a consumer organisation, campaigning for better on several fronts. Not least of these is value for money, especially in these cash-strapped times. Beer writer Richard Hough took a look at the varying price of one particular beer across the city – Thornbridge *Jaipur*. He writes:

In one mad week earlier this year, I undertook the Jaipur Jaunt. After three days' intensive 'research', I took Thursday off.

Friday



Tucked away on Victoria Street in the city centre is the **Bath Hotel**, a modest Victorian end-of-terrace pub. Appearances can be deceptive; inside is a wonderful interior dating from 1931. A sensitive refurbishment in 2001 kept the integrity of the pub and gained national recognition. The Bath is a free house with six beers on handpump, one of which is *Jaipur*. It's not cheap, though, at £5.50 a pint. The quality was top-notch (the pub regularly appears in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide*).





A short hop on the 120 bus took me to the **Francis Newton**, an impressive Georgian-style building near the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Broom Bank House was built in the 1820s for Mr Newton as his family home. He was a wealthy businessman in the cutlery industry at a time when Sheffield became known as the 'Steel City' and, as a display in the pub puts it: "At the height of its powers in the mid-19th Century, the region manufactured 90% of British Steel, and nearly half the entire European output." It became a pub in 1995 – older readers will remember the Aunt Sally – before being acquired by JD Wetherspoon (JDW) in 2010. Thornbridge beers often feature, with *Jaipur* making the odd appearance. Cask is £1.99 a pint Monday to Wednesday, with prices rising later in the week. Don't forget to use your CAMRA voucher.

Back on the 120 to the **Itchy Pig** on Glossop Road. It is a true micropub in the former butcher's premises – hence the name. Unbelievably, the Itchy is 10 years old this year! An ever-changing range of cask ales from independent breweries is available, with beers rarely duplicated. Today, the stars aligned; *Jaipur* had just come on, and very good it was, too. Cask is £4.20 or £4.50 a pint, and the pub offers a loyalty scheme – buy 10, get one free. So the more you spend, the more you save. Kind of... So ended Friday's Jaunt, with a very interesting contrast between the three pubs. Check them out for yourselves.



Saturday

First thing, I checked the fixtures list to make sure there was no football being played at Hillsborough. (And for the sake of balance, there was none being played at Bramall Lane, either.)





The **Rawson Spring** is a large open-plan pub right on Hillsborough Corner (and I mean, if you tripped off the tram, you'd land in the pub!)

The original spring (named after local benefactors the Rawson family) used to supply fresh water to the nearby Barracks. The Walkley & District Baths were built in 1926 and remained in use until 1991. It then became the Deep End, a live music venue. In 2007, it was taken over by JDW and opened back out to reveal the character of the original baths. A century on, the fine neo-baroque façade remains. *Jaipur* was £3.40 a pint, 50p off with your voucher, and cheaper still earlier in the week.



Back into town for the final stop of the day – the **Sheffield Tap**. They don't make pubs like this any more! It is a grand affair in the former first-class waiting room of Sheffield (then Midland) station. It is believed that the king at the time stepped off the train and took refreshment here. The ornate tiling dates from 1904. Twelve handpumps adorn the bar; *Jaipur* is a regular, at £5.80 a pint. Pricey.

Definitely worth checking out are the award-winning ales from Tapped; the on-site brewery can be viewed up close from one of the most impressive pub rooms Sheffield has to offer.

Sunday

The day the banks don't open. Unless, of course, one is a pub in an old bank building, like, say, the **Bankers Draft** on Castle Square. The York and County Bank was built in 1904. It had an Aberdeen granite façade and a pair of large bronze gates, and made extensive use of Italian marble – they did stuff properly back then! It was Midland Bank for over 70 years. JDW took it over in 1996. It is a typical 'Spoons on two levels, with plenty of information displayed on Sheffield's rich history, be it the home of football, steel production or Mary, Queen of Scots. *Jaipur* was £2.49 and the perfect accompaniment to a full English breakfast. 50p cheaper again with the voucher.

I finished with a flourish at the **Fargate**, another former bank. In 1889, it opened as the Yorkshire Penny Bank, a landmark Sheffield building. Recently, Thornbridge & Co spent a tidy seven-figure sum restoring it, retaining the splendour and turning it into a fine boozer. Look out for the formidable bank vault doors on display downstairs, or tackle the spiral staircase while clutching 3 pints! There are 10 cask ales on handpump, five of which are Thornbridge. It is bang in the middle of the city centre, so never cheap; *Jaipur* was £5.50 a pint. The quality was good. So ended the Jaipur Jaunt.

Richard Hough

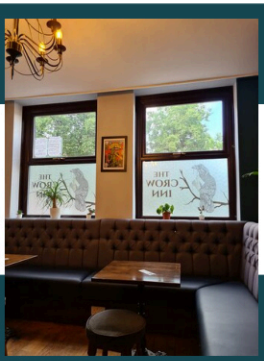


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LANDMARKS FOR SHAKESPEARES

Shakespeares pub on Gibraltar Street has a couple of beery landmarks to celebrate. Since reopening as an independently owned free house in 2011, they have been keeping a tally of how many different beers they've had on the bar, and the tally is displayed on a blackboard.

During Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival in October they served their 9,000th different cask ale. In anticipation of this, some of the team from the pub visited Big Trip Brewery in Manchester for a collaboration brew, which was to be reserved to go on the bar as number 9,000.

A further landmark is the pub's 13,000th different beer, cask and keg combined, which is being celebrated with a beer festival.

The beer festival is being held from 23 to 29 November with a rack of 12 extra beers set up in the snug. As it's a special occasion, expect some unusual styles, weird and wacky beers and some heavy hitters, all to raise a glass to the pub's milestone.





INN BRIEF

Blind Monkey in Walkley is no longer showing Sky Sports because the subscription fee has been increased to a level that isn't viable for the pub. They are looking to replace football screenings with a new programme of entertainment events.

