

PEEL ALE

Dronfield & District CAMRA

Issue No.14 : Spring 2025



Visit Dronfield's Classic Pubs!



Town Centre Pub Guide Inside

dronfield.camra.org.uk



SPRING VIBES & LOTS OF BREWING GOING ON!



THE BRAMPTON BREWERY TEAM ARE READY FOR SOME SPRING SUNSHINE & WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO BRINGING YOU SOME LOCALLY BREWED REAL ALES.



ALL OF OUR BEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO BUY OVER THE BAR AT ONE OF OUR FOUR TRADITIONAL PUBS OR IN OUR WELL STOCKED SHOP, IN THE HEART OF BRAMPTON!

A LOCAL BEER DELIVERY SERVICE IS IN OPERATION, PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

OUR VENUES ARE PROUD SUPPORTERS OF LOCAL LIVE MUSIC! CHECK OUT OUR SOCIALS FOR MORE INFORMATION

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S40 2QT
01246 563750

THE TRAMWAY TAVERN
192 Chatsworth Road
S40 2AT
01246 200111

THE GLASS WORKS
388 Sheffield Road
S41 8LF
01246 768688

4 & 5 CHATSWORTH BUSINESS PARK • S40 2AR
• 01246 221 680 • info@bramptonbrewery.co.uk •

FROM THE EDITOR



as a member, we have regular branch meetings for those keen on the campaigning side of things and socials for those just wanting to enjoy pubs and beer with like minded people!

In this issue we've got reports on things the branch has been up to, details of things we have planned, guides to local pubs and beer festivals plus a few other bits of interest too. I hope you enjoy it!

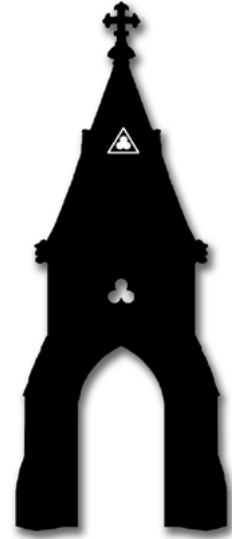
Looking ahead in 2025 there are lots of great beery events planned in our region including a number of beer festivals, kicking off in February with Chesterfield's event at the Winding Wheel Theatre and also the winter edition of the Great British Beer Festival at its new home of Magna, near Meadowhall.

There is also plenty to keep you entertained in the pubs and clubs of Dronfield & District too, keep an eye on our socials as we'll share information where we think it'll be of interest!

Andy Cullen - Editor

Welcome to our spring issue of Peel Ale magazine, published by the Dronfield & District branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). Our organisation, with the exception of a small team of head office staff, is entirely run by volunteers and we do it because we are passionate about pubs and good beer. Pubs provide a social space to relax and enjoy a tasty beverage among friends and also to meet new people too and on that theme our volunteers have held a number of meet and greet events around the area over the summer.

If you are interested in pubs and beer we'd love to have you



 facebook.com/groups/DronfieldCamra

 [@DronfieldCAMRA](https://twitter.com/DronfieldCAMRA)

Opinions expressed are those of the author and may not represent those of CAMRA, the local branch or editor. Peel Ale is © CAMRA Ltd.

*For legal reasons a full name and address must be provided with all contributions.

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ADVERTISING IN PEEL ALE

Advertising rates per issue are:

Half page advert: £60

Full page advert: £120

To book your advertising space, please contact Peter Boitoult:

advertising@dronfieldcamra.org.uk

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Artwork must be supplied in high resolution PDF, TIFF or JPEG file formats, please.

Note: we are unable to accept artwork supplied in Microsoft Word, Publisher or Powerpoint.

Please contact us to discuss any artwork advice.

artwork@dronfieldcamra.org.uk

ISSUE 15 COPY DEADLINE

Any submissions for the next issue of Peel Ale must be received by 1st April 2025.

PUB, CLUB AND BREWERY NEWS

The **Miners Arms** in Dronfield Woodhouse had been run by Kat and Wayne on a temporary lease from Heineken's Star Pub Company and did a fantastic job of making it a welcoming community local. They've now left as the pub company has found someone to take a longer term lease and that is Jon Church. The pub closed for refurbishment in August which included a refreshed interior, renovation to the outside of the building and a bit of a fettle for the beer garden. The pub reopened in late September it is expected to offer an expanded range of cask ales along with food, with home cooked pub classics on the menu.

At the **Jolly Farmer** the saying is probably "under old management". Karl and Ashley have been running the pub for the Pub People Company for almost 20 years and have now taken over the lease themselves – so no longer a Pub People venue but still under the same management!

The **Coach & Horses** continues to be a great place to try new beers from Thornbridge brewery and the real excitement among beer geeks has been the series of beers brewed on their newly acquired Burton Union set. This piece of brewing heritage was originally at Marstons brewery in Burton on Trent and used for brewing Pedigree, however under the new ownership of Carlsberg there was no longer any place for such tradition there! The first of the Thornbridge Union beers was a special edition of Jaipur, this was then followed by a number of special beers designed specifically for brewing on the union set, including a number of collaborations.

The **Dronfield Arms** continues to have its regular events including a Tuesday darts tournament, Wednesday quiz and Thursday open-mic nights. The Pizza Pi kiosk out back serves from Wednesday through to the weekend if you fancy a pizza with your pint!

The **Underdog** has applied for planning permission to extend into the neighbouring shop unit to give them more capacity along with fettling up the frontage for a consistent look and creating an outdoor drinking area at the rear.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the **Beer Stop** has seen some changes under the new ownership although the basics – a small specialist beer shop with some craft beers on tap with the option of drinking on site or taking away – remain the same!

They regularly host events with a pop up street food trader. Keep an eye on their social media for announcements about events or changes to opening hours.

The **Manor House** as usual has had a programme of events in the outdoor drinking area over the summer including DJs and live music, as we head towards winter the Friday night DJ continues but indoors! On the bar there is just the one cask ale – Abbeydale Moonshine – which is always immaculately kept!

The **Travellers Rest** in Apperknowle, as well as its selection of cask ales and ciders, is well known for the cheese platters on their food menu and the ability to buy cheese to take home. This has now been expanded on with the opening of a shop next to the pub car park selling a range

of groceries. The "Olde Cobblers" is in the style of a farm shop with fresh bread, eggs, fruit, milk and more available alongside other essentials, a facility not previously available in the village!

Clair and Adrian left the **Angel at Holmesfield** at the end of November, but the Stonegate pub - now being run by Anne and Sammy - will still offer gluten free food options.

Brewery News

Collyfobble brewed a summer special called "tinna code owt" (roughly translates as "it isn't cold out, you won't need your big coat"). The beer was a nice, refreshing 3.6% ABV blonde ale packed full of Amarillo hops.

Since then there has been a special edition double dry hopped version of Grindleford Grit. This wasn't actually planned, it happened because head brewer Ash was absent minded and dry hopped it a second time!

Mizzlin' Steady is a new 4.5% 'hoppy red ale'. Mosaic and Bramling Cross hops combine with a specialised malt bill to bring flavours of stone fruits and berries, reminiscent of harvest time and the leaves changing.



BREWERY TAP

Open Fridays & Saturdays

Special Events Live music
at **S18 4AB**

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from Sheffield to
Unstone Hill stop

Check Facebook
Drone Valley Brewery



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volunteers, profits to
good causes*

AWARD WINNING REAL ALES

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seasonal specials**

*on draught & bottled
at discerning local
pubs, clubs & shops*

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and run by members to benefit
the local community

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www.dronevalleybrewery.com

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OUR CORNER OF THE WORLDWIDE WEB

DRONFIELD CAMRA WEBSITE LATEST



Dronfield



Home

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Dronfield and District CAMRA 'Out and About'
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Pub of the Year Award
Club of the Year
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Good Beer Guide
Special deals for CAMRA members
Public Transport in our area
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QR codes

Members' Area

National CAMRA
Beer festivals
Join us
National pub guide
Discourse
What's Brewing

Sign in

Welcome to the Dronfield & District branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale

Click here for more information on the National CAMRA website.

HANDPUMP HIJACK

ASK, "IS IT CASK?"

The launch of Fresh Ale by Carlsberg Monsters Brewing Company (CMBC) as a handpump rig, which misleads consumers into thinking they will be served a cask-conditioned beer - which is far from the case.

Serving so-called 'Fresh Ale' though a handpump also leads a genuine cask beer off the bar, depriving consumers of choice.

CMBC claim to champion cask beer but have instead closed breweries and removed cask lines from bars.

Online voting is now open to Dronfield Branch members. Click here to submit your nominations for 2025 Pub Of The Year.

