

# PEEL ALE

Dronfield & District CAMRA

Issue No.4 : Summer 2017



## Coming Soon...

# Collyfobble

BREWERY



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

*at The Peacock at Barlow*

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# FROM THE EDITOR



At the time of writing, the 2017 Three Valleys Beer Festival is just around the corner. Organisers Andy and Rob are expecting this year's event to be bigger than ever and with twelve venues serving up all day entertainment and a record breaking number of ales, it should be quite a day. **We'll be reviewing the event in Issue 5 of Peel Ale so we'd be delighted to receive any photos you have of the day**

## *that you'd like to see in print.*

Another event on the horizon is the first Dronfield and District CAMRA Beer Survey.

This is to record all the beers available in pubs on our patch on a single day giving an idea how many different beers there are to choose from, which breweries are most widely stocked, typical price of a pint, and more. We expect to be able to share our findings in a future issue of Peel Ale.

In this issue, we have regular features such as My Top Ten, Lost Pubs of Dronfield, Dining Out and Peeling Back the Years as well as all the latest local pub and brewery news and the usual mix of reports about the beer scene, both locally and nationally which we hope will be of interest to hardcore beer buffs and casual pub goers alike. See you next time.

*Pat Hancock - Editor*

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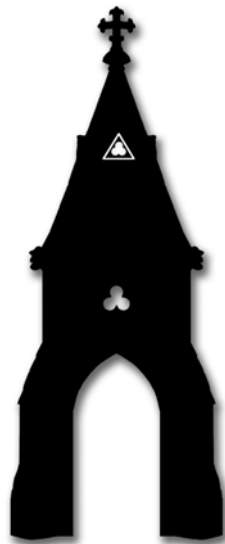
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## BRANCH CONTACTS

**Chairman: Rob Barwell**

[chairman@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Secretary: Graham Hall**

[secretary@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Membership: John Hadfield**

[membership@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:membership@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Peel Ale Editor: Pat Hancock**

[peelale@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:peelale@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Treasurer: Richard Smith**

[treasurer@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Press & Publicity: Tom Sturgess**

[publicity@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:publicity@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Socials: Nick Wheat**

[socials@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:socials@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Pubs Officer: Roger Hepworth**

[pubs@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:pubs@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

**Webmaster: Dom Bradshaw**

[webmaster@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@dronfieldcamra.org.uk)

## ISSUE 5 COPY DEADLINE

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

# BREWERY NEWS



Drone Valley Brewery is owned by a membership which has now topped 300. Many are local volunteers who do all the brewing. More members and volunteers are welcome to join us. We continue to find ways to support the local community. We have had an under-graduate from Nottingham Trent University on placement with us for several months (Thank you Ben).

Recently we also welcomed Aaran and Dan on work experience from Henry Fanshawe School and two more will be with us later in the Summer. Our profits are shared with local good causes; and with the Cliffe Park WI, who helped brew the Cherry Belles Porter, we have co-funded the installation of a defibrillator at the park of the same name.

Bottle sales continue to thrive through local outlets, at our brewery open days and food and drink fairs. We have a range of twelve brews available locally at the Beer Stop, Ferndale Garden Centre and Holmesdale convenience store. Bottles are also available at Real Ale Corner in Chesterfield and Eyam Real Ale Co. In April, the Co-operative Party commissioned us to produce Pioneers Pale (4.0%) with bespoke labels to celebrate 100 years since its creation. It will feature at the Labour Party conference in the Autumn (other political parties are available!). Other commissions are to follow.

May was a month of beer festivals with more to come. Our beers have sold well at the Hill Top Club, Yorkshire Bridge, Angler's Rest, the Mayor of Chesterfield's Appeal, Rail Ale-Barrow Hill, Ridgeway and Cambridge beer festivals. Derby is next on the list and we have applied to appear at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia. The big one for us is of course Three Valleys with several participating pubs serving DVB. A full range of nine will be at the Three Tuns. Others include the Blue Stoops, the Barrack Inn, Hilltop Club and the Miner's at Hundall and there will be a special brew only available at the Coach and Horses....



We have begun producing a bi-monthly 'Brewer's Choice' range. Many enjoyed the 80/- Scottish Export Ale (4.5%) and the Ruby Mild (3.7%) has gone well. Next on the list is a hoppy, lighter Summer Ale (3.6%) and a stronger golden pale using Amarillo hops. Hot news! Dronny Bottom Bitter has won Gold in the Lower gravity brown ales category at the Barrow Hill beer festival!

*Jez Horton*  
*Chair/Brewery manager*



We've some exciting beers coming up in the near future as we gear up for 3 Valleys. Hop Rod is the first of the specials we've produced for it, a 7.3% red IPA, with a stunning malty backbone which only serves to compliment the massive amounts of hops we've added. A recent collaboration with Raw, MaiPA, a 6.1% Maibock inspired IPA, has also just hit a few pubs and is proving massively popular. Look out for it in keg and cask!

In anticipation of a beautifully sunny beer festival we're concocting some interesting fruity beers to tantalise tastebuds! First up, we're re-brewing a favourite from last year Roobarb and Custard, a 6% white stout with vanilla and rhubarb added into the boil and fermenter, and we have two new beers on the brew schedule, a Blueberry Pancake IPA, which will be the fourth in our series of collaborations with Neepsend Brewery, and very soon will see the creation of Papaya Don't Preach, a sessionable pale ale, packed full of luscious papaya and hopped up with some fantastic tropical flavoured hops!

We're planning on having more than 50 beers available for Three Valleys, a selection of our own and hand-picked beers from exciting breweries dotted around the country, with food

available from Cowboys Burgers and our friends at Proove Pizza, and live music throughout the day! It's going to be a cracker!

*Edd Entwistle*  
Head Brewer

**Collyfobble**  
BREWERY

As per our front cover photograph, the new brewery at the Peacock at Barlow is close to being commissioned and will be called Collyfobble after the Derbyshire slang for meaning to fix or make something out of nothing. The brewery is to be run by Matthew Clark who worked for several years at Thornbridge Brewery.

Originally from Cromer in Norfolk, Matthew was working in

a hotel as a chef before moving to the Peak District. After missing out on a job as a Thornbridge delivery van driver, Matthew started to help out at the brewery regardless as he was more interested in the brewing side of the business anyway. Within 2 weeks, head brewer, Stefano Cossi was away on holiday and the other brewer called in sick so Matthew was thrown in at the deep end to do the day's brewing and never looked back.

Following several happy years at Thornbridge, Matthew handed in his notice but was not long out of work before Derek Mapp and David Bond recruited him to head up their new brewery project.

The showcase brewery will have a 4bbl (16 firkins) brew length with capacity to brew twice a week which should be ample to meet demand from the Peacock, the Ticked Trout and free trade.

The building work should be finished by early June with installation of the brewery equipment by Brewing Vessels Ltd. of Stockport to be completed by the end of June to start brewing at the beginning of July if all goes to plan. The brewery will also feature a tap room which will be open to the public for brewery tours and other events.

Matthew is planning to brew three "easy drinking" core beers with occasional specials.

We wish the new brewery well.



A group of Dronfield CAMRA members enjoyed staffing one of the bars at the ever popular Chesterfield Beer Festival at the Winding Wheel in February.

Here are the group celebrating the end of the shift!

## 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:

- The Miners Arms, Hundall – 30p per pint***
- The Coach & Horses, Dronfield – 20p per pint***
- The Travellers, Apperknowle – 20p per pint***
- The Jolly Farmer, Dronfield Woodhouse – 15p per pint***
- The Talbot, Dronfield Woodhouse – 10% off per pint***

All these pubs 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 these changes.

*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.*



**CAMPAIGN  
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## PUB NEWS

The **Blue Stoops** in Dronfield has been entered in the refurbished premises category in the 2017 National Pub Design Awards. The awards are run by CAMRA in association with Historic England, to find the most stunningly designed pubs in the UK. The awards recognise high standards of architecture in the refurbishment and conservation of existing pubs, and the construction of new ones.