Centre Spot at Base Green has temporarily closed with the departure of the licensee. Stonegate pub company are advertising the lease, so it should reopen as soon as a new tenant is recruited. **Hyde Park** in Dronfield and **Angel** in Holmesfield, among others, are in the same situation!

A number of Stonegate's branded venues are being moved from managed to leased models. In Sheffield city centre, the former **Yates** on Cambridge Street is closed for refurbishment and expected to reopen as Barkers & Co. **Graduate** on Surrey Street and the now-closed **Walkabout** on Carver Street are also being advertised for tenants to take over.

The **Stocks** in Ecclesfield reopened at the start of October.

Beerworks on Abbeydale Road took part in SIBA's Drop the Pint Day on 9 October. This saw the price of a pint of Abbeydale Moonshine reduced to what it would cost if we paid German levels of tax on beer. SIBA points out that the UK has one of the highest rates of tax on pub pints in Europe, 10 times as high as in Germany.

The dates have been announced for **Sheffield Beer Week 2027** – 8 to 14 March. This sees a huge list of venues across the city putting on special beery events, including tap takeovers, meet-the-brewer events, food and beer pairing menus, themed quiz nights and more. There will, however, be no Indie Beer Feast, which is taking a year off and is expected to relaunch at a new venue in 2028. Jules Gray of Hop Hideout isn't simply taking it easy, though, and will be running some special beer week events in Leah's Yard outside her shop and bar.

Dog & Partridge on Trippet Lane in Sheffield city centre held another 'Dogfest' event on 10 October, with live music from 3pm and 12 different artists on the bill. These events have been run for a couple of years now and continue to be popular. Also look out for their other music events, including Dog Jam on the first Thursday of the month and Americana(ish) sessions on the last Thursday of the month.

Old Queen's Head, next to Sheffield Interchange, now opens for breakfast at 10am.



The former **Foresters** on Division Street in Sheffield city centre reopened on 16 October after refurbishment as **Six Barrel Drafthouse**. There are six handpumps on the bar for cask ale and cider.

We are reminded that Christmas is coming, and there are a number of pubs that host brass bands and carol singing. **Three Merry Lads** on Redmires Road in Lodge Moor are hosting Loxley Silver Band on the evening of 23 December.

Albion on London Road in Sheffield hosted a Little Mesters tap takeover on 18 September.

Hallamshire Hotel on West Street in Sheffield city centre (no real ale or craft beer, unfortunately, but it is good for music) is hosting a Pulp takeover on 30 October. They previously ran a pop-up event at a Manchester pub in August, when the Rat & Pigeon had Pulp decor, a jukebox programmed by Jarvis Cocker and Pulp merchandise on sale.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OFFER TO REOPEN TAP & BARREL

Plans to reopen the former Tap & Barrel on Waingate have been set out in a Community Investment Offer from Sheffield Community Media. The crowdfunding campaign is inviting the public to become community shareholders and co-owners in the development of a new live arts and media venue in Castlegate.

The pub was acquired earlier this year by the charitable community benefit society, which hosts and supports Sheffield Live! radio and TV. They plan to renovate the building to accommodate radio, TV and podcasting studios, to reopen the ground floor as a public café and bar, and to offer performance spaces for local artists and promoters.

Sangita Basudev, co-founder of Sheffield Live! said: "So many people have shared with us their memories of the pub and its neighbourhood and their hopes for what it can become in the future. Now we need people to get on board, as community shareholders, to help raise the investment needed to restore and renew this unique city centre asset."

The Community Investment Offer is live and open to the public until 10 December on the Crowdfunder platform and via the society's website, with more information available at **sheffieldlive.org/shares**.





INN BRIEF

There's been lots going on at the **Commercial** in Chapeltown recently, including their Oktoberfest celebration featuring the Frumptarn Guggenband, followed the next day by a charity chip butty day with John 'The Man with the Pram' Burkhill as guest of honour.

Drinkers at **Hallamshire House** on Commonside, Sheffield, who were around at 5pm on 16 October, got to enjoy a free drink thanks to a bar tab paid for by comedian Joe Lycett as part of his Channel 4 show, *Live from the Lycett Arms*.

Rutland Arms on Brown Street in Sheffield city centre, hot on the heels of a Holy Goat tap takeover on keg and bottle that featured a number of birthday beers, has the newly launched session-strength edition of Allsopp's *IPA* on cask. The Allsopp's brand is a revival of the original Samuel Allsopp brewery of Burton upon Trent, which dates from 1822 – you could say it has over 200 years of heritage to draw on! The beer is a 4.4% ABV dark copper-coloured ale with herbal, spicy and resinous notes and a refreshing, rounded bitterness from the UK Challenger hops, complemented by a sweetish character from the Golden Promise malted barley.



Eyam Brewery Taproom in Tideswell continues to develop. New toilets have opened upstairs, heaters have been fitted above the tables ready for the winter, and the open kitchen has been built, with the first burgers coming off the griddle on 9 October.

The kitchen is using local suppliers wherever possible, including Hancock's butchers in Stoney Middleton, potatoes from Mosley's in Wormhill, bread from Tindalls of Tideswell and everything else from Holdsworth's in Tideswell.

The shop area still sells branded clothing and small-pack beer to take away and, of course, the bar showcases their range on both cask and keg.

Fat Cat in Kelham Island has announced they are planning a January sale with selected drinks half-price from 2 January at 11am. This includes their *Fat Cat House Ale*, which will be on offer for a bargain £2.30.

Shoulder of Mutton in Bradwell has been running a fundraising campaign for causes associated with Sheffield Children's Hospital, including a darts knockout and raffle. A total of 33 players took part in the darts tournament and lots of raffle tickets were sold on the night, raising £1,560. Further fundraising plans include a kids' Halloween party and a Christmas hamper raffle.

