

NOTTINGHAM DRINKER

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE NOTTINGHAM BRANCH OF CAMRA - THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
ISSUE 61 - APRIL / MAY 2004

Trams return to the streets of Nottingham - closely followed by a Tram Pub Guide

Tram Lines meet Beer Lines!

A new phrase will soon be part of the Nottingham drinker's vocabulary. 'Tram friendly' will soon be a familiar term used by real ale drinkers in the Nottingham area, and maybe even farther afield.

Since the introduction of Nottingham's new trams it has become apparent that there is a market for a *Beer by Tram* guide, so Nottingham CAMRA and NET (Nottingham Express Transit) have teamed up together.

A *Beer by Tram* guide is to be

launched over the Easter weekend, showing the locations, and giving descriptions of recommended real ale outlets, along with the beers they sell, and other useful information for the budding tram / cask ale enthusiast. Initially listing pubs along the 'line one' route, it is hoped that further guides will be produced as new routes are built.

Richard Studeny, Nottingham CAMRA Chairman said: "It is hoped that around 20,000 of the full-colour pocket guides will be produced in association with NET.

Several other pub / tram guides at various place in the UK already exist but it is hoped that the Nottingham publication will be the best yet!

Mr Studeny added: "In this age of traffic congestion it is hoped that the guide will at least encourage people into pubs they might not otherwise visit, whilst at the same time using an environmentally friendly transport system to achieve this".



Marquis of Granby Hoveringham

**4 Guest Ales - strong
beers a speciality**

**Food lunch time and
evenings**

Beer garden

Pool Table

Tel 0115 9663080

**Come along and enjoy a
pint of real beer and
meet the parrots**

Mild in May 2004 Supplement Inside



NEWE BEER

This delightful well-hopped premium ale has a clean fresh hop aroma which produces a rich, full flavour. All the traditional bitter characteristics from one of Britain's oldest brewers, Hardys & Hansons.

OLDE TRIP - YOU'LL FALL FOR IT



61 check out www.nottinghamcamra.org



Beer and Brewing - by Ray Peters

History from old Ordnance Survey Maps

The Alan Godfrey reprints of old OS maps around 1900 are useful for tracing breweries and associated premises such as maltings, and sometimes for locating pubs. Authorative historical notes are a special feature of these reprints, and many sheets contain extracts of contemporary trade directories.

In the "25 inch" (1:2500) series, there are 3 sheets for Nottingham: South (Trent Bridge to the Castle, 1901); Central (Standard Hill to Forest Road, 1901); and North (the Forest to Haydn Road, 1913). All the sheets clearly show licensed premises as "PH" or "Inn", and of course many are easily identifiable today - only rarely (as the George Hotel) are they named. The South sheet indicates maltings at Poplar Street and Greyfriar Gate, whilst on the Central sheet the (original) Nottingham brewery appears on York Street, and maltings on St Anns Well Road near St Ann's Church. The North sheet shows the Carrington Brewery (opposite Ebers Road).

Outside Nottingham, there are 2 sheets for Mansfield, 2 for Newark, 3 for Derby, 2 for Burton on Trent and 4 for Leicester - and single sheets for Loughborough, Grantham, Lincoln and Worksop. Typical of the "brewing interest" to be found within this series are the following:

Burton on Trent & Burton (North) (both 1900) - as one would expect, the extensive installations of all the breweries, and the interconnecting systems of several railway companies and the breweries own railways are all fully detailed on these 2 sheets: at this date probably at their greatest extent.

Newark (1900) & Newark East (1899) - at one time known as the "Metropolis of Malt" due to excellent rail and river communications, Newark boasts at least 16 maltings on these 2 sheets. Hole's Castle Brewery appears, but the larger Warwick's & Richardson's is just outside the map area.

Northampton (1899) - the Bridge Street "Northampton Brewery" (presumably Phipps') and the Phoenix Brewery are adjacent on the River Nene; there is also a Castle Brewery near the station. No maltings are shown, however these larger breweries may have carried out their own malting on site.

On the 25 inch maps, public house names are not always shown (although the notes may help here). However, on the larger scale 50 inch maps, pubs and inns are usually named as are many other public buildings such as banks. These maps are generally for an earlier period (eg 1870), but there are not as many available in this larger scale - a good number for inner London, a handful for central Manchester, a new series just starting for Liverpool, and just one of Hull.

The Hull (Old Town - 1853) sheet is incredibly interesting. There are scarcely any open spaces, as the whole of the Old Town is densely built up with dwellings and warehouses. Within an area of perhaps 1/2 square mile there appear the South

End Brewery, Dossor's Brewery, the George Yard Brewery, and two others unnamed at Dagger Lane, and Blanket Row/Sewer Lane.

The huge number of inns and taverns all appear to be named, and include:

The Marrow Bone & Cleaver

The Edinburgh Packet

The Lion & Key

The Labour in Vain

The Brass Founders Arms

and the Original Andrew Marvel!