The Stoops also has an early evening 'happy hour' offer on Mondays to Thursdays with True North beers at £2.50 a pint.

At time of writing, the **White Swan** in Dronfield and the

**Brook at Troway** (aka the Black-a-Moor) are still closed, and awaiting new tenants.

The lease for the **Royal Oak** at Millthorpe has been advertised in the trade press.

The **Angel at Holmesfield** has recently been serving hand-pulled Ward's Sheffield Best Bitter which was reported to be on excellent form.

Since publication of our last issue, a new outlet has opened in Dronfield: The **Prosecco Bar @ the Forge**. The bar opened in April 2017 and is operated by five ladies who run businesses within the Forge complex. It offers a good range of wines and spirits

as well as Real Ale in Bottles, currently supplied by Drone Valley Brewery. Liberal helpings of free nibbles are available to customers.

Luke at the **Beer Stop** has recently introduced draught beer in the form of #CraftKeg. There will be two beers on rotation from a number of sources.

A series of "Meet the Brewer" sessions has been arranged:

Time and Tide (Kent), Saturday 3rd June, 11am to 3pm.

Pirate Life (Australia), Saturday 24th June, 12noon to 6pm.

Neon Raptor (Derby), Saturday 8th July, 1pm to 6pm.

The **Traveller's Rest** at Apperknowle will be staging their annual Harvest Festival later this year. Items will be auctioned with proceeds going to Apperknowle Methodist Church and St Mary's Church at Unstone.



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 August.

## STOP PRESS: CAMRA CELEBRATES PUB PLANNING LOOPHOLE CLOSURE

Following a successful campaign led by CAMRA, the Government recently announced that it will support a measure to close a planning loophole in England which has allowed pubs to be demolished or converted to a wide range of retail uses without any planning application.

This loophole has not only denied local communities a say in their beloved locals' futures, but also made pubs a 'soft target' for developers, contributing to 21 net pub closures every week.

The Government's decision will bring a halt to developers exploiting loopholes and will

give communities the right to have a say in the future of their pubs. The decision will not prevent the development of pubs, but will require developers to apply for planning permission to convert or demolish a pub, allowing for members of the local community to express their opinions as part of that process.

# DERBY DAY

## A CAPITAL DAY OUT



Another recent branch social event was a day out in Derby. Arriving just after lunch we began our tour just a stone's throw away from the railway station at the **Brunswick Inn**. This famous pub was saved from demolition by Derby Historic Buildings Trust after falling into disrepair and reopened in 1987 with the on-site Brunswick Brewery opening a few years later. The pub has played a big part in the resurgence of real ale in Derby.

By sheer coincidence, there was a beer festival on at the Brunswick, so we were not lacking for choice. After starting with a green-hopped beer whose name escapes me I went on to Brunswick Coco Loco,



a chocolate stout. This beer is brewed at the pub and at this point we were treated to a tour of the Brunswick Brewery which was very enjoyable and informative.

From the Brunswick, it is only a short stagger to another fine Derby pub, the **Alexandra Hotel**. Derby CAMRA was formed here in 1974 and these days, the pub belongs to Nottingham brewery, Castle Rock. The pub has an enormous amount of railway memorabilia and even has an old train in the car park behind the pub. In addition to being a railway enthusiasts pub there is also a pet rabbit (named Amber) who lives in the back bar so this is also a pub for animal lovers.

For beer lovers there was a very good range on here. In addition to the Castle Rock beers there were beers from two Sussex breweries, Dark Star and Long Man. I chose the NZ Pale from North Riding Brewery, but in addition to this I'd spotted one of the silliest beers around on the bottled beer list. Siren Craft Caribbean Chocolate Cake Stout,

a 7.4% stout made with cacao nibs, cypress wood and lactose.

From The Alex we headed through some parkland by the river, over a footbridge to the **Smithfield**. This is a pub that's quite out of the way, opposite the bus depot, but it is well worth making your way to. Inside it is light and spacious, with a good selection of cask ales. Cask-ade from the Whim brewery was my choice here, over the delights of Oakham Citra. One thing I hadn't realised when I've visited the Smithfield previously is that the beer garden at the back of the pub is excellent, situated as it is right by the River Derwent.

The next pub on our itinerary was the **Exeter Arms**. This pub is owned by the Dancing Duck brewery and it was one of their beers, Dark Drake that took my fancy here. This is a pub with many rooms, including a large conservatory and another good beer garden.

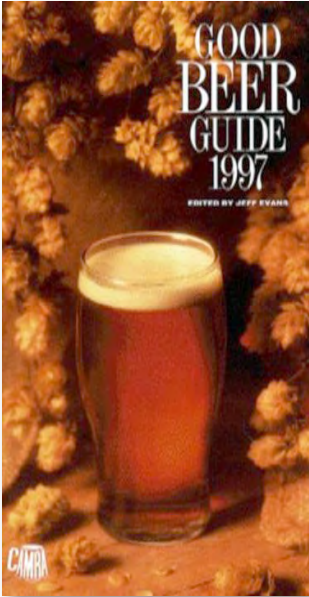
Afterwards, we headed back towards the station, calling again at the Brunswick for more beer and a bite to eat. As part of the festival, there was a barbeque at the back of the pub but our group stayed almost entirely loyal to the main menu. In my case I went for the bean chilli washed down with Tiny Rebel Cwtch, a favourite beer of mine and a former CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain.

After this, we headed back to the station, and back to Dronfield after another enjoyable day out.

*Thomas Sturgess*

# PEELING BACK THE YEARS

## GOOD BEER GUIDE: 1997



The 24th edition of CAMRA's Good Beer Guide was published twenty years ago. Much has changed since then but through the rise of the micro-brewery we were beginning to see the start of the UK brewing industry as we know it today. Here's a brief look at the guide from a local perspective.

### **BREWERIES**

By 1997, Whitbread's Exchange Street brewery in Sheffield had closed but the city's Cannon Brewery still operated as Bass's specialist cask beer brewery, producing Stones Bitter, Worthington Draught, Toby Cask and Cask Mild. At this time, Whitbread, for many years seen as the bad boys of UK brewing due to a spate of brewery closures in the seventies and eighties were enjoying a love affair with real ale, investing heavily in their real ale portfolio and their Hogshead and Tut n'

Shive ale houses. Also listed in the guide are a small number of Whitbread's brew pubs including Sheffield's Frog and Parrot.

From the mid to late nineties, new breweries had begun to spring up all over the UK - a trend that has continued apace to the present day. Aside from the majors, the 1997 Good Beer Guide listed seven independent breweries in South Yorkshire including Glentworth brewery, established in old dairy buildings at Skellow, Doncaster in 1996 who were quick to get beers such as Dizzy Blonde into local outlets including Red Lion on Charles Street and in later years, the Harlequin. Glentworth continued to trade until the owner's retirement in early 2017.

In Sheffield, Wards continued to produce their malty Best Bitter, Darley's Dark Mild, Thorne Best and Waggle Dance honey beer for parent company, Vaux whilst Kelham Island Brewery's listed beers included Golden Eagle, Bête Noire and future Champion Beer of Britain, Pale Rider. Also included were the Concertina brewery in Mexborough, Wortley brewery, based in the cellar of the Wortley Arms, Stock's of Doncaster whose ales regularly appeared at the Tap and Spile on Waingate, Sheffield and the Barnsley Brewing Co in Elsecar whose version of Barnsley Bitter was a permanent attraction at Fagan's on Broad Lane, Sheffield.

Six Derbyshire independent breweries featured in the guide's brewery section, although most were located in the southern half of the county. The nearest to our branch area was Townes Brewery

(named after US country star, Townes Van Zandt apparently), established in an old bakery at Staveley, Chesterfield by Alan Wood in 1994, who continue to brew to this day. Back in 1994, their beers were Sunshine, Muffin Ale, Best Lockford Bitter, GMT and a series of one-off 'Townes and Country' brews, all named after American country songs.