Horse & Jockey in Tideswell has taken Halloween decorating time as the start of winter, which means the fire is now getting lit on cold nights! They've also adjusted their opening hours following customer feedback and are now open from midday every day, with a new lunch menu served from midday to 2:30pm Monday to Thursday. The kitchen is also open from 5pm to 8:30pm on those days, midday to 9pm on Friday and Saturday, and midday to 7pm on Sunday.

With the change of season, many pubs have launched new food menus, including **Old Hall Hotel** in Hope, **Red Lion** in Litton and **Scotsman's Pack** in Hathersage.

INN BRIEF

White Hart in Bradwell has been running a happy hour offering 10% off all drinks between 4pm and 8pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

A party was held at **Olde Bowling Green Inn** at Bradwell on Saturday 24 October to celebrate the first anniversary of the current management getting the keys to the pub!

The landlord of the **White Lion** in Great Longstone has moved on, with the pub closing for refurbishment. This Robinsons Brewery pub will be reopening with a new couple running it and a new look!

The beer festival held at **Anglers Rest** in Bamford raised £500 for the Bamford Carnival Committee, which supports local community organisations such as Bamford Pre-School and Bamford Tennis Club. The pub has an ongoing rotation of weekday promotions and events: half-price main meals on Mondays, pizza and pool on Tuesdays, curry and quiz night on Wednesdays, two-for-one burgers and music on vinyl every third Thursday, and fish, chips and cocktails on Fridays.



The arrival of autumn has also seen the fires lit in country pubs, including the **Peak Hotel** in Castleton and **Three Stags Heads** in Wardlow Mires.



Hope Valley Tap & Bottle in Hope have extended their opening hours – Sunday to Thursday 3pm to 9pm and Friday and Saturday midday to 9pm.

They are predominantly a bottle shop but, for those drinking on site (there's seating upstairs, plus some tables outside in the evening), they also have some keg taps showcasing local beers from brewers such as Intrepid, Buxton and Torrside, plus a small list of wines by the glass.

Rambler Inn at Edale now has a station departure board in the pub. They also celebrated a year of Jo and Chris at the helm on 17 October with a party featuring live music.

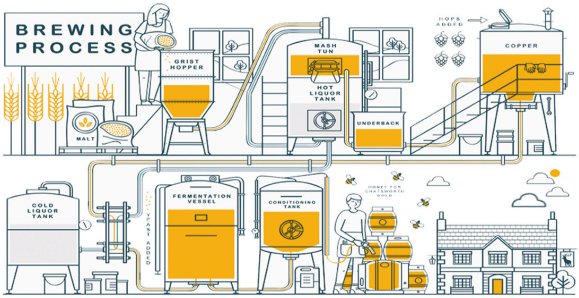
If you are a budding artist who enjoys painting as well as a pub pint, the **Calver Arms** Sip & Paint events may be for you. The next one is on 3 November, with a theme of 'Tiggy Tales'.

There has been frustration at the **Plough** at Leadmill Bridge, near Hathersage, with the road past the pub closed from the Grindleford end and buses diverted for a fair few weeks. The good news, if you fancy a trip there, is that the road reopens on 5 November and the 257 bus can drop you off near the pub again!

The **Bank House** bar in Hathersage celebrated its eighth birthday with a bit of a bash on 2 October.

The **Crispin** at Great Longstone is taking part in Robinsons' annual Old Tom birthday celebration on Saturday 7 November, with the beer available on cask. *Old Tom* is an 8.5% ABV dark ale that has been brewed for 127 years!





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PUB OF THE MONTH
November 2026

Our Pub of the Month for November is the Lord Nelson in the city centre. The building dates to the 1800s, when it was built as terraced houses, and it is recorded as selling beer from around 1854.

It is often nicknamed 'Fanny's', after Fanny Brocklebank, who ran it for 29 years around the time of the second world war. There are two Fannys named in the pub's history, which may be the same person. The Lord Nelson is interested in creating a history display at the pub, so if any readers have information that could help with this project, get in touch with the pub.

The pub is located on Arundel Street, in an area of the city that still contains some of the centre's more industrial buildings. The ground floor is roughly divided into four, with two open seating areas, the bar and a snug. Upstairs is a second bar in the games room, with a pool table and darts. This bar is open on match days and the room can be used for private events. It has occasionally hosted our branch meeting too. There is also a roof terrace with seating.

On the bar are four real ales, usually with one from Abbeydale as a gluten-free option, and the others often from breweries within about 30 miles, such as Bradfield, Ossett, Little Critters and Thornbridge – with an occasional Bass appearance for match days. The pub offers a loyalty stamp scheme: buy 10 drinks costing more than £3 and get one free.

The Lord Nelson has been owned by Stefan Lowrie for about seven years. He previously worked for the University of Sheffield and managed the University Arms. Manager Paddy formerly worked for Nottingham's Castle Rock Brewery and has been at the Nelson for two years, managing both bar and cellar.

Sport is a focus of the pub, which is very busy on Sheffield United match days. There is usually sport playing quietly on their many screens, and the pub is home to not only multiple pool and darts teams, but also their own football club – AFC Lord Nelson. Each Sunday, the pub holds a meat and beer raffle to provide funding for the club, with complimentary pork pies and sausage rolls on offer.

Join us from 8pm on **Tuesday 10 November** to celebrate their well-earned award, which we'll present at around 9pm.

Dan Rowe







AWARD PRESENTATIONS



PUB OF THE YEAR 2026 (Overall)
KELHAM ISLAND TAVERN Russell Street



SPECIAL AWARD 2026
MARK SIMMONITE Perch and Dead Parrot Brewery



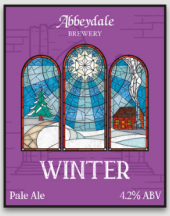
PUB OF THE MONTH September 2026
CROW INN Scotland Street

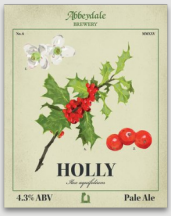


PUB OF THE MONTH October 2026
PANGOLIN Hillsborough









ABBEYDALE BREWERY

We're very excited this month to be releasing ***Roam Around York***, a 4.8% red rye brewed in collaboration with the mighty Brew York! As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, Brew York are marking their 10th – so for a combined ruby anniversary, we simply had to make a red beer. This one uses both hops and malts we haven't used before, including CaraRed barley from Weyermann in Germany, and Karma and Emperor hops from the Charles Faram development programme. Expect a zesty, bitter marmalade character balanced by sweet hints of biscuit, honey and caramel.