In all there are some 1700 maps available in 3 scales from this publisher, with 10 or 12 new titles added every month - the best way to keep up to date is to visit the website www.alangodfrey.com where you can search by county or region. For a list of local titles (and ordering details), contact Arkwright Models (PO Box 210, Nottingham NG8 2NT: tel 0115 928 1983).

Don't forget that **May is Mild** month. Throughout May you have not one but two mild trails to take part in. Full details are in the supplement included with this edition of the Nottingham Drinker. Every pub on the trail should also have some of the supplements available. The Nottingham trail has 31 pubs in and around the centre of Nottingham. Collect eight or more stickers from different outlets and you will receive a certificate, bronze for 8 stickers, silver for 16 and gold for all 31. All entrants will be entered into a draw for a unique T-shirt from Hardys and Hansons. If that wasn't enough there is still more - all qualifying entries also receive a free pint of mild at the Nottingham Beer Festival (21st to 24th October 2004). The Vale of Belvoir has eighteen pubs on its trail, many of these don't usually serve mild throughout the year so now is your chance to visit the pubs and sample a drop of mild. You will receive a certificate for your efforts, gold for all 18, silver for 12 and bronze for 8. For those who have not tried mild, May is your ideal time.



Enjoy a Warm welcome at one of Nottingham's Traditional Public Houses



5 Real Ales

Sky Sports (in the Bar)

Wednesday - Carrington Folk Club 8.30pm upstairs

Thursday night is Quiz Night 9.00pm

Function Room available for hire

Hours : Mon -Fri 5 - 11 Sat 12 -11 Sun 12- 10.30

The Gladstone, Loscoe Road, Carrington, Nottingham

Tel: 0115 9129994

Rosie O'Briens

Mansfield Road Carrington

3 Real Ales

Good Pub Food

Open All Day

**Monday Night - Quiz
Curry and a Pint for £5.50**

**Live Music Sunday
Afternoon**

0115 962 2458



COCK & HOOP



We pride ourselves on the outstanding quality of our ale and are delighted to be known as the city's first 'Gastro Pub'.
A warm welcome awaits you!

The Cock and Hoop (formally the County Tavern) is the pub's original name - changed to the County Tavern in 1841.

Cock and Hoop, 25-27 High Pavement, The Lace Market, Nottingham. NG1 1HF - open 7 days.

Try our very own "Cock and Hoop" Bitter - 4.3%, brewed for us by Nottingham Brewery!



Beer Festival Round Up

The Leicester Beer Festival is back at the same venue for another year, the Charotar Patidar Samaj on Bay Street near the bus station. The festival runs from Thursday 25th March through to Saturday 27th March and is open from 11 to 11 each day. One of the unusual things about the Leicester festival is the selection of curries available. More details on www.camra.org.uk/Leicester

Mansfield Beer Festival takes place from Thursday 1st April through to Sunday 4th April. It is being held as usual at the Leisure Centre on Chesterfield Road. The Leisure Centre is accessible from the Robin Hood railway station with a walk to the north of the town. Alternatively the 737/747/757 buses run to Mansfield regularly, (the 737 and 747 stop outside the leisure centre), the last 737 returns at 11.25pm on Friday and Saturday (10.25pm on Thursday). Thursday evening is the quiet time whilst Friday evening sees 'Once more into the Bleach', a Blondie tribute band, performing. Saturday's headliners are Soulburners. More details of the festival at www.mansfieldcamra.org.uk

The Spring Bank Holiday weekend in May (Friday 28th to Sunday 30th May) sees the return of the Newark Beer Festival to the Castle Grounds and only two minutes walk from the Castle railway station. 120 beers will be available and as usual there will be some unusual one amongst them. Live music will feature alongside ciders, perries and country wines. The festival is open from 11 till 10 on Friday and Saturday and 12 till 10 on Sunday.

Also look out for beer festivals in local pubs, both the Lion and the Horse and Groom in Basford are holding a St Georges Day festival over the weekend of 23rd April. The Mallard at Worksop, on the Robin Hood line, is also holding a festival this weekend. The following week the Johnson's Arms in Dunkirk is celebrating four years with a beer festival which is on 'until the beer runs out'! At the end of the week, starting on Friday 30th April, the Globe on London Road is putting on another festival with some unusual brews promised.



NEWARK BEER FESTIVAL 2004



ROSE OF ENGLAND

Wide range of hand pulled beers

Food available Mon-Sat 11.30 - 4.00

Quiz night every Wednesday - Win a Gallon!

Open all day every day

Function room for hire

36-38 Mansfield Road, Nottingham
Telephone 0115 947 2739



The Bell in the Market Square held another successful beer festival. Over thirty ales direct from the cask were available. The Bell now has beers from several micro breweries, supplied by Burton Bridge, so expect to see a mini beer festival at the pumps all year round.