VOTE

Online Voting is currently OPEN.

If you don't have or can't remember your CAMRA login details, [Click HERE to create or reset your password.](#)

Branch Diary

Branch Meeting
Tuesday 11 February 2025 19:30

Branch Meeting
Tuesday 11 March 2025 19:30

AGM & Branch Meeting
Tuesday 6 April 2025 19:00

(click above for more)

Peel Ale Magazine
Local news can be found in our magazine, "Peel Ale" our branch magazine

Click here to download the LATEST ISSUE

MEMBERS, Would you like to receive emails from the branch about upcoming social events and meetings (or to stop receiving these emails)? Click here to log into the national CAMRA website and update your preferences. You can also opt to receive messages from other branches under [Branches](#)

WhatPub
Pub Guide
A map and list of all the branch area pubs

Dronfield & District CAMRA's website is the place to go for up to date information on activities supported by the Branch.

We have links to national campaigns and a diary of social events that are open to anyone who wishes to join in with.

If you'd like to get in touch, this is where you'll find our contact details and links to our social media sites.

We'd love to hear from you or see you at a future get together.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more – or just head straight to:

dronfield.camra.org.uk.

Rich Taylor (webmaster)



WHAT IS LOCALE?



Dronfield and District CAMRA participates in the LocAle scheme, which is designed to encourage pubs and clubs to stock at least one locally

produced beer at all times. The branch defines 'locally produced' as being within 15 miles of the pub. The following pubs and clubs have joined the scheme – why not pop in and see what's on the bar? Look for the LocAle logo!

For further information contact Peter Boitout on locale@dronfieldcamra.org.uk

Beer Stop, Dronfield: Bottles and cans from various local brewers.

Coach & Horses, Dronfield: Numerous Thornbridge ales.

Cross Daggers, Coal Aston: Drone Valley.

Drone Valley Brewery Tap, Unstone: Ales from on-site brewery.

Dronfield Arms, Dronfield: Abbeydale, usually Moonshine and the on-site Temper Brewery.

George & Dragon, Holmesfield: Bradfield and Peak Ales.

Green Dragon, Dronfield: Bradfield (usually Farmers Blonde).

Hyde Park Inn, Hilltop: Bradfield (usually Farmers Blonde).

Jolly Farmer, Dronfield Woodhouse: Drone Valley and Bradfield.

Manor Hotel, Dronfield: Abbeydale Moonshine

Miners Arms, Hundall: Drone Valley.

Peacock, Barlow: On-site Collyfobble brewery.

Pioneer Club, Coal Aston: Drone Valley.

Royal Oak, Coal Aston: Drone Valley.

Royal Oak, Millthorpe: Bradfield (usually Farmers Blonde).

Rutland Arms, Holmesfield: Bradfield and Peak Ales.

Travellers Rest, Apperknowle: Bradfield (usually Farmers Blonde).

Underdog, Dronfield: Chantry beers.

BRANCH MEETINGS & SOCIAL TRIPS

Fri. 21st February: Dronfield Bottom social, meeting at Drone Valley Brewery 5.00pm, then bus at 7.00pm to Coach & Horses and work back to town centre.

Tues. 11th March: Branch meeting at the Gate Inn, Troway.

Tues. 8th April: AGM followed by Branch meeting at the Pioneer Club, Dronfield.

Sat. TBC May: Nottingham Mild crawl by train from Dronfield.

Branch meetings commence at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

Please check the branch website and social media accounts for further details or email Peter B. at socials@dronfieldcamra.org.uk

dronfield.camra.org.uk

The Peel Ale production team welcomes any articles, letters and suggestions for future publication. Submissions for the next issue of Peel Ale must be received by 1st April 2025

IN TO THE VALLEY 2024 MEET & GREET EVENT

The One Valley Beer Festival was held on 8th June 2024, with all of our local real ale pubs putting on special events and additional ales for a day of celebrating and sampling the best of our local pubs. The Dronfield & District CAMRA branch decided to host a Meet & Greet Table at Drone Valley Brewery. We were thrilled to meet many of our current members as well as members from Sheffield, Rotherham, Chesterfield and further afield. We had a number of people asking who we are, and what real ale is and we even managed to make it onto the national CAMRA facebook page! We were very lucky with the weather, despite a bit of wind and the odd light shower, it was a beautiful day and a great opportunity to try to increase our members.

Drone Valley presented an excellent array of 10 of their own ales. Check out the description of each below, there was something for everyone and all very well presented. Particularly worth a shout out was the Jester Pale Ale at 4%, this refreshing light ale was very complimentary to the warm weather and a long day of sampling ales! This friendly community owned brewery has been brewing since 2016 and during the summer the tap is open Fridays & Saturday (usually 4-8), Mondays (usually 4:30-7:30) and the occasional Sundays. Definitely worth a visit located on the industrial estate just behind the Square & Spare Shop on Main Road Unstone.

<



CAMRA - the Campaign for Real Ale
4 h · 🌐

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👉 Over **#VolunteersWeek** we are saying a **big thank you to all of our hardworking CAMRA #volunteers.**

👉 Check out **Dronfield & District CAMRA #volunteering** this weekend!



Dronfield & District CAMRA is at Drone Valley Brewery.
6 h · Dronfield · 🌐

We're here at **Drone Valley Brewery** looking forward to greeting people visiting for **One Valley Festival!**



Thank you so much, Drone Valley Brewery, for hosting us for the day.

Lyn Taylor



Facebook Branch Website

IN THE LOBBY

CAMPAIGNING FOR A PUB FRIENDLY BUDGET



In advance of October's Budget, CAMRA urged its members to email their local MP to convince the new Government to put pubs at the heart of their priorities and help prevent more pub businesses and breweries from closing their doors for good. CAMRA's campaigning is focusing on reducing tax on draught beer and cider served in local pubs, social clubs and taprooms – as well as securing much needed changes to the grossly unfair Business Rates system which penalises pubs. CAMRA also asked the Government to:

- Consider cutting VAT for beer and pub businesses
- Make the energy market fairer for pubs
- Change complicated duty rules which stops licensees and festivals selling take-home pints
- Change the rules on the definition of cider for duty purposes to guarantee consumers are buying quality products

The new MP for North East Derbyshire - Louise Jones - sent the following response:-

"I appreciate the concerns you raise. Pubs are still recovering from the pandemic and have been hit by the cost-of-living crisis, both through increased staff, energy and other costs and through consumers having less money to spend on going out. I am concerned that the last Government failed to protect businesses in the hospitality sector and allowed the running down of our high streets. Indeed, ten local pubs a week closed between 2010 and 2023.

It is for this reason that I support the new Government's five-point plan for putting an end to the decline of the local pub. I welcome, for example, the Government's plans to replace business rates. We need online businesses to pay their fair share compared to bricks-and-mortar businesses like pubs. I am therefore committed to replacing the business rates system with one that rebalances the burden and levels the playing field between our high streets and online giants.

I also welcome the other measures in the plan that will support pubs and help the hospitality sector thrive once again. They include rolling out banking hubs to guarantee face-to-face banking on the high street, so local pubs can continue to serve customers

who rely on cash. They also include investing in clean British energy to cut bills for good and protect pubs from spiking global prices – too many pubs have called last orders over recent years due to soaring energy bills. And they include cracking down on anti-social behaviour with more neighbourhood police paid for by ending wasteful contracts.

I also welcome plans to give communities a strong new 'right to buy' beloved community assets like pubs, giving local people the chance to take over pubs that are closing or set to be sold to the highest bidder.

I know that the Government is keen to engage with hospitality businesses to understand their priorities. On the specific tax measures called for by the CAMRA campaign, I know that it keeps all taxes under review as part of the yearly Budget process and is also closely monitoring the impact of recent reforms to the alcohol duty system. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the drop-in on the 8th October due to prior commitments however, I will continue to monitor this issue.

Thank you once again for contacting me. I can assure you that I am committed to ensuring our pubs are able to thrive again."