Continuing our Legacy Series as our 30th anniversary year starts to draw to a close, ***Holy Water*** (6.0%) is back. Still brewed to the original recipe, which dates back over 20 years. Packing a punch at 6.0% ABV but still wonderfully smooth and well-balanced, made using Willamette, Citra and Centennial hops. Notes of zesty citrus and juicy nectarine are backed up by delicately sweet orchard fruits, followed up with a gentle yet lingering bitterness. It's an Abbeydale classic!

We've got a new *Salvation* on the way, a ***Mocha Stout***, 5.0%. This is our second collaboration with the super Castleton Coffee Co, featuring two different roasts of their coffee alongside delicious cacao nibs, to create a rich, chocolate-y, rounded and bitter-sweet stout.

And it's time for our seasonal specials to start to take on a festive feel – we're keeping it subtle though for now with the return of ***Winter*** (4.2%), a crisp and flavourful Ekuanot hopped pale which sits within our Stained Glass series, and Holly (4.3%) back on bars featuring beautiful botanical inspired illustrations on the pump clips. This one features Nelson Sauvin, Willamette and Cascade hops which come together to bring an array of tasty citrus and a well-balanced bitterness





STANCILL

Treason, a spiced Yorkshire parkin 4.5% porter is back, bringing all those comforting toasty, roasty flavours thanks to a nine malt blend. Added ginger gives *Treason* a signature spark of warmth.

Casper the ghostly 4.0% pale ale is possessed by plenty of Olicana hops, manifesting tropical flavours and a balanced bitterness.

Godiva a beautifully smooth and sweet 4.0% blonde ale with mild bitterness thanks to the excellent British-bred Godiva hop.

Moondance, a 4.5% pale ale. Loaded with British Cascade hops, *Moondance* has intense orange flavours with a lychee sweetness and nature-invoking floral and pine aromas



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TAP YARD EVENT

The 3 October, an unseasonably warm, sunny day, saw **Intrepid Brewery** and **High Peak Cider** jointly host a tap yard event.

High Peak Cider have recently moved from Furness Vale to Vincent Works in Brough, near Bradwell – a few doors down from Intrepid!

Both producers opened their premises with a pop up bar showcasing a range of their beers and ciders with tables out in the yard. As is usual at these events Sunshine Pizza Oven were trading there too!





BREWERY BITS

Seasonal beers appearing from **Acorn Brewery** in October included *Sinister Sparkler* (4.2% ABV lightly ginger-spiced oatmeal stout) and *Phantasm* (4.2% ABV hoppy pale ale).

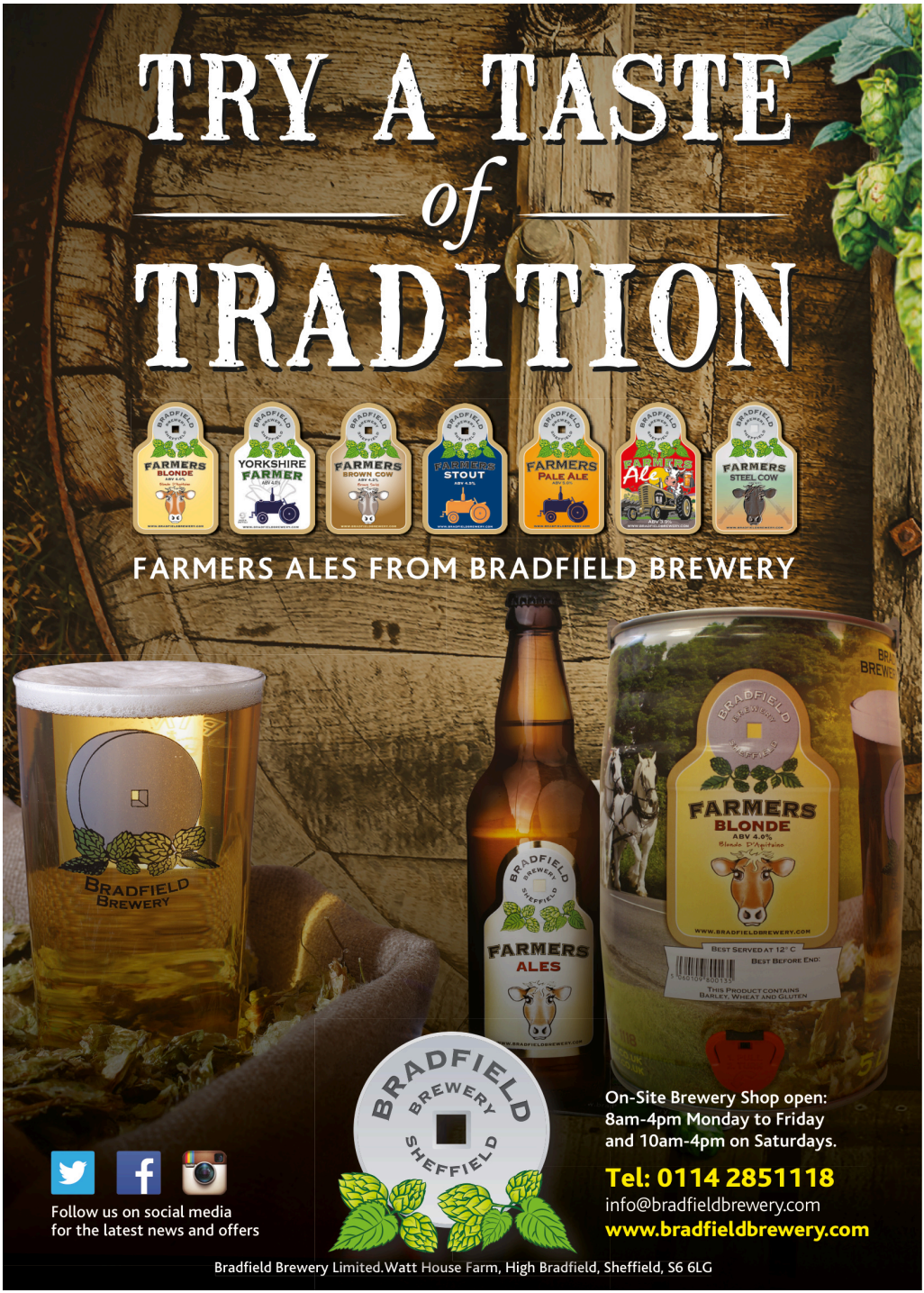
Things have been quite busy at **Blue Bee Brewery**, with recent brews including a 5% Nectaron- and Riwaka-hopped pale ale, version 93 of *American Five Hop*, *Ginger Beer*, *Oat Stout* (5% ABV), single-hop *Simcoe* (3.8% ABV) and a 6% ABV hazy IPA called *A Cup of Ambition*. They have also brewed one of the winning beers from the homebrew competition organised for Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival.