### **PUBS**

The Travellers Rest at Holmesfield, a regular over the years served hand-pulled Stones, John Smith's and Younger's No 3 and made it into the 1997 guide along with four other pubs from the Dronfield branch area. In Dronfield itself, the Victoria on Stubble Lane was described as a 'genuine local with a comfortable, L-shaped lounge and a darts area' and served Banks's Mild and Bitter, Marston's Pedigree and a guest whilst in Apperknowle, the Yellow Lion now offered Draught Bass, Stones Bitter, Greene King Abbot and a guest beer.

Notes on the Hare and Hounds in Barlow (still owned by Pauline and Ron today) stated it to be a 'friendly, multi-roomed, cosy local. The lounge has views across the valley'. Draught Bass and Stones Bitter were available. The final local entry was the Gate Inn at Troway, then under the control of the now defunct Burtonwood which sold the aforementioned brewery's Bitter and a 4.8% offering, Forshaw's Top Hat. The Gate was said to be a 'well-preserved, family run pub on the side of the beautiful Moss Valley: a cosy village local'.

*Pat Hancock*

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MICROPUBS



Over the last few years a new phenomenon has taken hold in this country as a new wave of publicans have opened up bars in a variety of venues previously put to other uses. These are often referred to as micropubs. But what are they and why are they growing in number?

The definition of what constitutes a micropub according to the Micropub Association is as follows:

*"A micropub is a small free house which listens to its customers, mainly serves cask ales, promotes conversation, shuns all forms of electronic entertainment and dabbles in bar snacks."*

With the basic premise of "Keep It Small, Keep It Simple", micropubs tend to be small one room affairs and many still have the ambience of the business that was there before them, be it a Greek restaurant or a butchers shop.

In practice there is actually quite a bit of difference between individual micropubs. Some stay very close to the original micropub philosophy, with a strong emphasis on cask ale. Others have the feel of a bottle shop with a few cask ales on the side. Some serve keg ales, some do not, as they feel that selling keg beer and especially lager goes against the whole ethos of a micropub. Many also do not sell spirits, keeping the drinks range

to ale, cider, wine and soft drinks. Most that I have been in have been very convivial, with plenty of conversation, but no juke boxes, fruit machines or Sky Sports.

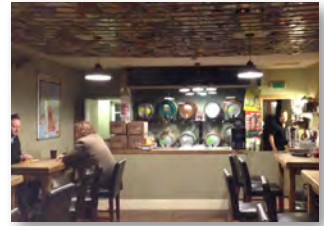
There are micropubs with their own breweries such as the **Doncaster Brewery Tap** and the **Fox** in Shipley.

Some micropubs are very small, but they don't necessarily have to be tiny. Micropubs are not always even a one room affair, as can be seen by the upstairs area in the **Chesterfield Alehouse**, making full use of the premises.

One pleasing thing is how many are opening in what might be considered unfashionable places. A good example of this is the **Wath Tap** located in a former butchers shop in the old mining town of Wath-Upon-Dearne.

The county of Kent is regarded as the birthplace of the micropub phenomenon. The **Butchers Arms** in Herne Village lays a claim to being the UK's smallest free house and is considered to be the venue that started off the whole micropub movement. Following the passing of the 2003 Licensing Act, which made it easier to open a small independent public house, the Butchers Arms was opened in 2005 by Martyn Hillier. Martyn was also instrumental in starting the Micropub Association in 2012 as a resource for other would-be micropubs. For his hugely important work in pioneering the micropub he was chosen as CAMRA's campaigner of the year in 2015.

Micropubs are beginning to win CAMRA awards, with three



of the top sixteen pubs in CAMRA's national pub of the year being micropubs. Quite an achievement when you consider that micropubs only constitute a tiny proportion of pubs selling real ale.

Here in Dronfield we now have **Smiffy's** on Sheffield Road, a micropub and wine bar serving four real ales and Prosecco on tap! Smiffy's is another example of the template being taken in different directions.

**The Itchy Pig** in Broomhill is run by a Kent native keen to bring a flavour of his home county to the Steel City. Other Sheffield micropubs include the **Drink Inn** on Commercial Street, the **Beer House** and the **Portland House** on Ecclesall Road, **Walkley Beer Co.** at Walkley and **Bar Stewards** on Gibraltar Street.

In addition to bringing something different to the pub sector in contrast to the continuing pub closures affecting many places, it is also noticeable that micropubs can have a positive effect in that they bring more custom onto many high streets. Who knows how the micropub model will continue to evolve and influence the way that we drink cask ale.

*Thomas Sturgess*

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BEERSTOPDRONFIELD



# SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD

Founded 1963



The Society for The Preservation of Beers from the Wood was founded in December 1963 at the Rising Sun in Epsom, seven years before the formation of the Campaign For Real Ale. It was formed by a group of drinkers concerned about the decline in quality of draught beer at the time due to gas pressure dispense and the growth of keg beer.

At the time, wooden casks were still regarded as being synonymous with traditional draught beer, although after a few years the society relaxed its principles on this point as metal replaced wood as the material of choice for beer casks. Nowadays only a small number of breweries still use wooden casks, and although the Society does not specifically campaign

for the use of wooden casks for beer dispense, it supports and encourages breweries and pubs that use them and coopers who make wooden barrels.

The Society promotes the drinking of traditional draught beer, drawn direct from the cask by gravity, or by a hand pump, while rejecting the use of gas pressure dispense to serve beer. The Society also promotes those breweries who support their aims. In addition to supporting breweries such as Theakstons and Sam Smiths who produce some beer in wooden barrels, the website also mentions a small number of breweries who engage in the increasingly popular practice of ageing beers in wooden barrels in order to impart further flavour to the beer. This practice can impart flavours from the wood of the barrel such as Cypress or Oak. It can also imbue the beer in said barrel with the flavour of the drink previously stored in the barrel such as Bourbon or Pedro Ximenez Sherry.

Ageing a beer in wood can have a significant effect on the flavour of a beer and played a major role in the development of some beer styles. For example, the original India Pale Ales of the 19th century were transported to India in wooden barrels, and



matured during the three month journey by sea, with the flavours imparted by the wooden barrel having a clear effect on how the beer tasted when it was finally sampled after the long voyage.

In another very encouraging development the Society is also due to hold its first national beer festival - "Woodfest" next door to the Junction Inn, Castleford, West Yorkshire from 6th to 8th July 2017. The Junction, under the pioneering stewardship of landlords, Neil Midgley and Maureen Shaw is famed as a staunch supporter of beer from the wood, serving cask ale drawn from wooden barrels. It is hoped that this will be a successful event that introduces new people to the cause of beer from the wood and that the festival will encourage some of the breweries currently ageing beer in wooden barrels to also serve beer via this method.

*Thomas Sturgess*



# PUB FEATURE

## TRAVELLERS REST - APPERKNOWLE



The Travellers Rest, located at the junction of High Street and Moor Top Road in the village of Apperknowle, to the east of Dronfield is a cosy, friendly country local which attracts customers from near and far due to its reputation for good beer, cider and food.

Since taking over the pub five years ago, Sara and Pete have improved all aspects of the business. The Traveller's is a Good Beer Guide regular and

further recognition was received last year when it featured in the Guardian newspaper's best ten pubs, cafés and restaurants in the UK countryside.

The pub's main room has a couple of separate areas where books are available to read whilst you enjoy your pint. The pub's back room which until recently housed a pool table and was rather off-limits for customers has been extensively refurbished and is now a really

inviting place to sit. In good weather, customers can enjoy the views from an outdoor seating area just over the road.

A total of twenty-nine draught products are available at the Traveller's. Timothy Taylor Landlord and Neepsend Blonde are the two permanently available cask ales and are accompanied by four guests from breweries such as Church End, Coastal and Titanic, and half a dozen craft-keg offerings.

Fans of real cider are particular well catered for at the Travellers with seven options always available. An impressive custom-built Cider Station located behind the bar offers an ever changing line-up of ciders of varying styles and strengths from new and established cider makers. On my latest visit, Old Rosie, a 7.3% cloudy cider from Weston's was available alongside Big Apple from Thatcher's of Somerset and Happy Daze from Gwynt Y Ddraig in South Wales.