Louise Jones MP

Member of Parliament for North East Derbyshire

SPOT THE BREWER

A WINTER QUIZ TO TAX THE MIND

- 1) Which Strait separates Tasmania from Australia?
- 2) Who wore the number six shirt for England in the 2024 Euros?
- 3) Which former Labour Party leader is buried on the Scottish island of Iona?
- 4) Which company, in 1953, introduced tea bags to the U.K.?
- 5) What links an Australian city, a town in Derbyshire and a former British Prime Minister?
- 6) Who was the first British athlete to set a throwing event world record?
- 7) What name is given to the fruit of the oak tree?
- 8) Where, in a hospital, do patients reside?
- 9) Which attacking footballer played for Huddersfield Town, Leeds United, Preston North End, Tranmere and Galway United among others?
- 10) Who's debut studio album was "In the Lonely Hour"?
- 11) Which Brewery uses location names in postal district S18 for many of its beers?
- 12) What was the home of the Norse god Odin?
- 13) Name the largest island to be found in the Firth of Clyde.
- 14) Who captained England in the Rugby World Cup of 1991?
- 15) Which was the longest running U.K. number one single of the 1980s?
- 16) In the famous Monty Python sketch, what was a Norwegian Blue?
- 17) In "Thunderbirds", how was Hiram K. Hackenbacker better known?
- 18) Collectively, how are Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale known?
- 19) What word precedes Ankle, Barrel, Kettle and Oak in the names of four breweries?
- 20) What stands at LS5 3EH?

Closing date for entries is 1st April 2025.

Please provide full details in your answers: e.g. questions 2 and 3 require first names and surnames.

Please email your answers to:
quiz@dronfieldcamra.org.uk

The answers will be sent to all entrants after closing date.

Prizes have been donated by local businesses and will be awarded to winning entries on a random basis. Winners to collect from the donating source.

Roger Hepworth

KEEPING IN TOUCH

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP MARKETING PREFERENCES

We have about 130 members in our Dronfield & District CAMRA branch which has 31 pubs as well as 3 breweries to support. These historical English sociable venues are well worth encouraging with their real ale tradition. Indeed that is the reason CAMRA was established in 1971.

The dozen or so really active members meet regularly for formal meetings in different pubs each month and informally for social meetings visiting several pubs in one area and choosing our Pub or Club of the

year or Season, and contributing to CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide*.

Whether you are an active member or not we would love to meet you and hear what you feel about our activities. You can find them listed on our website.

If when enrolling you opted to receive information by email that is the only way we can contact you. We cannot write to you or phone you unless you also opted for that so please check your options and adjust if necessary... and please do not let membership expire as

the trade needs as much help as possible in these changing times!

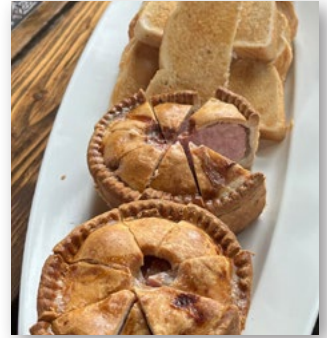
If members would like to receive emails from Dronfield & District CAMRA about upcoming social events and meetings (or to stop receiving these emails) please visit the national CAMRA website and update your preferences.

You can also opt to receive messages from other branches under Branches

account.camra.org.uk/marketing

Ruth Hepworth
(Membership Secretary)

D'YE KEN BARLOW? SUMMER SOCIAL REPORT



There was a bumper turnout for the July branch social – one of those rare summer Saturdays when almost all of our active members were available. A plan was hatched to visit Barlow and the surrounding area to get to know the local pubs some more.

This time we met at the **Rutland Arms** (pictured) which was also the venue for our August branch meeting. As we've stated in these pages previously, the Rutland really is a pub for all seasons. We gathered together in the impressive, outdoor drinking shelter which sprung-up during lockdown, taking the opportunity to get to know some members making their debut on a Dronfield CAMRA social.

Just the six real ales were on offer here and all in fantastic order, including my 'go-to' beer, Theakston Bitter and Timothy Taylor Landlord which one member remarked was as good as he'd tasted. Long-time licensees, Gary and Lucy knew of our visit and laid on some food for the group (pictured) which was gratefully received.

From here, Barlow was the destination. The majority of the troupe caught the No 16 bus

which stops right outside the pub, with others choosing to walk via Cowley Lane. Following the closure of the Hare and Hounds, Barlow is now down to two pubs, the first of which was the **Peacock** on Hackney Lane at the far end of the village. As local drinkers will know, the beers at the pub are brewed on the premises by Collyfobble Brewery and among the usual brews was a new one to me, **T'Inna Code Owt**, a light, summer beer weighing in at just 3.6%. This was consumed in no time at all, in a covered area at the front of the pub in the midst of an unfortunate but brief shower.

Barlow's other pub, the **Tickled Trout** is in the village centre and strikes a fine balance between drinking and dining. Most of the group were drawn to the

two Ashover beers available, Hawaiian Shirt and The Fabrick. There was a good atmosphere in the right-hand side of the pub which was particularly busy during our time there.

Our last stop of the day was the **Royal Oak** at Millthorpe (pictured), a pub known for good real ales and food. For those not in-the-know, the pub, which can be found at the foot of Millthorpe Lane, is essentially one main bar with a smaller room to the left. Real ales included Timothy Taylor Landlord which is a permanent fixture here. A few of our party had not been to some of the places on our itinerary before and enjoyed the rural feel of the pubs. A couple planned ahead and booked a table to eat at the Royal Oak before the afternoon drew to a close.

Pat Hancock



MARCHING ON TOGETHER LEEDS! LEEDS! LEEDS! (ALE! ALE! ALE!)

Catching the 12:02 train from Dronfield, we were greeted in Leeds by clear blue skies and a very pleasant 20°C - an absolutely beautiful afternoon for a CAMRA afternoon session of Ale!

Starting at the **Duck & Drake** (Kirkgate) we were welcomed by a varied selection of around 8 cask ales, which all were very well presented. We especially enjoyed the Wilde Child Razzle Dazzle Raspberry Stout 4.4% ABV, which was light and fruity.



We were sad to leave our first pub, but with more stops planned, we made our way to the hidden entrance of **Whitelock's** (off Briggate). This traditional ale house had 4 cask ales on offer and is tucked away behind the main thoroughfare in the centre of town. Despite the small interior there was plenty of additional seating in the 'yard'. We had a choice of session beers consisting of Vocation Heart & Soul 4.4% ABV, Redwillow's Feckless Best Bitter 4.1% ABV and Brass Castle's Passion Power 4.6% ABV. Those wanting additional offerings visited the **Turks Head**, a sister pub next door which also has plenty of outdoor seating,



creating a long narrow corridor of lively activity.

Our trip then proceeded to **Brew York** (New Briggate), where despite only having Lupu Lion 4.3% ABV on cask, they had plenty of choice on keg, all served very cold which provided a welcome respite from the hot weather whilst we sat inside their very pleasant air-conditioned bar.

The fourth stop of the day, **North Bar** (New Briggate), had no cask but plenty of craft keg beers to choose from and a great busy atmosphere. We sat outdoors again on the picnic style benches, enjoying the weather and the lively bustle of Leeds shoppers walking past.

A Leeds trip wouldn't seem complete without walking to the **Town Hall Tavern** (Westgate). This friendly pub doesn't disappoint offering 6 of Timothy



Taylor's cask selection including of course the classic pale ale of Landlord 4.3% ABV with its citrus and hoppy aroma. A beautiful display of Keighley's finest.

Making our way back to the railway station we stopped in **Tapped** (Boar Lane). This large modern bar and brewery where fermenters, etc could be seen. The huge range of Cask and Keg was overwhelming leaving us wishing we could order in thirds to really appreciate the range!

Our final stop was the **Brewery Tap** (New Station Street), conveniently situated just 5 minutes from the platform. It is a modern establishment with a rooftop garden offering a choice of 3 cask ales, nicely served in traditional ½ pint handled glasses.

Surprisingly, everyone made it safely onto the 6:00 train, and arrived back in Dronfield by 7:15. It was a fantastic trip and a great introduction to cask offerings in Leeds!

Lyn Taylor



CAMRA ONLINE

At present CAMRA has a number of different websites. As well as the main **camra.org.uk** site there is **whatpub.com** – a pub guide which is also home to the beer scoring scheme; What's Brewing – the online newspaper for members and Learn & Discover, the educational platform full of video content and articles, some of which is exclusive to members.

A new version of camra.org.uk which pulls together all the features of the different websites is now live and for those of you that score your beer in pubs (which helps decide which pubs get awarded a place in the national Good Beer Guide) should find it easier to do on the new website!

PUBS DISCOUNT SCHEME

The following pubs in the Dronfield & District CAMRA branch area currently offer a discount to CAMRA members on production of a current membership card against real ales and traditional ciders. All these venues also give discounts for half pints.

Please note that pubs are within their rights to change promotions to suit their business and may not have got round to informing the branch of any changes.

Coach & Horses, Dronfield – Accepts 50p CAMRA Members' Discount Scheme vouchers or 20p off per pint.

Jolly Farmer, Dronfield Woodhouse – 15p off per pint

Miners Arms, Hundall – 20p off per pint of real ale and cider.

Pioneer Club, Dronfield – 10% off per pint.