CAMRA Sheffield & District committee member Neil Harvey (our press officer) recently took a trip over to **Mallinsons Brewery** in Huddersfield for a collaboration, with the end product supplied to Steel City 50. The beer is a 5% ABV porter described as smooth, rich and fruity. We're told he did help dig out the mash tun, but, alas, there is no photographic evidence of this...

Thornbridge's Year of Beer monthly special in cask for October was *Autumnity*, a 4.8% autumn ale. October's special will be followed in November by *Roggenwolf*, a 5% ABV rye IPA, and in December by *Ena*, a 4.6% ABV milk stout.

Bradfield Brewery have collaborated with local artist Luke Horton on a new beer, *Mardy Moo*, bearing his artwork. A couple of rather special Bradfield beers made an appearance at the Steel City 50 – *Holy Cow* (7.8% ABV IPA), and *Imperial Milk Stout* (7.4% ABV).




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STEEL CITY HOMEBREW COMPETITION

To celebrate Steel City 50 Beer & Cider Festival, we decided to run a competition for homebrewers throughout the region to bring their best brews

The format of the competition was to be as creative as possible, different from the usual festival range, and to show flair and talent within the parameters.

Each winning beer would then be brewed by a Sheffield-based commercial brewery to be showcased at the festival. The main condition was that the beers had to be commercially replicable and that they would not be able to be barrel-aged or difficult to replicate. This gave some guidance as to what to brew and what could be turned around quickly.

I entered an old favourite of mine, based upon an old recipe from a few years ago. This ended up being a battle between the homebrew clubs of Sheffield: the Kelham Island Homebrew Club and the Sheffield Homebrew Club. Both clubs meet monthly, one meeting at Heist Brew Co in Kelham Island, usually on the second Thursday of the month at around 7pm, and the other at the Sheffield Tap on the last Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Both clubs are friendly and helpful to anyone with an interest in brewing their own beers, from first-timers to old hands of brewing. If you are at a loose end, then pop along or find them on social media for more info. The guys and girls from both clubs are keen to offer practical advice and tips that improve the standard for all.

The breweries that offered the facilities to scale up a homebrew recipe were **Little Critters**, **Little Mesters**, **Duality** and **Blue Bee**.

All of the breweries are renowned for producing flavourful and enjoyable beers in their own right and the judging of the homebrewed beers fell to the brewers from these breweries.

The winning amateur brewers are:

- **Brian Glossop** with ***Dust from Another Sun***, brewed at Duality: a New England IPA that, knowing Brian, will be brimming with punchy hops.
- **Jamie Smith** with ***A Cup of Ambition***, brewed at Blue Bee: a New Zealand-hopped pale ale.
- **Joe Lee** with ***King Salmon***, brewed at Little Critters: an amber ale.
- **Liz and Steve Philpots** with ***Phoenix*** beer brewed at Little Mesters: a saison.

All of these beers will be sold by the breweries concerned through their usual outlets after Steel City 50.

Rob Barwell



▲ Brian Glossop with mashing paddle and his pumpclip



▲ Joe Lee collecting a sample of his amber ale





▲ Liz and Steve Philpots brewing a saison ale at Little Mesters (Liz's beer may have a few hops) and the pumpclip

▼ Judging at the Kelham Island Tavern



BREWERY BITS

Tartarus Beers in Leeds have launched a crowdfunding campaign to open a taproom in their home city.

Apparently, Rotherham Day is a thing and was celebrated on 18 September, with **Chantry Brewery** producing a special *Rotherham Pale* (4% ABV) for the occasion. The tap attached to their brewery in Parkgate continues to host a programme of ticketed live music gigs – see their socials for details. The brewery is a short walk from the Tram Train terminus. They also have pubs in Rotherham town centre and Handsworth.



Fuggle Bunny had two beers at Steel City 50 this year, the newer of the two being *It's a Bee Thing*, a 4% ABV session IPA sweetened with honey. The brewery, located between Halfway and Killamarsh, continue to host tap sessions every Friday and on the last Saturday of the month.

Drone Valley Brewery, a community enterprise based at Unstone, near Dronfield, also had two beers at the festival. *Sgt Pepper Stout* is a recipe from the old Spire Brewery of Chesterfield, brought back from the archives now and again and brewed with black pepper for a little spicy kick. The other is a newer release, *Crossover*, a 4.2% ABV Anglo-American pale ale brewed with Olicana and Mosaic hops. They host tap sessions every weekend in a tent attached to the brewery, staffed by volunteers (profits go to local good causes).

Temper Brewing has closed, and the kit is up for sale. The room below the Dronfield Arms that housed the brewery is expected to be converted into a small function room.