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Those with a thirst for something a little different might look to sample Sheppy's Raspberry Cider, Lily the Pink, a pink medium cider from Celtic Marches in Herefordshire or Lilley's Mango Cider.

Locally sourced food is available every day between noon and

9pm. The pork pies and cheese platters are often singled out for particular praise and the pub also serves up quiche, pate, Homity pies and Derbyshire oatcakes. The cheese selection at the Traveller's is legendary with around forty available at any one time - some of the more



exotic and appetising sounding ones displayed on the pub's cheeseboards are Long Clawson Blue Stilton, Normandie Camembert, Comtois Brie and Jalapeño Cheddar. Wednesday night is Meze night when a superb sharing platter of tapas-style food can be had for £29.95. These nights have proved extremely popular and booking ahead is essential.

Also well established are the popular Monday jazz nights where a good atmosphere is assured.

The Traveller's Rest is open seven days a week from 12-11pm. The pub's postcode is S18 4BD. If you haven't visited recently, it's probably about time you did.

*Pat Hancock*



## LADIES' DAY

### DRONFIELD CAMRA LADIES TO VISIT YORK

On **Saturday 24th June** a group of Dronfield and District CAMRA lady members are planning to visit York for a day exploring the excellent real ale pubs to be found in this beautiful and historic city. The plan is to meet at Dronfield station in time for the 10:02 train, have a leisurely day in York, and return to Dronfield early evening.

Ladies are most welcome to join us, whether you're a CAMRA member or just someone who enjoys real ale. For further details look on the Dronfield CAMRA website or contact Jean Hall on [graham55hall@gmail.com](mailto:graham55hall@gmail.com).

# MY TOP 10

*I have been visiting pubs and enjoying real ale for around sixty years and in issue three of Peel Ale, I chose the first five of my all time top ten. During this time, my main interests have been rock climbing, walking, sea angling, steam railways, and geology. I hope that the following list with comments will be of some interest to our readers.*

*Pubs which are within the Dronfield and District branch area have not been considered.*

## **6. Packhorse Inn, Crowdecote, Derbyshire.**



Beer at the Packhorse is always in tip-top condition. Four real ales are available at all times on hand pump and are constantly changing. Usually at least one Locale is on tap. The Packhorse nestles on the Derbyshire bank of the upper Dove. In 2012, we discovered that the pub was not claimed by any branch of CAMRA. A year and a half of investigations and hard work resulted in the Packhorse being assigned to the Chesterfield Branch. Visitors may ask themselves why the place has not featured in the Good Beer Guide. There is a large beer garden with amazing views. It is surrounded by magnificent walking country and the climbing grounds of the White Peak and the Staffordshire Roaches are easily reached. The Churnet Valley Railway is accessible at Cheddleton, just south of Leek.

## **7. Pen-y-Gwryd Hotel, Nant-Gwynant, Wales.**



When I first visited in the late 1950s, the beer here was rather indifferent. It is a very different story these days however, as the hotel is supplied by

the Purple Moose Brewery, just down the road in Porthmadog. This historic hotel at the foot of Snowdon is where Hillary and Tenzing trained for the first successful ascent of Mount Everest in 1953. The Everest room has famous signatures on the ceiling and there are two other small rooms plus a dining room. The hotel is featured in CAMRA's "Real Heritage Pubs of Wales" and "Great British Pubs". Some of the best climbing in the UK can be found round here, my favourite being Dinas Mot on the south side of the Llanberis Pass. Fish abound in the waters off the North Wales Coast and narrow-gauge enthusiasts can enjoy the nearby Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways.

## **8. Sligachan Hotel, Isle of Skye, Scotland.**



Around three beers from the on-site Cuillin Micro Brewery are usually available on hand pumps with guests ales from time to time. The Sligachan Hotel has served mountaineers, walkers and lovers of the wild Highland scenery for nearly 180 years, and has been in the same family for the last 100. Seumas' Bar stocks over 370 Scottish Malts, 90 of them on optics! The Black Cuillin offers mountaineering of the highest standard. The traverse of the Cuillin Ridge is a British Classic. Sea fishing is excellent all round on Skye whereas a regular steam-hauled service (The Jacobean) operates daily services during the summer months between Fort William and Mallaig on the mainland.

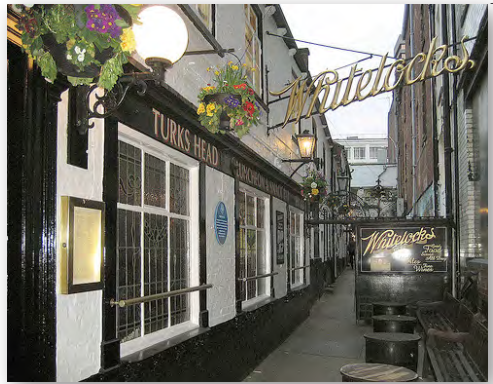
## 9. White Lion Inn, Cray, North Yorkshire.



This pub specialises in ales sourced from independent Yorkshire brewers. Black Sheep Bitter is usually on the bar. The White Lion re-opened at Christmas in 2015 following a major refurbishment. A former drovers inn, it was built in the mid-1600s and is the highest pub in Wharfedale. It sits next to Cray Gill beneath Buckden Pike and is popular with walkers, cyclists and anyone exploring the countryside. For me, it is simply my favourite pub in my favourite corner of the world - Upper Wharfedale. There is sensational climbing on the nearby crags of Kilnsey and Malham. There is no sea angling, but steam trains run regularly on the iconic Settle to Carlisle line which is just over the hill in Ribblesdale.

## 10. Whitelock's Ale House, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Whitelock's is something of a Leeds institution and has featured in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for 34



years. These days, it offers a large range of mainly local beers from West Yorkshire brewers such as Kirkstall, Elland and Ilkley. In my experience the real ales are always in superb condition. Tucked away in Turk's Head Yard, just off Briggate and described by poet, Sir John Betjeman as 'the very heart of Leeds', Whitelock's is the city's oldest pub dating back to 1715 when it was known as the Turks Head. It was the first city centre pub I visited and remains my favourite. Whitelock's is somewhat noisier than it was in the 1950s, but the food is just as good. Sea fishing is some way off, there is climbing on Yorkshire Gritstone not too far away at Ilkley and Almscliffe; also Leeds is home to the Middleton Railway, the world's oldest.

Roger Hepworth

## The Hyde Park Inn

Hilltop, Dronfield S18 1UH Tel 01246 290 120

Email: [dronfieldhydepark@gmail.com](mailto:dronfieldhydepark@gmail.com)

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# COAL MINING IN DRONFIELD AND DISTRICT



In some places, local history is full of tales of kings and queens and civil wars. In our part of North East Derbyshire industry is central to our local history, and none more so than coal mining. Pits at Stubley have been mentioned in records from the sixteenth century and a map of 1640 of Hill Top shows numerous workings. The Coal Authority Interactive Map can be easily found on the internet and will give you an idea of the extent of coal workings in our area. A key item to tick on this map is "Mine Entry", which brings up a series of red crosses on sites of old coal mines. The hillside near Hundall is shown on this map having been extensively worked, with a great density of these red crosses. Because the coal is quite near the surface in

Dronfield area, there are records of a great many workings compared to other places such as Shirebrook with deep mines that continued operations right into the 1980's and 1990's.

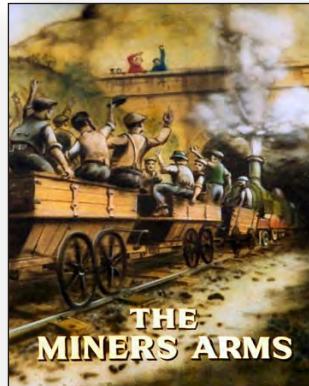
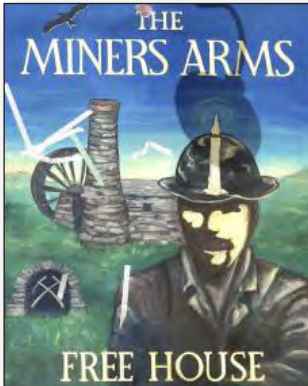
Coal mining in the early days was mainly through bell mining, where a shaft is dug down and the coal is then dug out in a "bell" shape, often without any supports until the workings became exhausted of coal, or too unsafe to continue. Drift mining, where the mine shaft is dug into the side of a hill was also a feature of the coal mining industry of our local area.