If you find that any of the above pubs do not offer a discount or if any other pubs in the area are offering a discount for CAMRA members which are not listed above, please let us know.

FESTIVAL TIME UPCOMING BEER FESTIVALS

Great British Beer Festival – Winter edition (CAMRA): Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th February at Magna, Rotherham. Bradford (CAMRA) – Thursday 27th February to Saturday 1st March at Victoria Hall in Salthaire, a world heritage site.

Neepsend Craft Beer – Friday 28th February to Saturday 1st March organised by Peddler at their Neepsend warehouse. Loughborough (CAMRA) – Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th March at the Polish Club.

Indie Beer Feast – Friday 7th to Saturday 8th March at Trafalgar Warehouse in Sheffield City Centre.

Scarborough (CAMRA) – Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd March at the Corporation Club.

Burton on Trent (CAMRA) – Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th March at Burton upon Trent Town Hall.

Holly Bush Inn, Makeney – Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th March at this classic country pub near Belper.

Nottingham Independents – Friday 4th to Saturday 5th April at Nottingham Castle.

Hope Valley Beer & Cider Festival – Friday 18th to Monday 21st April at the Old Hall Hotel, Hope.

Hope Valley Beer & Cider Festival – Friday 2nd to Monday 5th May at the Old Hall Hotel, Hope.

Doncaster – Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th May at Waterdale, Doncaster.

Barrow Hill Rail Ale Festival – Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th May at the railway roundhouse (see advert).

Lincoln (CAMRA) – Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th May at Southside.

Red Lion, Matlock – Friday 23rd – Saturday 24th May at the Red Lion, Matlock Green.

Hope Valley Beer & Cider Festival – Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May

Dronfield One Valley – Saturday 7th June at various pubs in Dronfield.

Stockport (CAMRA) – Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st June at the Guild Hall

Swinton – Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th June at St Margaret's Church (fund raiser).

Merchant Adventurers – Friday 4th to Saturday 5th July at the 668-year-old Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York (fund raiser).

Great British Beer Festival – Summer edition (CAMRA) – Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th August at the Birmingham NEC.

Peterborough (CAMRA) – Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd August.

Hope Valley Beer & Cider Festival – Friday 22nd to Monday 25th August at the Old Hall Hotel, Hope

Nottingham Robin Hood (CAMRA) – Wednesday 8th to Saturday 11th October at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground.

Sheffield Steel City (CAMRA) – Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th October at Kelham Island Museum.

MY TOP 10

I'm Barnaby, a long-time real ale fan, a CAMRA member since 2016, and active in the Dronfield & District branch for the last few years. I grew up in Sheffield and lived there until I moved to Dronfield in 2015. My favourite beers are at different ends of the scale: either a jet-black stout or a dank, juicy IPA. I'm sharing my favourite 10 pubs, in no particular order. The first five were in the last edition of Peel Ale; here are the final five:

6: The Old Queen's Head, Sheffield



There's something undeniably special about having a pint in a place that dates back to 1475. The Old Queen's Head, located on Pond Hill, holds the title of the oldest domestic building in Sheffield, and while it's often mistakenly called the city's oldest pub, that doesn't detract from its immense historical significance. Every visit feels like stepping back in time, with the Grade II-listed building exuding character from every creaky wooden beam.

I first stumbled upon the Old Queen's Head because of its convenient location near my workplace, and it quickly became a favourite haunt for a reasonably-priced lunch. But what really sealed the deal for me were the after-work beers. It's operated by Thwaites Brewery, which means you're always guaranteed a fresh selection of cask ales.

While the pub's name likely honours Mary, Queen of Scots, who was imprisoned in Sheffield in the late 16th century, what I appreciate most is how effortlessly the Old Queen's Head blends history with the casual, welcoming feel of a proper pub.

7: Brew York Tap Room, York



For a beer lover like me, the Brew York Tap Room is nothing short of paradise. Situated in Walmgate, York, this is where the magic of Brew York started. One of the things I love most about Brew York is their creativity. From standard stouts to innovative IPAs, they've mastered the art of brewing, and the taproom is where you get to experience it all first-hand.

I'll never forget the first time I tried their Tonkoko stout, fresh off the cask. It was rich, smooth, and packed with flavour, and from that moment on, I was hooked. The taproom itself is a mix of old and new, with exposed brick walls and vibrant murals giving the space a unique energy. With six cask hand pulls and ten keg taps pouring everything from classic stouts to limited releases, I've always found something new and exciting to try here.

The brewery tours are a must, giving visitors a chance to learn more about how their beers are made while sampling a few along the way. Upstairs, there's a Bavarian-style beer hall with 40 taps, making it one of the biggest beer selections in the region. It's a place where I can spend hours exploring new flavours or simply enjoying a pint of my favourites.

8: Ya-Bard, Stratford-upon-Avon



While Stratford-upon-Avon is known worldwide for its connection to Shakespeare, my focus during a recent visit was on finding great beer. I'm happy to say that Ya-Bard did not disappoint. Tucked away on Rother Street, it's easy to miss due to its modest frontage, but once inside, the space opens up into a craft beer paradise.

Ya-Bard is both a tasting room and a bottle shop, offering an ever-changing selection of craft beers with plenty of IPAs and stouts - two of my personal favourites. It's the kind of place where beer enthusiasts feel right at home, and I was pleasantly surprised by how laid-back and unpretentious the vibe was. There's no cask beer here, but the keg selection more than makes up for it, with a variety of stronger brews that really pack a punch.

What I loved most was the relaxed atmosphere, combined with a great soundtrack that complements the experience. Whether you're popping in for a quick pint or settling in for a tasting session, Ya-Bard has an inviting charm that made my visit unforgettable. It's a gem for craft beer lovers, and I'll definitely be back whenever I'm in town.

9: Bod, Matlock



Part of the Titanic Brewery's chain of café bars, Bod on Dale Road in Matlock is a place I've grown to love, particularly through Dronfield CAMRA social outings. Housed in a beautifully restored former Boots chemist, the venue retains much of its art deco charm, with its stylish interior making it feel like you've stepped into a piece of local history.

The beer, of course, is the main attraction, with Titanic Brewery's cask and keg selections always on top form. Their Plum Porter, in particular, is one of my all-time favourite beers, and it's consistently served at its best here. There's something comforting about the way Bod combines its elegant setting with a laid-back, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned Titanic fan or a newcomer, the pub has something for everyone.

Their menu offers a variety of dishes made with locally-sourced ingredients, making it a great spot for a casual lunch or a pre-pint snack. For me, Bod represents the perfect fusion of history, community, and, of course, great beer.

10: The House of the Trembling Madness, York



Few places can match the sheer character of The House of the Trembling Madness on Lendal in York. Housed in a stunning Georgian building that was painstakingly restored, this "craft beer mansion" offers an experience like no other. I first came across Trembling Madness while planning a beer-themed trip to York, and I was immediately drawn to its quirky name and reputation for a stellar beer selection.

The first thing that strikes you when you enter is the decor—it's eclectic, with fascinating religious-themed artwork adorning the walls. But the real highlight is the beer. With a smaller cask selection but an extensive keg lineup and fridges packed with bottles and cans, there's something for every taste. I've discovered some amazing beers here, from local Yorkshire brews to international standouts.



What I love most about this place is how it mixes history and modernity. The building itself is a piece of York's heritage, and the restoration efforts were so meticulous that it shared an award with York Minster in 2018. Whether you're exploring the winding levels of the building or sipping a pint in one of the cosy nooks, Trembling Madness is a place that always feels like an adventure. It's my go-to in York not just for the beer, but for the whole experience.

Barnaby Knowles

THE PUBS OF DRONFIELD

PART 1 - TOWN CENTRE

There are lots of great pubs in our area across Dronfield, its suburbs and the surrounding villages. In this guide we focus on the town centre featuring a variety of venues that are walkable from one another if you fancy a crawl. There are venues that cater for any mood, be that watching sport on TV, doing a quiz, dancing to music or simply relaxing and enjoying conversation. The one thing in common is they all serve real ale. We've listed them in geographic order.

Coach & Horses, Sheffield Road



A cosy little single room pub run by Thornbridge brewery attached to the Sheffield FC football ground. The pub also features a tidy outdoor drinking area at the front. Bus 43 stops outside.

Victoria, Stubble Lane



An 'old skool' street corner boozier with a lively atmosphere. It has a pool table, sports on TV and dart board. Bus 43 stops around the corner.

Blue Stoops, High Street

A classic building that has been renovated and modernised. The bar area at the front of the



building caters for drinkers with beer and cocktails while the rear part accommodates diners. The pub also boasts an extensive outdoor drinking area, popular when the sun comes out!