BELGIAN BEER TOUR

We recently returned from Podge's 127th Belgian beer tour and a stay in Ypres, West Flanders. Belgium was its usual slightly eccentric self, with the triennial **Poperinge Bieren Hoppefeesten** providing the highlight.

The festival included knitted street furniture and a two-hour procession with about 1,300 participants: lots of dressing up, horses, several marching bands, flags, a flock of sheep and copious hops... only in the Low Countries.

On other days, we visited bars and breweries, and a hop farm – Belhop, where *Saison Belhop* (5.5% ABV) substituted nicely for our morning cuppa. Terrest Brewery (Houthulst) provided an enjoyable morning. Here, father and daughter Johan and Valerie Van der Bauwhede brew from ingredients cultivated on their farm: barley and hops grown on the slopes of the Terrest hill. The short supply chain ends with direct sales to consumers, retailers and the hospitality trade. Valerie led an interesting tour with plenty of samples. Beers produced include Terrest *Golden Tripel* (8% ABV) and the De Plukker range of organic beers.

Also visited were Deca Brewery (Vleteren range of beer), Den Gouden Arend (the tap for Brouwerij Werbrouck) and, possibly the best bar in West Flanders, the Molenhof in Oostvleteren. Our final visit was to In de Vrede, the brewery tap of Westvleteren abbey, where we sampled what has been voted 'best beer in the world' several times – Westvleteren 12.

In addition to several bars, Ypres provided the daily 8pm Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial, with the Last Post played by the local fire brigade. Unveiled in July 1927, this imposing structure includes 54,348 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient during the first world war and whose graves are unknown.

As ever on a short organised Belgian tour, we had a heady mix of good beer, good food and interesting company. It was good to be joined by Barnsley CAMRA stalwarts Alex and Mick.

Paul Ainsworth and **Dave Pickersgill**























MICROPUB ADVENTURES

Scott from the Micropub Adventures blog has refreshed a couple of his rail ale trails, which encourages people to enjoy a day out visiting pubs along railway lines using the train to hop between them.

Sheffield to Retford



The trail has stops at Sheffield (Sheffield Tap) Woodhouse (The Oxbow), Kiveton Bridge (Kiveton Tap), Shireoaks (Ticking Clock Brewery tap room), Worksop (Mallard and Station Hotel) and Retford (Beer Under The Clock, Brew Shed, Idle Valley Tap and Retford Craft House). Northern run an hourly train service along this line on the Leeds to Lincoln route. The bit between Sheffield, Woodhouse and Kiveton can also be done using the X5 bus. You can find details of this trail at **sheffieldretfordtrail.co.uk**.

Three Counties – New Mills to Bredbury and Disley

There are two railway stations in the Derbyshire town of New Mills – Central station on the Sheffield to Manchester line and Newtown station on the Buxton to Manchester line – and both feature on this trail which is a circular starting and ending in New Mills!

At New Mills it features the Beer Shed micropub and Torr Vale Tap – plus the Torrside Brewing tap room which opens one weekend a month over the summer.

On the line from New Mills Central there are four pubs in Marple – the Bevi, Dig Inn, Samual Oldknow and Traders then its on to Romiley (Hop Haus and Crafty Vendor) and Bredbury for the Steel Works. Over on the Newtown line in Disley is a micropub called Malt Disley. Yes, I know!

It is about a 10 minute walk between the two stations in New Mills. You can find details of this and other trails online at **micropubadventures.co.uk**.



BUS 173 REVISITED

Having featured crawls around central Sheffield in recent months, we're back out in the Peak District part of our branch area for an updated look at places for a beer along rural bus service 173. This bus is operated by Andrews of Tideswell and shuttles between Bakewell and Castleton during the daytime every day except Sunday. This is a route we've previously featured, but with a number of new openings and closures it seems a good time to have another look!

If you are connecting from the Sheffield direction, buses 218 or 257 will take you to Bakewell, bus 65 will take you to Tideswell, or bus 272 will take you to Castleton. The 173 also passes Hope railway station. This service takes part in the government-supported fare cap scheme, which currently means that the maximum single fare is £3 per ride; alternatively, a Derbyshire Wayfarer all-day bus pass is available for £9 from the driver or the Travelmaster app. Bus timetables are available on the Travel Derbyshire website, with live tracking at bustimes.org.

There is a choice of pubs in Bakewell; however, the 173 starts just around the corner from the **Joiners Arms** micropub, making that a convenient starting point!

Coming out of Bakewell, the first stop of interest is the **Thornbridge Brewery Tap Room**. It is located in one of the big sheds on the brewery complex, shared with the smaller batch brew kit, and features a bar showcasing their range of cask and keg beers, along with a pizza kitchen and a shop selling merchandise and bottled beers.

Next along the route is the **Ashford Arms** in Ashford-in-the-Water. The bus drops off on the main road just outside the village, but it is only a short walk to this pub, restaurant and hotel owned by the Longbow Hospitality Group, which invested heavily in renovations after buying it closed and boarded up. It's a fairly smart place with several rooms that can cater for different moods – a pint of cask ale in a cosy room by a fire or a nice meal in a bigger, smart looking dining room are both catered for!

In Great Longstone there are two pubs, both owned by Robinsons Brewery. The **White Lion** is a modern local with the bar in the lounge area at the front of the pub and a dining area at the back. At the time of writing, this pub was closed for refurbishment and change of management.

The other pub in the village is the **Crispin**, a big traditional pub building with a quirky feel thanks to a massive collection of ornamental tankards hanging from the ceiling.

Heading up the hill in Little Longstone is the **Packhorse Inn**. This cosy pub started life as a couple of miners' cottages but has been welcoming drinkers since 1787! Their ethos of serving fresh, local produce is applied to both the food and the beer, the latter coming from the nearby Thornbridge Brewery. This is a very popular dining destination and booking is advisable. There is an additional area for drinkers at the rear through the beer garden.