The pace of development was slow, gathering speed with the opening of mines at Dronfield Woodhouse, opposite the top of Carr Lane in 1795 and at Coal Aston in 1785 and coming to a climax around 1870 with the opening of the Midland Railway and the consequent improvement in communications. By the end of the century there had been mining in most parts of the district. However, during the first part of the 20th century coal mining in this

area went into decline with many mines closing. In 1945 there were mining operations still continuing in Coal Aston, Apperknowle and Dronfield Woodhouse, with Hirst Hollow in Dronfield Woodhouse being worked until 1947.

As is the case with many old coal mining areas, much of the evidence of coal mining has long since gone. In fact Dronfield today is more often than not unrecognisable from how it was during the heyday of coal mining in our area. Mine shafts have been capped, collieries demolished and spoil heaps removed to make way for housing and playing fields. Many industrial sites are located on old coal mining sites, Callywhite Lane in our own area is a good example of this, having previously being the site of Dronfield Silkstone Main Colliery.

However, there are still some traces of coal mining remaining such as the remains of Unstone Main colliery in Unstone woods. Heading up the hill from Unstone woods you come to a cutting that was once the site of a tramway that carried coal from





Apperknowle colliery to the railways at the bottom of the hill at Unstone. Some of these mine workings were known to suffer from wet conditions due to surface water running down the hillside and to this day mine workings are being continually pumped out. The small brooks in Unstone woods that run into the River Drone contain water that came from the mines, ochre in colour due to deposits of iron ore.

Deep in the heart of Eckington woods there is the Seldom Seen Engine House, which is a scheduled ancient monument and the last remaining building from the Plumbley Collieries. The beehive shaped coking ovens

in the grounds of Summerley House near Dronfield are also a scheduled ancient monument.

Pub names often reflect the history of their local areas and we have two pubs in our area named The Miners Arms. One in Dronfield Woodhouse and one in Hundall.

In addition to collieries such as Dronfield Silkstone Main, there are also records of coal mining having been carried in a number of places in the local area that you would not expect such as the site of Dronfield Railway Station, and the junction of Snape Hill Crescent & Thirlmere Drive. Many of the names of streets and suburbs in our area such as Gomersal, Gosforth

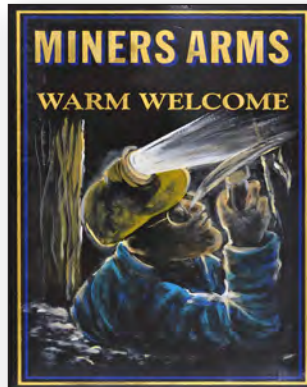
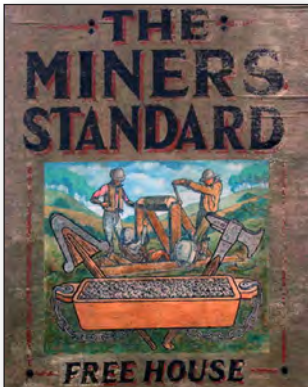
(pictured), Hill Top, Oxclose and Summerley all originated from collieries sited in those places.

It is worth noting at this point that because colliery abandonment plans did not have to be submitted by law until 1872 the records of coal mining before this date are somewhat incomplete. In addition to this, sometimes the date and ownership of a colliery are known but the exact location isn't.

The British coal industry fuelled the industrial revolution that turned Britain into a major power. With coal near the surface in our area, mining became the main industry that drove the growth of Dronfield in the Victorian era, with coal mined in our area being used to supply domestic households and the metal industries of Sheffield. Coal mining changed the landscape of Dronfield forever, and in ways that are not always obvious to the casual observer in 2017.

*Thomas Sturgess*

*Gosforth Colliery photograph reproduced with kind permission of Dronfield Heritage Trust.*



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\*See website for details

# AMBER RAMBLERS – OUT AND ABOUT IN AMBER VALLEY.

On another cold January evening, a group of four Dronfield and District members set off down the A61 to explore a few Good Beer Guide listed pubs. Our first port of call was The **New Inn** at Newton. This is a friendly local, with good support from the local community, who were settling down to enjoy the live music, which is a regular weekend feature. When we visited, there were two Dukeries beers available, Toby Dogs and De Lovetot, both of which were very tasty and well kept. The dark ale fan within the group, Ruth, was slightly disappointed at having to settle for draught Guinness here, but we were made to feel very welcome.

A short drive took us to The **Steampacket** at Swanwick. We loved the traditional feel of this pub, with several different rooms - it just felt right for the area, and the locals obviously agreed with us, as the pub was very busy. A

good selection of beers was on offer, including offerings from Bass, Leatherbritches, St. Austell, Castle Rock, Tyne Bank and Black Sheep. Ruth was much happier this time, as she really enjoyed the Castle Rock Sherwood Reserve Stout, whilst Roger and I rated the Leatherbritches Ashbourne IPA very highly, and Jean was suitably impressed with St. Austell's Proper Job. This augurs well for our upcoming holiday in Cornwall! The excellent pork pie went down well too!

Next stop was the **Talbot Taphouse** (pictured) at the top of Butterley Hill in Ripley. This is another traditional pub, with the emphasis on good quality beer and conversation. When we arrived at about 9:30pm, several beers had just gone, but there was still an excellent range, including Amber, Durham, Pentrich and Urban Huntsman. Roger and I decided to sample the two Amber ales on offer,

Barnes Wallis and Revolution, and thoroughly enjoyed them both, whilst Ruth found the Durham Black Bishop very much to her taste. Jean, as the designated driver settled for a diet Coke! Whilst Jean and I have been to the Talbot before, this was Roger and Ruth's first visit, and they were very impressed with the unspoilt feel of the pub.

Time was passing, and although there were other pubs we'd have liked to visit (oh, dear, we'll have to venture out again!), we headed back to Dronfield to meet up with Roger and Ruth's granddaughter who was working behind the bar at the **Dronfield Arms**. The text informing Roger that Church End's Fallen Angel was on the bar helped us on our way!

There was the usual decent selection of beers on offer, including the Fallen Angel, two from Hopjacker and one each from RAW, Bradfield and Abbeydale. Roger and I felt obliged to try the Fallen Angel - which was excellent - whilst Ruth and Jean tried the Hopjacker beers, enjoying Figgy Pudding Porter and Pyrites respectively.

A super trip out, combining visiting some pubs new to the group and confirming our high opinion of others. I'm already planning our next jaunt, possibly focusing on some of the micro pubs that are springing up in Derbyshire - there are certainly plenty of good ones to choose from!

*Graham Hall*



# OVER THE BAR

## DRONFIELD'S FOOTBALLER LANDLORDS

Before Sky TV turned professional footballers into millionaires it was not unusual for a one when he retired, to become a pub landlord. Painstaking research has discovered four former footballers who have owned or run pubs in the Dronfield and District CAMRA branch area. If you know of any others, let us know.



The current proprietor of the Manor House on High Street in Dronfield is Kevin Gage who chalked up over 400 appearances in a 20-year career for five league clubs. Londoner Kevin began his career with Wimbledon and was granted his debut by recently installed manager, Dave Bassett in 1981, going on to play 163 league games for the Dons before moving to Graham Taylor's Aston Villa in 1987 who were runners-up to Liverpool in the 1989-90 season. He was re-united with Bassett in 1991 when he joined Sheffield United, playing 107 times for the Blades before seeing out his career at Preston North End and Hull City. Upon retirement, he had spells in charge of the

Angel at Holmesfield and the Green Dragon. In addition to his duties at the Manor House, he also acts as match day host at Bramall Lane and writes a weekly column for the Sheffield Star.