Manor House Hotel, High Street



This boutique hotel has a bar and café area open to the public, serving breakfast in the morning with the bar open the rest of the day. There is a covered outdoor terrace area at the rear. Friday night sees a DJ providing the tunes and the party moves outside when the weather is warm. One real ale is available, Abbeydale Moonshine, always kept in good condition!

Green Dragon, Church Street



By day this is a traditional pub in a historical building with a comfy lounge area on the ground floor and a second room containing a pool table upstairs at the rear. As the weekend approaches the evenings see events including a quiz night on Thursdays, DJ on Friday nights and live entertainment on Saturday nights. There is also a pool tournament on the last Sunday afternoon of the month. The pub also boasts an expanded outdoor drinking area at the front including a tented section.

Pioneer Club, Stonelaw Road



A traditional social club in terms of premises and a membership scheme is in place that offers benefits including discounted beer, however the bar is open to the public. The small lounge area includes a pool table and has a TV showing sport whilst the larger concert room hosts live entertainment from time to time as well as private functions. The club also has an extensive grass area outside for al fresco drinking when the weather allows! Food is usually served on Sunday afternoons – in the winter this is a carvery whilst in the summer a BBQ menu is offered. Buses 15 and 44 stop at the end of their drive.

Beer Stop, Callywhite Lane

A small, specialist beer shop



in the summer they run a special event with a pop up street food vendor – check their social media for details. Bus 44 stops close by, outside the Post Office.

Dronfield Arms, Chesterfield Road



A long thin pub on a split level with the bar down one side in the centre of the building. A

darts board and TV is at one end whilst the other features comfier seating. There is also an outdoor drinking area at the rear which is also home to a branch of Pizza Pi – order food from their kiosk and it will be delivered to your table in the pub. Below the pub is an on site brewery – Temper – which is run independently of the pub, however you'll usually find a range of their beers on the bar alongside Abbeydale Moonshine and guests.

Underdog, Chesterfield Road



A small bar with an “industrial chic” interior design, always on the bar is a session pale ale

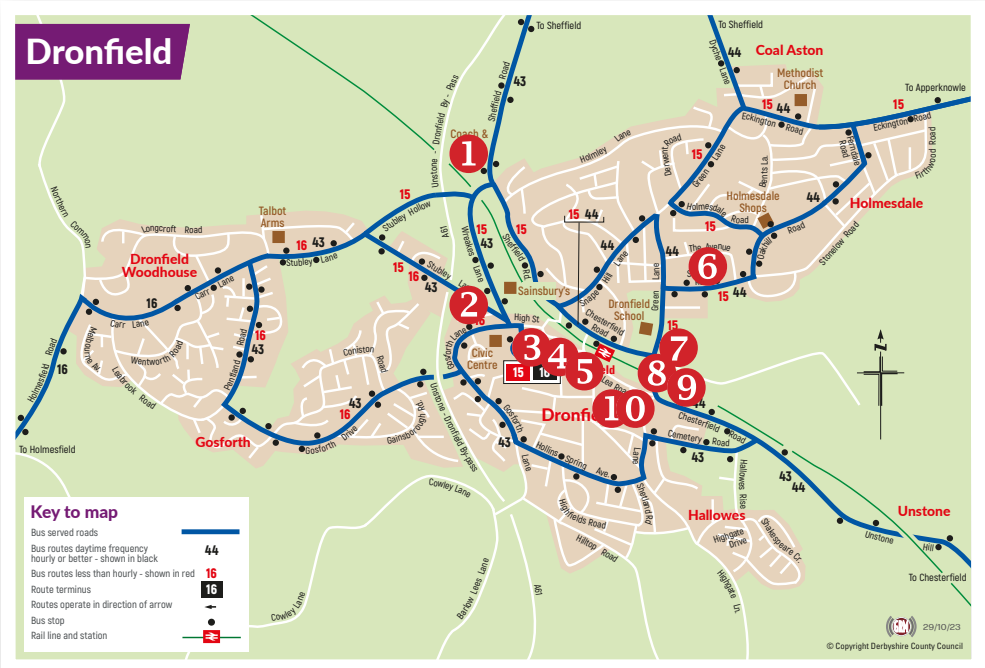
(current regular is from Chantry Brewery) with a number of other cask ales of a variety of styles on the guest pumps. They also have a tap wall with a range of craft beers on keg.

White Swan, Chesterfield Road



A traditional local pub with two rooms on the ground floor and a function room upstairs plus an patio area for outdoor drinking. Two real ales are offered, usually the more well known brands. There are TVs showing sporting action.

Next time: guide to outlying Dronfield and village pubs.



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PROUD OF THE UNION

THORNBRIDGE RESCUES BREWING HERITAGE



In July it was reported that Thornbridge brewery had taken delivery of one set of the Burton Union brewing system which had operated in the Marston's brewery for over 100 years and it was a great relief to know that at least part of it would continue being used. We visited the brewery to see it in action, and to have a chat with joint owner Simon Webster and head brewer Rob Lovatt (pictured).

We should start by explaining what the Union system actually is. The process begins as usual in the brew house. After mashing, boiling and cooling the yeast is pitched. Twenty four hours later the wort is transferred to the unions where the magic happens. The six 750 litre wooden barrels are filled to the brim and each is fitted with an outlet tube at the very top leading to a large stainless steel trough. As the fermentation gets going the yeast head is expelled into this trough, the liquid component settles and is returned, by gravity, to the barrels. The temperature is monitored at the end of the swan necks filling the trough and adjusted as necessary. The speed at which the trough is filled rises and falls as

the fermentation progresses and is usually complete in 5 to 6 days. From there the beer is transferred for conditioning and racked into barrels as usual.

Some minor tweaks have had to be made to reflect the different factory conditions. At Marston's, the Unions were in a large enclosed warehouse avoiding contamination with the open trough. Due to the position of the set in Thornbridge's premises, clear plastic covers have been installed over the trough for this purpose. They have also installed thermometers in the pipes to ensure a constant fermentation temperature of 22°C.

One of the original cellarmen from Marston's was invited to Thornbridge to see the Union in place, and was happy to impart some of his experience in looking after the sets. He had first hand knowledge of all the barrels that were in Burton and, as they were all numbered, he was able to pass on useful tips for maintaining the specific barrels now residing in Bakewell.

The system was originally devised to "clean" the beer and the first test

run on the Thornbridge sets were of their flagship beer, Jaipur. Head brewer Rob Lovatt produced 90 casks of the union version and described it as being more rounded and with more esters than the original.

Simon explained that although they have been pleased with the success of the 'unionised' Jaipur, they really want to use the system to produce new beers, with recipes designed to make the best use of its unique brewing method.

First up was a 6% English IPA called Union which was happily fermenting away during our visit, followed by an English pale ale at 7%. Both featured English hops such as Northdown, Goldings and will be worth looking out for. After this some collaborations were planned including a version of 90 Shilling Ale from Colorado-based Odell Brewing Company.

Credit is due to Thornbridge for taking the time and effort to rescue this important bit of British brewing heritage and we're sure it will be producing interesting beers for us all to try for some time to come.

Paul Crofts & Tim Stillman

2024 DRONFIELD & DISTRICT CAMRA

Cross Daggers, Coal Aston
Pub of the Year: 2024

Congratulations to Anthony Hutchinson and the team at the Cross Daggers!



Miners Arms, Dronfield Woodhouse
Pub of the Season: Summer 2024

Congratulations to Kathryn and Wayne Dyson and the team at the Miners Arms!



BRANCH AWARD WINNING PUBS & CLUB

Pioneer Club, Dronfield
Club of the Year: 2023

Congratulations to Tony, Alison and the team at the Pioneer Club.



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WHEN WILLAMETTE YOU AGAIN DRONFIELD'S HOMEBREW HERO!

After sparking his interest in brewing from cider making from his own apple trees in 2012, Dronfield homebrewer, Joe Lee, has spent over 10 years working on his own recipes by starting with cider making and IPA homebrew kits, to now recently becoming a competition winning homebrewer for his beer 'When Willamette you again'.

Speaking about the start of his homebrewing career, Lee explains, "My wife bought me a home brew kit for Christmas and I tried a Young's American IPA malt extract kit, which was excellent. It was not until Covid I got into all grain, gradually building up from 1 gallon batches on my kitchen hob to 5 gallon bathes in all one system. I was hooked on all grain, amazed how good my first batch of a Citra IPA sated compared to my malt extract kits. I also really enjoyed the process and the nerdy and scientific rabbit hole you can go down with brewing!"

The competition would provide the winner the opportunity to brew their own recipe at the Huddersfield based brewery Mallinson's Brewery Company and see it sold at collaborating pub, The Sportsman.