At the top of the hill, behind the Monsal Head Hotel, is the **Stables Bar**. A range of cask ales and a food menu are available here, but the big attraction is the breathtaking view from out front over the valley, where you can look down and see the former railway viaduct, which is now part of the Monsal Trail.

Two buses a day dive down the hillside from the pub car park into Cressbrook Dale, which is an interesting ride. On all other trips on the



















Tupton Tap Team Take on The Ranmoor Inn



Sheffield have something new to look forward to, as Richard and Jo, the team behind the successful Tupton Tap in Chesterfield, take on The Ranmoor Inn.
Richard and Jo have built a strong reputation for their passion for great beer, a warm welcome and creating a pub that sits firmly at the heart of its community.

Their commitment to quality cask ale earned Tupton Tap a place in the 2026 Good Beer Guide, something they are understandably incredibly proud of.



Cask ale will be a major part of their plans for the pub, with a regularly changing selection giving customers the opportunity to discover beers from both established and independent breweries. Richard and Jo want The Ranmoor to become a place where beer drinkers know there will always be something interesting to try, alongside well-kept favourites.

A programme of tap takeovers and meet the Brewer events will give customers the chance to meet the breweries behind the beer. Abbeydale and Ossett Brewery are booked to visit before the end of the year, with more planned for 2027.
The Ranmoor Inn has its own identity, customers and community, the pair are keen to build on what makes the pub special while putting their own stamp on its beer offering, hoping The Ranmoor Inn will earn its own place in the Good Beer Guide.



Richard and Jo commented “With regular guest ales, brewery collaborations, tap takeovers and opportunities to meet the people behind the pint, this is the start of an exciting new chapter for The Ranmoor Inn, one we are very excited to be part of!”

www.ranmoorinnsheffield.co.uk **www.facebook.com/theranmoorinn**

173, you can be dropped off on request near the Three Stags Heads (which is also served once a day by bus 257a to Sheffield) at Wardlow Mires.

The **Three Stags Heads** is an absolutely legendary heritage pub that is like a living museum. Licensees Kath and Andy hold court along with their lurcher dog, helping create an atmosphere where strangers sit around the open fire enjoying conversation and a pint. A choice of four cask ales is available, usually from Abbeydale, Eyam and Intrepid breweries, including the house beer Black Lurcher, a strong stout. Note: this pub opens only Thursday to Sunday and is cash only.

The next village the 173 arrives at is Litton, home of the award-winning **Red Lion** pub. This is the classic country inn, with multiple cosy rooms with low beams and fireplaces. The small taproom containing the bar is at the far end of the building, while the rest of the pub is generally used by diners – the food here is popular! The bar has a range of cask ales and keg beers, always including some from local breweries. There are also hotel rooms upstairs.

Tideswell offers a pub crawl in its own right. At one end of the village is the **Horse & Jockey**, a traditional local pub spread across three areas. The bar features a regularly changing range of cask ales, and home-cooked pub grub is served.

There are two pubs in the centre of the village, the **Star** and the **George**. At the far end of the village, on the industrial estate, is the **Eyam Brewery Taproom**.

The taproom opens Thursday to Sunday, serves a range of Eyam's beers on both cask and keg, and has an open kitchen offering a smash burger menu and a shop selling bottled and canned Eyam beers to take away, as well as branded clothing.

Heading out of Tideswell, on the crossroads, sits the **Anchor**, a Robinsons pub that also serves food. It has benefited from significant investment in refurbishment, although the bit that hit the headlines was the creation of a dedicated parking space for tractors.

Next, the bus passes through Great Hucklow, the village where Eyam's actual brewery is based. However, there is currently no pub here – the Queen Anne is closed and up for sale following the long-standing licensees' retirement. There is the option of leaving the bus on the B6049 and walking up the country lane into Little Hucklow for the Blind Bull, a restored pub that offers food and hotel accommodation.

Bradwell has a choice of three pubs. On the main road served by the 173 is the **Shoulder of Mutton**, while just up the hill from the infamous 'Bradwell Gap' that bus 272 squeezes through is the **White Hart**, which is associated with Bradfield Brewery. Stay on for another stop, then walk uphill into the residential area for the **Olde Bowling Green Inn**, which features a beer garden with a view!

Brough is home to Intrepid Brewery and High Peak Cider, which host the occasional open days in the summer, while the only pub there is the **Travellers Rest**, on the main road down the Hope Valley with a campsite at the rear.

In Hope, we've regularly mentioned the **Old Hall Hotel**, the **Woodroffe Arms** and the **Cheshire Cheese** over the years, all of which are going strong, but they are now joined by **Hope Valley Tap & Bottle**. This is a specialist bottle shop that also has a number of craft beers on tap, with the option of drinking in – there is an upstairs seating area. The beers on tap are usually from Derbyshire brewers such as Torrside, Buxton or Intrepid.

Finally, into Castleton. Little has changed here. Cask ale options include the **Swiss Tap**, the **Olde Cheshire Cheese**, the **Peak Hotel**, the **Old Nags Head** (look out for the Lucky Hoof house beer supplied by the local Intrepid Brewery), the **Bulls Head** (Robinsons Brewery), the **Castle Inn** (Mitchells & Butlers Vintage Inn chain) and the **George**.

Andy Cullen















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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.

OCTOBER



Mallard, Worksop

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 Worksop 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 proceeded 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

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 **Princess Royal** in Crookes. Bus 52 or 52a will get you there.

Special Award

8pm Thu 12 Nov

Join us at **Beerworks**, the Abbeydale Brewery tap, as we recognise **Sue & Pat Morton**, founders of Abbeydale Brewery, for their ongoing contribution to Sheffield's beer scene. Buses 75/76 and 97/98 go there.



Kidderminster (CAMRA)

Thu 12 Nov – Sat 14 Nov

Held at the **Kidderminster Harriers Social & Supporters Club** featuring around 40 beers and 15 ciders plus wines, spirits, soft drinks and snacks. Live entertainment Friday night. Entry tickets are a package that includes entry, programme, glass and beer tokens and are slightly cheaper if purchased online in advance.