Another Bramall Lane old boy with a Dronfield pub connection is goalkeeper, Paul Tomlinson who had a stint at the Hyde Park Inn at Hilltop. I can recall Paul saving a penalty for United on his first team debut in a 5-0 win over Southend in 1983 under Ian Porterfield. Despite the club gaining promotion in his first season, first team opportunities were limited and after a loan period with Birmingham City he joined Bradford City in 1987 and went on to play 293 games (a club record for goalkeepers) before a back injury curtailed his playing career aged 30.

Long serving Sheffield United full-back, Len Badger, a pupil at Coleridge Road School, Darnall was brought up on Ranskill Road, one of two isolated roads built to serve Tinsley Park Colliery which were demolished in the early sixties. He quickly established himself as a first team regular in 1964



and played a total of 541 times for the club. On New Year's Day 1976, manager, Joe Shaw brought Len to Chesterfield for whom he played 46 league games. After football, Len took on the Midland Hotel (now Dronfield Arms) in Dronfield under its new Sidings moniker, just over the road from where old playing partner, Ted Hemsley had his betting shop. Len went on to run the Peacock at Barlow and the Fox and Goose at Old Brampton.



In the early nineties, much travelled striker, John Tudor ran the Rock Inn (now Simply Chinese) on Sheffield Road, Dronfield with his wife, Christine. Ilkeston born John began his career with Ilkeston Town before turning professional with Coventry City. After a two year spell with Sheffield United, John played alongside Malcolm MacDonald for Newcastle United, including in the Magpies' 1974 FA Cup Final defeat to Liverpool and then for Stoke and in Belgium. After moving from the Rock, John, now aged 71, moved to the U.S and currently resides in Minnesota.

And in Sheffield.....

**BLADES:** Arthur Wharton (Sportman's Cottage: Button Lane), Seth King (Castle: Dykes Hall Rd), William 'Fatty' Foulke (Duke: Matilda St), Harold Barton (Broomhill Tavern: Broomhill), Graham Shaw (Sportsman: Denby St), Tommy Hoyland (Sheldon: Hill St), Steve Cammack (Princess Royal: Woodhouse Mill), Steve Ludlam (Bradley Well: Darnall, White Rose: Handsworth), Billy Whitehurst (Cricketers: Bramall Lane).

**OWLS:** Ernest Blenkinsop (Sportsman: Benty Lane, Crosspool), Billy Marsden (Robin Hood: Millhouses etc), Walt Millership (Sportsman: Marcus St, Pitsmoor), Ted Catlin (Anvil: Malin Bridge, Rose and Crown: Wadsley, Kelvin Grove: Uppertorpe, Magnet: Southey Green), Peter Swan (Travellers: Attercliffe), David 'Bronco' Layne (Staniforth Arms: Darnall, Coked Hat: Attercliffe, Crown: Brightside), Graham Pugh (Rising Sun: Nether Green, Freemasons: Hillsborough).

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## TIME TO JOIN CAMRA!

If, like ourselves, you enjoy drinking cask ale and drinking in good pubs then it is very much worth considering membership of CAMRA.

Founded in 1971, the Campaign for Real Ale currently has membership in excess of 180,000 people and is considered to be the most successful consumer rights organisation in Europe, having spearheaded the revival of cask ale and the growth of ever improving customer choice and quality for beer drinkers.

We have come a long way since the dark days of the 1970s, when cask ale was seriously threatened by the continued trend towards inferior quality keg beers, pushed by a small number of big breweries. However, there is still much to be done. Pubs continue to close and need to be preserved, both as the best place to drink real ale and also as the hub of local communities. Taxes continue to push the price of a pint ever upwards and drinkers choice is never far from being eroded by the big players in the industry.

The aims of CAMRA are to

1. Protect and improve consumer rights.
2. Promote quality, choice and value for money.
3. Support the public house as a focus of community life.

4. Campaign for greater appreciation of traditional beers, ciders and perries as part of our national heritage and culture.
5. Seek improvements in all licensed premises and throughout the brewing industry

CAMRA's campaigns include promoting small brewing and pub businesses, reforming licensing laws, reducing tax on beer, and stopping continued consolidation among local British brewers. We also make an effort to promote less common varieties of beer, as well as traditional cider and perry.

Membership costs from £25.00 per year with some concessions being available. For this you get CAMRA's national monthly magazine What's Brewing, the excellent quarterly magazine called Beer, discounts in many pubs, including £20.00 of vouchers for beer in JD Wetherspoons pubs and free or discounted entry to a number of beer festivals.

You can join online at [camra.org.uk](http://camra.org.uk) or get more information by contacting our Branch membership secretary – John Hadfield – by email at [membership@dronfieldcamra.org.uk](mailto:membership@dronfieldcamra.org.uk) quoting reference PA4.

# SALOP DODGERS

## A DAY OUT IN BRIDGNORTH

Late last year, an opportunity arose for an overnighter in the Shropshire town of Bridgnorth, where I enjoyed a week's stay in 2014. In the intervening years, I've recommended the town to many and been keen to re-acquaint myself with its wonderful pubs. Accommodation was arranged at **Bassa Villa**, a bar/restaurant and B&B on the town's ancient Cartway which Derek Acorah once told me (he actually didn't) is reputedly haunted by the ghost of a woman who lost her two children sometime in the 1600s. Cartway is a steep winding street which at one time was the only route for carts travelling between the High Town and the Low Town and once had some 50 pubs and eateries among its route with great old-fashioned names such as the Saltbox, the Kouli Khan and the Tumbling Sailors.



Before arriving in Bridgnorth, there was time to call at the **All Nations Inn** in Madeley which in the seventies was one of the country's four remaining pubs that brewed beer on site. Tucked away on the secluded Coalport Road, the All Nations has a blue plaque proclaiming

it to be a 'famous home brew house' which was first licensed in 1832. We arrived in heavy rain and found this rather basic but charming boozier serving a small selection of local beers including the mysterious Test Brew #2 which was our selection.



After check-in, we began our all day session at the historic Greene King owned **Black Boy**, just up Cartway, sinking a very decent pint of Yankee Hop from Derby Brewing Co whilst indulging in a decidedly mediocre game of darts. It ought to be said that the owners have done a great job since its re-opening in 2014, offering a good selection of local beers alongside some Greene King regulars and scooping two local CAMRA Pub of the Year awards.

I wanted to call at a couple of pubs in the Low Town which



seemed a good opportunity to introduce Dom to the town's electric cliff railway (some say funicular) which for a £1.60 return transports you up and down the 111 foot sandstone cliffs and onto the next boozier. What fun! From here, we crossed the Severn to the **Black Horse** which was bursting with Wolves supporters, many of whom were bemoaning their team's performance in a 2-1 home defeat by Norwich City on Sky Sports. From an extensive range of real ales, we both



chose local favourite, Batham's Best Bitter - a better kept pint, I hadn't had all year. Working our way through the unfamiliar Low Town, we came to the **Hare and Hounds**, a recently re-opened community pub which should be commended for its commitment to local ales. On this occasion, Sadler's beers were available including the easy drinking honey beer, Mellow Yellow. Donovan might have approved.

For me, no pub crawl around Bridgnorth is complete without a trip to the **Railwayman's Arms** which sits on platform one of the Severn Valley Railway station,

just outside of the town. This atmospheric pub is as you might expect full of railwayana and has plenty of beer to go at too and with the night still young, I tried the Hobson's Champion Mild - quality pint yet again.

And so to the home run. Back in the High Town, the thriving **Old Castle** is a great all rounder, serving appetising food and well kept beer to a mixed crowd

with pool and darts in the back room. Drinking was still going strong at this stage and pints of Wye Valley HPA and Town Crier from Hobson's were ordered as we concluded that a bite to eat was well overdue. One aspect of Wetherspoon's outlets is that they serve food until late and it was to the **Jewel of the Severn** on High Street we headed next. Although typical of the chain,

the JOTS didn't disappoint, offering a good meal and an even better pint of Salopian Shropshire Gold at a price that at 9:30pm on a Saturday night was difficult to ignore.