Speaking about the ideas behind his recipe, Lee explains, "I was planning on trying to brew beer similar to Abbeydale Moonshine (who doesn't love Moonshine?) when I heard about the competition, so I decided to do this as it met well with style guidelines of the competition. The main hop in the beer was Willamette, hence the terrible pun that my wife suggested!"



After judges chose him as winner, Lee headed to Mallinsons Brewery Company to create his beer into a product to be sold with friend and second place winner, Graeme Dodgson. Lee said, "It feels amazing to see my beer on the bar. As part of the prize, I was given eight pints of it that I shared with my friends. I was proud to see it on tap, seeing my friends and others enjoying it, and it being demolished so quickly" after he explained that the beer had only been put on that day and by the time he had left the pub, they had already started their third cask.

Lee took on the task of brewing his recipe with friend and second place winner, Graeme Dodgson who since bought a cask and took it to Elland Beer Festival in and following the beers initial success, the product then went on to be named the events' 'Beer of the Festival'. Making his home recipe, a double competition winner.

Lee adds, "I feel inspired to continue developing my recipes and enter more competitions", as he shows no intent to slow down following his success, entering

the Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA home brew competition to see how his own recipes bid elsewhere.

"I got into brewing seriously when I bought my first house in 2012 which had 3 apple trees in the garden, so I got into cider making. My wife then bought me a home brew kit for Christmas and I tried a Young's American IPA malt extract kit, which was excellent. It was not until Covid I got into all grain, gradually building up from 1 gallon batches on my kitchen hob to 5 gallon bathes in all one system. I was hooked on all grain, amazed how good my first batch of a Citra IPA sated compared to my malt extract kits. I also really enjoyed the process and the nerdy and scientific rabbit hole you can go down with brewing!"

"I was planning on trying to brew beer similar to Abbeydale Moonshine (who doesn't love Moonshine?) when I heard about the competition, so I decided to do this as it met well with style guidelines of the competition. The main hop in the beer was Willamette, hence the terrible pun that my wife suggested!"

"It feels amazing to see my beer on the bar. As part of the prize I was given 8 pints of it at The Sportsman (pictured opposite) that I shared with friends. I was really proud to see it on tap, seeing my friends and others enjoying it, and it being demolished so quickly (they were on the third cask of it by the time I left the pub having only put it on that day). Also, I get more leeway from the family now, so I can brew more!"



"I feel very inspired to continue developing my own recipes and enter more competitions. In fact, I have just entered the Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA home brew competition to see how my beers fair. I will be doing quite different beers in this one."

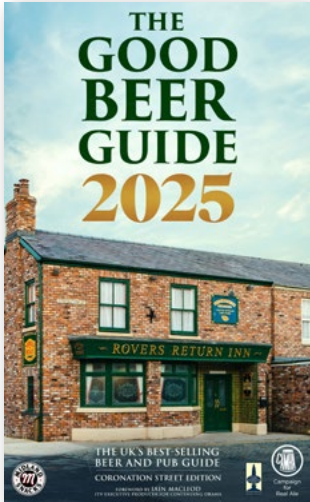
- The Homebrew Heroes competition was organised by The Sportsman Pub in Huddersfield, supported by Mallinsons Brewery Company.
- Came first with Graeme Dodgson a very close second. Both Graeme and myself did the brew day at Mallinsons.
- Graeme bought one of the casks and took it to Elland Beer Festival where it won Beer of the Festival.

Freya Barwell



WORKING UP A LATHER

THE 2025 CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE



CAMRA's Good Beer Guide – the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide – is celebrating its 52nd edition with not one but two covers featuring two of the UK's favourite locals: Coronation Street's Rovers Return Inn, and Emmerdale's Woolpack. The Guide, which lists 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK, is the definitive beer drinker's guide for those seeking the best pints in the nation's pubs and is on sale now.

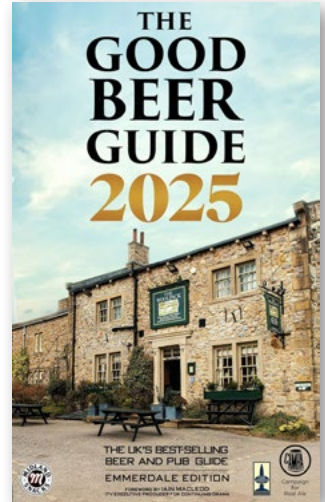
The foreword has been written by multi award-winning Iain MacLeod, ITV's Executive Producer for Continuing Drama. In his foreword, MacLeod says: *"...the story which threatened one of our pubs the most was also the one which most resonated with our times. In 2023, the Rovers Return closed its doors. A combination of the lingering legacy of the Covid lockdowns and the cost-of-living crisis meant that landlady Jenny Bradley couldn't afford to keep it open. The characters – and the viewers – lamented the news like the*



loss of a loved one. If it were needed, it was a timely reminder of the central place the nation's pubs have in our lives and in our affections."

Despite a slight slowdown in the numbers of pubs lost forever to conversion or demolition in recent years, CAMRA's data shows worrying trends developing. More and more venues are reportedly redeveloped without the proper permissions – including the high profile case of the Crooked House, Himley in 2023, which is still awaiting an appeal decision despite the efforts of local campaigners. Licensees are also feeling the rising pressure, with over a thousand businesses shuttered in the last 12 months alone as pubs can't afford to keep the lights on.

The Good Beer Guide is an essential resource for ensuring the future of pubs across the UK, and a tool to show off the incredible culture of pubs and social clubs that is at risk. Through dedication and staunch work from licensees and pub lovers in



the face of a difficult economic year, the Guide boasts over 900 pubs that are new to this edition. This information is collated by thousands of CAMRA volunteers who give up their time every year to promote the best of the best across the UK.

CAMRA Chairman Ash Corbett-Collins said: *"The Rovers Return Inn and the Woolpack represent the UK's love of their local, and to have them featured on the covers for this year's Guide is very exciting. CAMRA's mission is to ensure support from the Government as well as tangible legislation to protect pubs across each nation of the UK. By next year's edition of the Guide, we want to be talking about the beer and pub trade growing with the support of communities and parliament alike."*

This year's Guide is sponsored by Midland Snacks Traditional Pork Scratchings and endorsed by Cask Marque. The Good Beer Guide 2025 is available to order now from camra.org.uk

BURN, BABY BURN!

GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL – WINTER 2025

Following its residency for the last few years at Burton on Trent, 2025 sees the winter edition of CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) move to its new home for the next four years - Yorkshire - with the venue being the Magna Centre on the edge of Rotherham, near Sheffield.

The festival takes place from 12 to 15 February 2025.

Magna is a former steel works that has been converted into a science museum and events space and is big enough for the festival to grow and have a number of features added to it that visitors to the summer GBBF are used to such as the Learn & Discover bar, Bieres Sans Frontier bar and a dedicated Champion Winter beer of Britain bar - as well as a number of cask ale bars, real cider & perry and live music. The bars will

be spread across a main hall hosting the music stage and a number of smaller rooms which you can explore, the venue's cafes will also be open serving hot food.

The bigger capacity also means there should be no problems turning up and paying on the door if you make a last minute decision to go, however advance tickets will still be sold online with a separate admissions desk offering ticket holders quicker entry.

Magna is no stranger to hosting beer festivals, 2024 was the final year of the long established Rotherham Real Ale & Music Festival which was a charity fundraiser assisted by the Rotherham CAMRA branch and GBBF Winter will be picking up where they left off.

Magna is easy to get to - it's a 5 minute bus ride from Meadowhall Interchange which is served by trains from Dronfield. The bus that goes past Magna is the X3, which links Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster.

As with all CAMRA festivals, this is organised and staffed by volunteers and the staffing form will be launched for CAMRA members to sign up to volunteer soon. If you fancy travelling to South Yorkshire for a few days to work the festival and stop over there are many hotels located along the X3 bus route in Sheffield City Centre, around Sheffield Arena and Meadowhall plus Rotherham town centre, including a new Travelodge next to the Central railway station

CARLSBERG MARSTON'S BREWING COMPANY PLANS TO DECIMATE CONSUMER CHOICE

CAMRA reports that pubs will soon be unable to stock iconic beers following the Carlsberg buy-out of the last of Marston's UK brewing operations. Fears that powerful global brewers hugely reduce consumer choice in the UK have been realised as Carlsberg Marston's Brewing company axes eight classic British cask beers.

The decision to delist these brands by the end of the year further proves that the conglomerate, which now owns a sizable chunk of the UK brewing scene, will have a huge impact on both pubs and pubgoers having closed Jennings Brewery, sold the Eagle Brewery,

and announced the closure of Banks's Brewery, their latest move will deal brewing, consumer choice, and industry jobs another blow.