Festival volunteers coach trip

11am Sat 14 Nov

We're doing the pubs of **Belper** plus a bonus stop at **Drone Valley Brewery**'s tap near Dronfield on the way. Bookings for this are taken at the festival staffing office.

Festival washup meeting

8pm Tue 3 Nov

We look back and review what went well and what can be improved next year. The meeting is held upstairs at the **Gardeners Rest**. Get there on bus 7/8 which stop outside the pub, alternatively it is a 5-10 minute walk from Infirmary Road tram stop.

BECOME A CO-OWNER IN A COMMUNITY PUB

At the corner of the site of Sheffield former mediæval castle, near to Lady's Bridge, is a former pub, originally the Bull and Mouth Inn and more recently known as the Tap and Barrel.

We plan to bring this historic building back into public use as a centre for community arts and media, with a refurbished ground floor bar, a well-stocked beer cellar and spaces for live music and performing arts.

We invite you to join us.



sheffieldlive.org/shares

Sheffield Live! .org

Sheffield Community Media Limited

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Darlington Snooker Club
Wed 18 – Sun 22 Nov
Direct trains run from Sheffield to Darlington.



Sheaf View
Fri 20 – Sun 22 Nov
This pub in Heeley hosts the winter edition of their regular beer festival, which features a pop up bar in the conservatory and further festival beers in the kiosk outside. This event normally sees a number of strong and dark options!

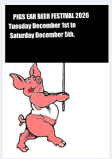


Shakespeares
Mon 23 – Sun 29 Nov
The pub is celebrating having served 13,000 different beers since reopening as a free house by hosting a beer festival with a rack of 12 extra beers in the snug.

Committee meeting
8:30pm Tue 24 Nov
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.

DECEMBER

Branch meeting
8pm Tue 3 Nov
Venue TBD.



Pigs Ear (CAMRA)
Tue 1 – Sat 5 Dec
Hackney, East London.

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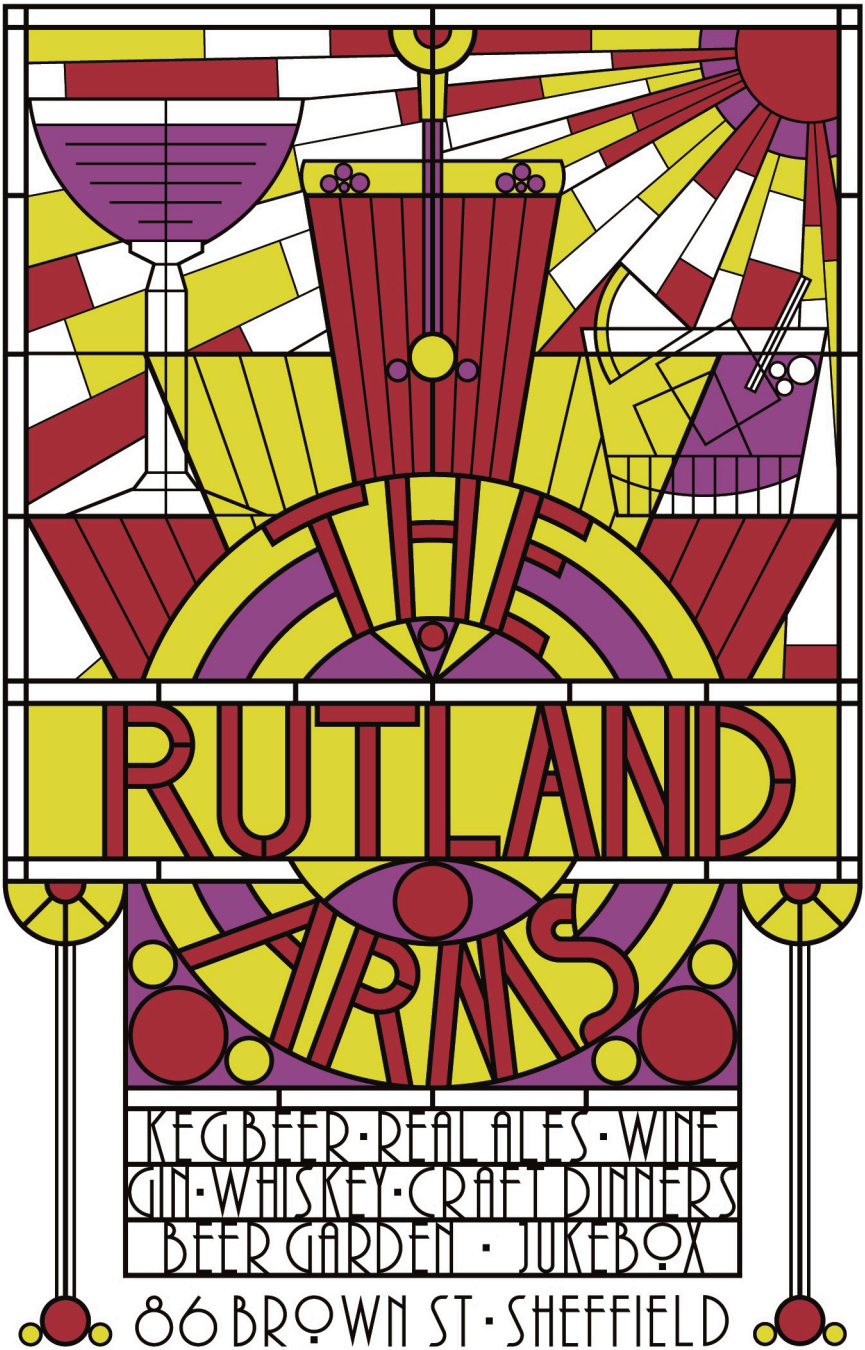
Your membership supports the campaign to preserve quality beer, cider and perry, along with cherished pubs and clubs that bring us together.

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