And so to our final destination, another new one for me, the **Bell and Talbot**, a handsome three-storey establishment on Salop

Street just off the main drag. When we arrived, the pub was quiet and we found ourselves in one of those situations when you feel you ought to move on but it seems impolite to leave the band (or in this case boy/girl duo) playing to a virtually empty house. Another good pint of Batham's helped matters and after a couple more songs, we called it a night.

In good traffic, you can drive from Dronfield to Bridgnorth in under two hours. Well recommended.

*Pat Hancock*



## BRANCH DIARY

### **BRANCH MEETINGS:**

**Tuesday 13th June:** Gosforth Fields, Dronfield.

**Tuesday 11th July:** Travellers Rest, Apperknowle.

**Tuesday 8th August:** George & Dragon, Holmesfield.

**Tuesday 12th September:** Royal Oak, Coal Aston.

Branch meetings commence at 8pm and all are welcome to attend.

### **BRANCH SOCIALS:**

**Saturday 3rd June:** Three Valleys Beer Festival!!

**Saturday 24th June:** 'Ladies Day' Trip To York. A group of Dronfield and District CAMRA lady members are planning to visit York for a day exploring the excellent real ale pubs to be found in this beautiful and historic city. The plan is to

meet at Dronfield station in time for the 10:02 train, have a leisurely day in York, and return to Dronfield early evening.

Ladies are most welcome to join us, whether you're a CAMRA member or just someone who enjoys real ale. For further details look on the Dronfield CAMRA website or contact Jean Hall on graham55hall@gmail.com.

**Saturday 1st July:** Dronfield area pub survey, starting at 12:30 at various pubs in branch area. All Branch pubs to be surveyed to reveal how many different real ales are available in Dronfield District.

**Saturday 8th July:** Branch trip to Derby Beer Festival leaving on 11:15 train, changing at Chesterfield.



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# DINING OUT

## THE ANGEL INN – HOLMESFIELD

The fourth of our regular feature highlighting some of the first rate catering establishments in our area.

**The Angel at Holmesfield, Main Road, Holmesfield, S18 7WT.**

**Tel: 0114 2890336 - [www.angelatholmesfield.co.uk](http://www.angelatholmesfield.co.uk)**

The Angel is perfectly positioned at the top of Holmesfield, right next to St Swithin's Church with fine views from the dining area and lovely walks in the woods close by. The pub is two sided with outside seating at the front and rear.

The pub has a fine reputation for food with a good selection of vegetarian and gluten-free dishes available and has been racking up some excellent TripAdvisor reviews of late so the occasion of our granddaughter, Lily's 19th birthday offered the opportunity to check out the food for ourselves. There were ten of us in total, including five card carrying CAMRA members. Some comments included...

**Starters:** The Haloumi Salad was described as *"the best this side of Chesterfield"* and *"life-changing"*



with the a *"stunning array of exotic flavours in the Haloumi Salad - the perfect combination"*. *"Great Chowder"*, *"Twice Baked Souffle – was very nice"*; *"Pate was Perfection"*; and the crab was *"Top Notch"*.

**Main Courses:** The Rump Steak was *"very tasty"*; the Fish & Chips, *"substantial and flavoursome"*; The pie was *"irresistible"*.

Further main courses partaken of were *"a beautifully textured Duck Breast complemented wonderfully by the divine sauce with potatoes to die for"*; *"a delectable Butternut Squash Risotto"*; *"incredible Cheese Tart - and a great salad"*; the Risotto was *"good and tasty but rather rich"*; *"Duck was nice and tender - Dauphinoise salad good as well"*.

The hand-pulled beers on offer during our visit were the permanently available gluten-free Hambleton Stud Golden Ale, Peak Ale Bakewell Bitter, Abbeydale Moonshine and Old Ale from Adnams - a dark winter beer. All were sampled and pronounced most satisfactory.

Food is served at the Angel from 12noon to 9pm (Mon-Sat) and 12noon to 8pm (Sun).

Roger Hepworth



# WAKEFIELD WOBBLE

Dronfield and District CAMRA's latest branch social took a select group of us to Wakefield to explore some of the town's pubs. We arrived into Westgate station at 6:45pm and 'aided' by some confusing maps on an assortment of electronic devices, headed first to **Harry's Bar**, a small one-roomed pub set in an alleyway just off Westgate and named in honour of a former Wakefield and England rugby star of the forties, Harry Murphy. The bar area was extremely busy when we arrived and locals were keen to suggest beers that may be worth trying. The range included beers from local brewers, Tigertops and Five Towns, familiar ones from Sheffield's Exit 33 and Kelham Island, and beers from Blackjack and North Riding. Knowing the night's itinerary, we plumped for some of the lighter ales with Blackjack New Deck and North Riding Citra Pale starting the evening off very nicely. Some of us appreciated the free pork pie too! Resisting the temptation of the nearby Old Printworks and Hop, our next stop was the characterful **Black Rock**.



We loved the ultra-traditional feel of this pub, appreciating the old 'Melbourne Ales' windows and thoroughly enjoying the good mix of beers on offer. Pat and myself tried our first dark beer of the night, Holden's Toffee Porter, which we both found very satisfying, whilst others went for Leeds Pale and Oakham Citra. Everyone was highly impressed with the quality and value, and we managed to negotiate the stairs to the toilets without mishap! Other beers on offer included Acorn Drop Kick, Tetley Cask and Kelham Island Easy Rider.

Moving on, we eventually found ourselves at a much more modern establishment, namely **Wakefield Beer Exchange**, a beer cafe, bottle shop and regular outlet for Revolutions beers which are brewed in

KEG		
VELTINS PILSNER	4.8%	PINT £3.90
CORNISH ORCHARDS BLUSH	4.7%	PINT £3.90
MALLINSONS GLOO	4.1%	HALF £2.35
LOST INDUSTRY 40d 5th	6.4%	HALF £3.00
LOST INDUSTRY LICORICE GOSE	3.9%	HALF £2.85
MAGIC ROCK THE STOUGE	4.7%	HALF £2.85
CASK		
REVOLUTIONS	3.9%	PINT £2.90
SLIGHTLY FOXED HOWLIN' FOX	3.5%	PINT £3.00
		PINT
GREAT HECK NAVIGATOR	3.9%	PINT £3.00
LOST INDUSTRY BLACK DAYS	6.6%	PINT £4.00
REVOLUTIONS CLASH (RHUBARB)	4.5%	PINT £3.20



another Yorkshire rugby league town, Castleford. We liked the micro-pub feel here, and the pub has obviously established itself well since opening in December 2015. Revolutions Session Pale was the beer of choice here and went down very well. Amongst the other beers on offer were Revolutions 'Rhubarb Porter', Slightly Foxed 'Howling Fox', Lost Industry 'Black Days' and Great Heck 'Navigator' - a good mix of light and dark, local and further afield. I'll be interested to see how this pub develops over the next few years.



A stroll over to the Kirkgate area took us to the legendary **Wakefield Labour Club** (AKA 'Red Shed') which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. This was the venue that I'd been most looking forward to, having never visited before, and wasn't disappointed. It was rugby league night, with the bar full of enthusiastic fans watching Castleford beat Warrington

and enjoying well-kept, keenly priced beers from Exmoor (Gold), Tigertops (Red Rock IPA), Hop Studio (Humbug) and Jennings (Cocker Hoop). Most of us chose the Exmoor Gold, which was excellent. Chairman Rob decided that his 'man cave bar' would be modelled on the 'red shed' - we look forward to joining him for launch night! Several of us chose this as pub of the night, and wished that we had something comparable in Dronfield!

Final stop of the night was the **Fernandes Brewery Tap & Bier Keller**. Bypassing the Bier Keller on the second floor, we headed up to the top floor. Much use



is made of old pub signs and lights in the décor here, which helps create a comfortable, traditional feel. Great selection of beers here predominantly from Fernandes and Ossett. Most of us felt obliged to try the Fernandes range, opting for 'Two Brews',

which was very acceptable.