Despite an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority finding that the merger of Marston's and Carlsberg would not have negative effects, it is now confirmed that the consolidation of the businesses will be followed by the consolidation of their brands, resulting in a huge loss of choice at the bar for consumers. Commenting, CAMRA's Real Ale, Cider and Perry Campaigns Director and Vice Chair, Gillian Hough said: "This is another

example of a globally owned business wiping out UK brewing heritage. I hope that this change will mean space on the bar for licensees to stock guest beers from local independent breweries, but realistically, I suspect this isn't what CMBC plans."

The confirmed list of beers that will no longer be available includes: Banks's Mild and Sunbeam, Bombardier (keg), Eagle IPA, Jennings Cumberland Ale, Mansfield Dark Smooth and Original Bitter (keg), Marston's Old Empire and 61 Deep, and Ringwood Boondoggle and Old Thumper.

CLARE NECESSITIES

A TRIP TO A SUFFOLK MARKET TOWN

After a break of over fifteen years, a return to the attractive Suffolk market town of Clare. Suffolk's smallest town? Or just a large village? We'll go with the former.

Clare has plenty of interest for a place of its size, not least the impressive Grade-1 listed church of St Peter and St Paul which dominates the town. There's also the Clare Castle Country Park in which stands the town's old railway station, a victim of the Beeching cuts in 1967 and now re-born as a café. The town has no less than 133 listed buildings and there's also the ancient Augustinian priory which I've always felt has a rather otherworldly feel about it. Music followers will be fascinated to learn that the recently passed Steve Harley was a resident of Clare for over thirty years and in the eighties, prog-rockers, The Enid had their recording studio just outside the town.

Like anywhere else, Clare has its share of closed pubs. Many have been lost for over a century but more recent casualties include Old Red Lion and the comfortable Clare Hotel (or Seafarers) on Nethergate Street where I enjoyed a beer in the late nineties. Perhaps Clare's most prominent pub, the timber-framed Bell Hotel on Market Hill is a more recent pub casualty but it would seem that it may re-open sometime in 2024.

The number of pubs on the Clare roster is now down to three and although Nethergate, who began brewing here in 1986, are now based over in Long Melford, the town does



have a new brewery which I was determined to visit. About ten minutes-walk along the road to the neighbouring village of Cavendish is the Roughacre Brewery which moved here in 2021. The brewery taproom which usually only opens at weekends is a smart, welcoming place to enjoy the brewery's beers, with a well-stocked shop and cask ales including Cavendish Red ruby mild and the excellent 4.8% pale, Clare Skies.

After an all-too-short visit, we headed back down the hill in the remaining daylight into Clare and the **Swan Inn** (below), another old building which I recall on previous visits being a Greene King tied-house. The Swan still has two very distinct sides with the pub's lounge now, with its enormous fireplace now acting as a restaurant. We chose to eat here although these days, Clare has its own Italian and Indian restaurants which were doing a decent trade. Food at The Swan was good and reasonably priced and the beer well-kept, although for me, whilst I could never turn my nose up at Timothy Taylor

Landlord, it would've been good to have seen a locally-brewed beer on offer. The busy left-hand room of The Swan was much more pubby with a dartboard and sport on TV.

Not far away is the **Cock Inn**, (below), one of two pubs on Callis Street. Dating from Tudor times, it was acquired by Adnams sometime in the early eighties after being sold off by one of the old Big Six breweries. Now a free house, it had two real ales from the Colchester brewery, located some twenty-five miles south east. It's a sign of the times that some pubs in rural locations have begun closing well before 11pm and when we visited, this pub could have been busier. It was welcoming nonetheless and the beer, Jack Spitty, was in good form.



Less than a minute away was our last pub of the evening, the **Globe**, an old-fashioned former Greene King pub. Time for two in here, and both brewed over the border in Norfolk. Wherry was CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 1996 and will be a name that is familiar to many in our area. Woodforde's are one of our oldest surviving independent breweries and began their operation in 1981. My second beer came from a much older Norfolk brewery, Lacons. The story of Lacons is all too familiar. In 1965, when Watney's were causing mayhem in East Anglia and elsewhere with their cursed Red Barrel, the brewery which had traded for centuries, it fell into the hands of Whitbread who closed their Great Yarmouth plant. It was relaunched this century in Lowestoft, producing beers like the easy-drinking, Encore which was available in the Globe.



Drinking complete and history lesson over, it was time to head to our accommodation for the night. Rum Bridge Fisheries is a 'glamping complex' located just outside the town and is a worth a mention. The fishing lakes here are popular and there's a tackle-shop with all manner of equipment. There are

several different tipis, bell-tents and pods to choose from and even a gypsy caravan. There's wildlife aplenty and it's all eco-friendly too - solar powered, compostable toilets, the lot. And a top-quality breakfast cooked to order the following morning before our drive back.

Pat Hancock

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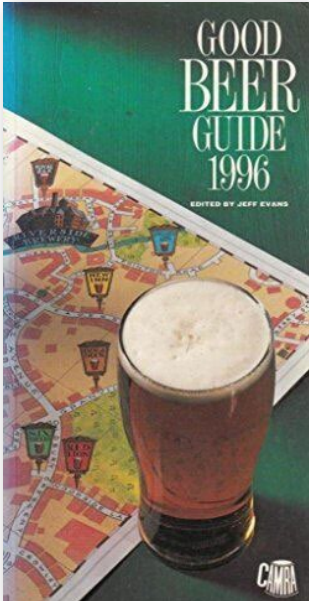
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PEELING BACK THE YEARS

GOOD BEER GUIDE: 1996



The twenty-third edition of CAMRA's annual summary of Britain's best pubs and breweries was published in 1996, a time of change for the industry. Long established major breweries were starting to be replaced by what became known as micros. Both locally and nationally, we were beginning to see a wider range of beer available in pubs and bars.

BREWERIES

Three years after the closure of Whitbread's Exchange Brewery and just prior to the demise of Stones and Wards, the variety of beer available locally was improving. Brewing was still limited with a handful of small local suppliers such as Kelham Island (1990) and Abbeylea (1996) but beers from middle-sized brewers like Burtonwood and Hardy and Hanson were prevalent locally.

Burtonwood were formed in 1867 by James and Jane

Forshaw in the village of the same name near Warrington, Cheshire. After expanding their operation, a new brewhouse was built but in 1999, they merged with the Thomas Hardy Bottling Group, a new company recently formed by the famous old Dorset brewery, Eldridge Pope who ceased brewing not long after. Burtonwood owned some 460 pubs were acquired by Wolverhampton and Dudley in 2005. A decade on, Molson Coors got in on the act and by 2022, the site was vacant. Work began to demolish the brewery in 2024.

In 1996, Burtonwood were brewing their own Mild and Bitter and the 4.8% Top Hat. The Gate Inn at Troway and The Fox and Hounds at Marsh Lane were two local Burtonwood venues. The Scotsman's Pack at Hathersage was another and in Sheffield there was the Red Lion on Duke Street, the Normanton Springs at Woodhouse, the Norfolk Arms on Carlisle Street and the Rolling Mill (formerly Little Mesters) at Broomhall. All four no longer trade.

PUBS

The first of two pubs in Dronfield and District CAMRA's current area was the Old Sidings (now Dronfield Arms). Four cask beers on offer here: Stones, Worthington, Bass and unusually for the area, Bass Mild. It was a 'lively pub with an L-shaped lounge on two levels and a railway theme' with a restaurant in the basement. On Stubley Lane, the Victoria also had a mild from Banks, alongside their Bitter and Marston's Pedigree. Then, as now, it was a 'genuine local with a comfortable L-shaped lounge and a darts area at one end'.

Two out-of-town entries were included. At the Travellers' Rest, Holmesfield, Scottish 7 Newcastle beers, Home Bitter and Younger No. 3 could be found alongside Stones Bitter. It was described as a 'pleasant pub with a pool table in the tap room and a spacious lounge'. Another lost pub, the award-winning Yellow Lion at Apperknowle offered Draught Bass, Stones and Greene King Abbot Ale - a rare sight in these parts in 1996 for sure.

Not too far away was the Fox and Hounds at Marsh Lane which served two beers from Burtonwood. It was described as a 'pub with a comfortable lounge and a tap room, plus a large garden and play area and a good selection of meals'. Bitter and James Forshaw's Bitter were available.