Yet another very enjoyable Friday night out - these are becoming very much a branch tradition! Keep checking the web site for details of further excursions - we'd love to see you!

*Graham Hall*

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# LOST PUBS OF DRONFIELD

## ROAD SIDE INN



Hundreds of Dronfield Residents will pass by the old Roadside Inn every day. Many will go inside little suspecting the building's past history. The cellars that once contained barrels of beer now contain something of rather higher value and the counter no longer houses a row of hand pumps.

The Roadside Inn stood on the junction of Sheffield Road and Mill Lane and had been a corner shop before obtaining a license to sell beer.

It was a strange choice of locations to open a public house as there were already rather a lot on that particular junction. The Sportsman was bang opposite on the other side of Mill Lane. The Horse and Jockey was also on the opposite side of Sheffield Road. Not only that a 100 metre walk would take you to The Railway Inn, The Midland, The Castle, The White Swan or The Traveller's Rest. You would have had a lot of choice. This area was also very prone to flooding before the flood dam was built. Surprisingly, however, neither competition nor flooding was the reason for its demise.

The Roadside Inn was a small two-roomed corner pub and one of only about half a dozen public houses that were owned by James Haynes of The Crown Brewery in Sheffield.

The Crown Brewery had a chequered history. Thomas Berry ran a very successful brewery at Moorhead in Sheffield. He was aided in the enterprise by his 2 sons Thomas jnr and Samuel. In 1840 Samuel left the company and founded The Crown Brewery on Langsett Road. He traded Samuel Berry & Co, before being taken over in 1865 by William Birks who was a successful brewer and owner of Lady's Bridge Brewery. The brewery was surplus to Birks's requirements and remained unused for around 25 years before being sold to Haynes in 1897. James left the running of the company to his son Thomas, who took on a large 60 year old brewery that was without any tied houses or customers lined up to buy the wares. The business struggled and, as mentioned earlier, only ever supplied a handful of public houses.



In the late Victorian period there was literally a pub on every corner as rival brewers searched for any opportunity to get their beers into every district. It is likely that the Roadside Inn was a beer house that came into the ownership of The Crown Brewery around the turn of the century when they were desperately looking for outlets for their beer. Photographs exist showing the pub in its heyday which was very brief indeed.

The Crown Brewery struggled into the 20th century before Thomas went bankrupt in 1903. A new owner took on the enterprise but he too went bankrupt in 1910. Not surprisingly there were no further takers for the business which disappeared without trace. The assets were sold off piecemeal.

The brewery never produced beer again but rather strangely it survived more or less intact for another 90 years directly opposite The Hillsborough Hotel in Sheffield. For most of that time it was used by a scrap metal company. It has only recently been demolished and the site



used for flats. This large brewery had stood on the site for over 160 years and yet produced beer for less than 40.

The Roadside Inn had a happier fate. The license was not renewed after 1910 and the building was put to other uses. For many years it was used by Lock's wool shop where they also sold uniforms for the local schools. It is currently used as a branch of The National Westminster Bank.

I photographed it in January 2017, 107 years after it closed but the main features are pretty much unchanged despite the years.

*Nick Lister*

*Road Side Inn photograph courtesy Dronfield Hall Barn Trust*

## HEINEKEN TAKING OVER PUNCH TAVERNS: HOW WILL THIS AFFECT DRINKERS?

Punch Taverns are a pub and bar operator with around 3500 leased or tenanted pubs in Britain. They are one of the largest of the PubCo's who own large numbers of Pubs in this country. In December 2016 Punch accepted a takeover offer of £403 million from brewing giant Heineken International, in conjunction with investment firm Patron Capital.

The takeover deal is set to make Heineken the UK's third largest pub group after Greene King and Enterprise Inns. In February it was announced that the takeover deal will be investigated by The Competition and Markets Authority, to assess whether the deal could reduce competition and choice for customers.

Since the merger between the two largest brewing empires in the world, Anheuser-Busch InBev and SABMiller, in October 2016, Heineken has been the second largest brewer in the world. Heineken own such major brands

as Amstel, Cruzcampo, John Smith's, Newcastle Brown Ale, Strongbow and Bulmers ciders.

There are positive outcomes from this deal, as it will allow pubs in Punch's estate to continue as going concerns. There is also potential for greater investment into these pubs. However, a major concern about this takeover is the potential effect of greatly reducing consumer choice.

It is Heineken's declared policy to stock their own brands in pubs and bars they own as the "route to market" for their beers, and to reduce access to these pubs to non-Heineken brands. This is likely to result in reduced choice for drinkers as small and regional brewers will find it increasingly harder to make their cask ales available in pubs owned by Heineken. In the current climate, with increasing numbers of drinkers demanding greater choice in pubs this could also have a detrimental effect on trade for

these pubs as a decreased range of beers and cider could cause some drinkers to go elsewhere.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has opened an investigation into Heineken's proposed acquisition of part of the Punch Taverns pubs portfolio. This is to assess whether or not the deal could reduce competition and choice for customers. There is already a campaign to stop the takeover, which can be found at the website <https://www.saveourpubs.org.uk>, where you can sign petitions, and e-mail your local MP and also the Competition and Markets Authority about the merger. CAMRA have also written to Heineken requesting answers to a number of concerns about Heineken's plans for the pub estate they intend to acquire, most particularly with regard to the choice of beers and ciders that will be available to drinkers in these pubs after the merger

*Thomas Sturgess*

# COME ON PEEL THE NOISE

*Another round of music questions to muse over whilst enjoying a pint of real ale. Answers are below.*

- Your Love Is King and Smooth Operator were hits in 1984 for which female singer?
- Which rock singer released the albums, Diary Of A Madman, Bark At the Moon and The Ultimate Sin?
- How Do You Do It? and I Like It were the first two chart toppers for Gerry and the Pacemakers in 1963. Name their third.
- Which female singer won the first series of American Idol in 2002?
- Eurovision winner, Sandie Shaw teamed up with which band on the track, Hand In Glove?
- The first three albums from which singer are named after basic mathematical symbols?
- Kevin Godley and Lol Creme were former members of which band?
- Which oversized Greek singer reached number one in 1976 with Forever and Ever?
- What was the name of the Bay City Rollers' TV series broadcast in 1975?
- Name the twenty-fifth and last studio album released by David Bowie in January 2016.
- The 1973 hit by The Hotshots saw Snoopy line up against who?
- Meet The Flintstones, from the Flintstones film soundtrack provided a 1994 hit for which US band?
- Name the boy/girl duo who sang Cry Baby and scored 'nul points' at the 2003 Eurovision Song Contest.
- Complete the name of the act: Jive Bunny and the .....
- The track, Born Slippy by Underworld features in the closing sequence of which 1995 film?
- Which singer won an Oscar for his role as Private Angelo Maggio in From Here To Eternity?
- Liverpool group, The Scaffold, featuring Paul McCartney's brother Mike, had a number one with what song?
- Which artist's single, Looking For Freedom was number one in Germany for eight weeks in 1989?
- Name the song that provided Girls Aloud with their debut hit.
- Former Eastenders actress Anita Dobson has had a long term relationship with which famous guitarist?
- Which music weekly that began in 1926 was published for the last time in 2000?
- Duran Duran members, Andy, Roger and John all share the same surname. What is it?
- Which song provided a number one hit for reggae singer Ken Boothe in 1974 and Boy George in 1987?
- Gavin Rossdale, now a judge on ITV's The Voice is the lead vocalist in which group?
- Which late 70s punk band's hits include Angels With Dirty Faces, Hershram Boys and Hurry Up Harry?

ANSWERS: 1. Sade 2. Ozzy Osbourne 3. You'll Never Walk Alone 4. Kelly Clarkson 5. The Smiths 6. Ed Sheeran 7. 10cc 8. Dennis Roussos 9. Shang-a-Lang 10. (Blackstar) Brian May 21. Melody Maker 22. Taylor 23. Everything I Own 24. Bush 25. Sham 69.

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