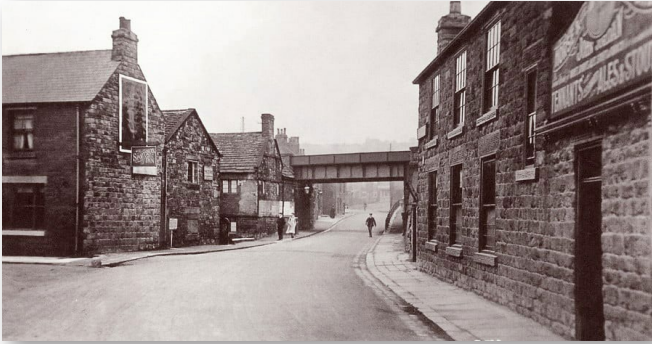
There was an unusual pub entry to note in Chesterfield. The Chesterfield Bowl on Stowforth Lane, Birdholm, Having visited recently, I can vouch that this '16-lane bowling centre' still has a public bar but no longer serves Hardy and Hanson Best Bitter and Kimberley Classic, as it did back in 1996.

In Sheffield City Centre, ten of the dozen Good Beer Guide entries survive in 2024. The Tap and Spile on Waingate and the Harlequin on Johnson Street, off the Wicker are the exceptions. Another, the Brown Bear on Norfolk Street has recently re-opened. Many will associate this pub with Sam Smiths although it was a John Smiths hostelry before that. The GBG entry reveals that not much has changed except the beer. I'm reminded of drinking Courage Directors here on a night out. Magnet, Pedigree, John Smiths Bitter, Ruddles too.

Pat Hancock

LOST PUBS OF DRONFIELD

SPORTSMAN INN, MILL LANE



In 1900 The Sportsman Inn was one of 3 public houses on the corner of Sheffield Road and Mill Lane. As you entered Mill Lane the building to your left which is now Halo hairstylist was The Roadside Inn. On the other side of Mill Lane was The Sportsman and across the road next to what is now Ayesha's was the Horse & Jockey. The Horse & Jockey is the only one of the 3 buildings not to have survived.

The sportsman was a stone built Georgian house dating from around 1800. The Sheffield Road was a new turnpike road at the time and a number of new residences sprang up along its route. The Duke of Wellington Beer Act allowed owners of these properties the chance to sell beer to passing travellers in order to supplement their income. And competition must have been tight. On Mill Lane was The Railway Inn. 30 yards down the road towards Chesterfield was the Midland (Now The Dronfield Arms) and 30 yards further on was the White Swan and The Traveller's Rest, whilst up the road towards Sheffield was The Castle and beyond that The Bridge and

The Rock. Dronny Bottom was awash with pubs.

By the latter part of the 19th century many of the local breweries were expanding and seeking to take on outlets for their wares. One such brewery was Whitmarsh & Co of Sheffield. In 1888 the unremarkable business had been taken over by F A Kelley who had made his fortune in Heckmondwike and who had arrived in Sheffield seeking social standing. Over the next decade, under his control, Whitmarsh & Co expanded rapidly and took on around 50 public houses including the Sportsman.

In the early part of the 20th century Kelley set about his quest for public office. In 1906 he sold the brewery and tied estate of public houses to Gilmour's who were by this time rising to prominence amongst Sheffield's brewers. Kelley went on to become MP for Rotherham and gained the knighthood he desired.

Things didn't turn out as well for the Sportsman. At the time of the takeover the landlord was Herbert Marshall, but he quickly moved on and the new landlord, George Hemish was

THREE THREATENED.

Dronfield Licenses Referred

Plea For the Town's Oldest Landlord.

In order to reduce the number of licensed houses in Dronfield, the Licensing Justices are taking drastic steps, and at an adjourned Brewster Sessions at the Town Hall, Dronfield, on Monday, no fewer than three houses were referred to the County Licensing Committee on the ground of redundancy.

One of the houses referred was the "Sportsman," on the Chesterfield Road, and Inspector Payne, giving details of its position, in relation to other houses, mentioned that, within an area of 226 yards, there were three fully licensed houses and three beerhouses. The total population of Dronfield was 3,943, and there were 19 licenses in addition to "off" licenses.

The Inspector described the premises as in fairly good condition at the front, but not so good at the back. There were five doors to the house, so that it was not particularly good for police supervision.

"What is the difficulty for police supervision?" asked Mr. J. H. Kearns (Chesterfield), who applied for the renewal of the license.

"There are five doors," replied the Inspector, "and one policeman cannot watch five doors at once." (Laughter.)

Derbyshire Courier 15 March 1915

"convicted for offences against Licensing Acts" It is not reported what these offences were, but the license was not renewed. An appeal heard in Derby a year later also failed to recover the license, but a claim for compensation was upheld. George Hewish was awarded £65, Gilmour & Co. £185. The Sportsman as a public house was no more.

The building survives today, although knocked about and much altered. For many years it was home to Arnold Biggin & Sons who were printers. It is now in use as the offices for a company of accountants.

Nick Lister

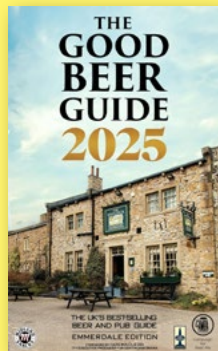


COME ON PEEL THE NOISE

How much do you know about pop music? Everything? Nothing? Maybe you're somewhere in between? Maybe you know some things, but not other things. Perhaps. Anyway, here are twenty-five more pop questions from across the decades, **Come On Peel The Noise**.

1. What one word song title links Vic Reeves and 2024 UK Eurovision singer, Olly Alexander?
2. Jools Holland was the keyboard player in which band?
3. Which British rock band reached No 1 in 2003 with their debut album, *Permission to Land*?
4. Name the female dance troupe that appeared on Top of the Pops between 1968 and 1976.
5. What is the name of the 23,500-capacity indoor arena which opened in Manchester in 2024?
6. Complete the names of these George Michael singles: *Careless*....., *A Different*....., *Jesus to a*
7. The 1987 song, *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now* was released by which American rock band?
8. What surname is shared by brothers, Richard and Fred from Right Said Fred?
9. Glastonbury is located in which English county?
10. What was the name of Bill Haley's backing band?
11. Which singer released the album, *The Tortured Poets Department* in 2024?
12. *I Turn To You*, *Northern Star* and *Never Be The Same Again* were solo singles for which member of the Spice Girls?
13. Which Scottish indie band took their name from a character in the children's TV series, *The Clangers*?
14. New Romantic act, Visage, best-known for their 1980 hit, *Fade to Grey*, were fronted by which singer who died in 2015?
15. The Proms season takes place at which iconic London venue?
16. Tom Meighan is the vocalist in which rock band?
17. Which band, featuring Ray and Dave Davies recorded *You Really Got Me*, *Sunny Afternoon* and *Waterloo Sunset*?
18. Aston Merrygold and Marvin Humes are both members of which UK boy band?
19. The comedy track, *D.I.V.O.R.C.E* was a 1975 No 1 for which Scottish comedian?
20. *Breaking the Law*, *United* and *Living After Midnight* were all hit singles in 1980 for which legendary heavy metal act?
21. *Saving All My Love for You* was the first of eleven American No 1s for which singer?
22. Which surname is shared by singer/songwriter, Cat, Rachel from S Club and rock'n'roll singer, Shakin'?
23. Name the popular pop quiz, hosted by Ken Bruce on Radio 2 and then on Greatest Hits Radio from 2023.
24. Dua Lipa was granted citizenship of which European country in 2022?
25. *Space Man*, which was runner-up at Eurovision in 2022 was written and performed by who?

ANSWERS: Dizzy 2: Squeeze 3: The Darkness 4: Pan's People 5: Co-Op Live 6: Whispser (Careless), Corner (A Different), Child (Jesus to a) 7: Starship 8: Fairbrass 9: Somerset 10: The Comets. 11: Taylor Swift 12: Melanie C 13: The Soup Dragons 14: Steve Strange 15: The Royal Albert Hall 16: Kasabian 17: The Kinks 18: JLS 19: Billy Connolly 20: Judas Priest 21: Whitney Houston 22: Stevens 23: Popmaster 24: Albanian 25: Sam Ryder



CAMRA's Good Beer Guide is the original independent guide to good beer and good pubs. Now in its 51st edition, the fully revised and updated Guide recommends pubs in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and offshore islands that serve the best real ale. From country inns through micropubs and taprooms – if you love pubs, don't leave home without the Good Beer Guide.

The Guide is researched by independent volunteers across the UK with every pub featured visited at least once for an assessment. It is the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide, based on combined trade and direct sales and is available to order at shop.camra.org.uk

Alternatively, discover all of the pubs listed, and more, with CAMRA's Good Beer Guide app, available on both iOS and Android devices at bgapp.camra.org.uk

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