The Fox and Crown timed their festival to make the most of the new tram with 9 Alcazar beers and a further 17 other micros available.

THERE'S A PUB FOR YOU

Langtry's
8 real ales on offer daily

4 South Sherwood Street
(Across from the Cornerhouse)
0115 9472124

SIZE DOES MATTER!

At Langtry's we have always been proud to offer an extensive range of quality real ales. We can now offer **EVEN MORE CHOICE** from micro breweries across the country!

Sample our fantastic new menu
Langtry's

This is a selection from last month, look out for more beers this spring

- OKELLS OLDE SKIPPER 4.5%
- ROOSTER'S BODY WARMER 5.2%
- MARSTON'S OLD EMPIRE 5.7%
- H & H PEAK PERFECTION 4.1%
- INVERALMOND THRAPPEDDOUSER 4.3%
- NETHERGATE RED ROOSTER 4.5%
- ROBINSON'S ENIGMA 4.7%
- TOM WOODS SHEPHERDS DELIGHT 4.0%
- ARCHERS GOLDEN 4.7%

- MAULDENS DICKENS 4.0%
- WYCHWOOD YORVICK 4.3%
- SKINNERS BETTY STOGS 4.0%
- STONEHENGE HEEL STONE 4.3%
- ORKNEY DARK ISLAND 4.6%
- OLD MILL BULLION 4.7%
- GALES SWING LOW 4.1%
- ARUNDEL CHILLIE WILLIE 4.6%
- TITANIC STOUT 4.5%

Plus many more



Meal Deal - 2 meals for £6.49
Food served Sun - Thurs 12-9
Fri - Sat 12-8



The White Horse not just a pub, a meeting place



**3 Guest Ales
Open 7 days a week 12-11
Traditional pub games
including pool**

**Food Monday to Friday
Lunch onwards**

**Soul and Motown Friday night
Rock 'n' Roll Saturday night**

**Ilkeston Road, Radford
Junction with Faraday Road
0115 9703178**

Harvest Pale is Launched

On Thursday 29th January Castle Rock's new beer was officially launched at the Vat and Fiddle. The beer is called Harvest Pale and was voted SIBA Midlands Champion Beer recently.

Nottingham's Lord Mayor, Councillor Brent Charlesworth, is seen pulling the first pint with head brewer, Pete Wooding, Nottingham CAMRA chairman, Richard Studeny and social organiser Ray Kirby. The beer was originally brewed for the Nottingham Beer Festival and called Trammie Dodger. It is now available throughout the Tynemill estate and in the free trade.

Head brewer, Pete Wooding says he is delighted it has proved so popular not just with the Lord Mayor but equally with the SIBA judging panel. "To win the coveted overall champion award in a competition judged by my fellow brewing professionals and others with a keen interest in our industry, is something I'll never forget. It's great news for us all at the brewery and I think it's good news for everyone with an interest in what is happening in brewing today." says Pete. "The beer is mid strength at 3.8 per cent, and thanks to its particularly pale malt base and its blend of two high alpha acid American hops, it has proved particularly popular with those who enjoy tastes at the lighter end of the beer spectrum."



Nottingham's Lord Mayor, Councillor Brent Charlesworth, is seen pulling the first pint with head brewer, Pete Wooding, Nottingham CAMRA chairman, Richard Studeny and social organiser Ray Kirby. The beer was originally brewed for the Nottingham Beer Festival and called Trammie Dodger. It is now available throughout the Tynemill estate and in the free trade.

Victoria Hotel, Dovecote Lane, Beeston. 0115 925 4049 **Regular** – Jazz club every Monday evening (see listings for details) **April** – Sun 4: No Fixed Abode; Mon 5: Hot Club; Sun 11: Richie Muir; Mon 12: Burgandy Street Jazz; Sun 18: Carminia; Mon 19: Terry Fullick Jazz; Sun 25: Pesky Alligators; Mon 26: Matt Palmer Jazz **May** – Sun 2: Sanders & Macloed; Mon 3: Hot Club

White Hart, Glasshouse Street, Nottingham. Occasional live music

details of all the events advised of are on the web site
www.nottinghamcamra.org

RICHARD'S REAL ALE MUSIC DIARY

Music Dates for April and May.

Here is a listing of real ale venues in the Nottingham area offering live music/entertainment. Most evening gigs start at 8.30 pm and are **FREE** but bookings & times etc need to be confirmed with the individual venues. Venues listed are the ones that have been in contact with ND, so if you know of, or work at, a real ale venue that ought to be included, we would be glad to hear from you. The next **ND** deadline is 1st May.

Bell, Angel Row, Nottingham 0115 947 5241. **Regular** – Sun (lunch: 12.30-2pm): Footwarmers (Trad jazz); Mon: Omega Jazz Band (Trad jazz); Tues: Johnny Johnstone Quintet (Mainstream jazz). **April** – Wed 7: Rif-Raf; Wed 14: Richie Muir; Wed 21: Rollo Markee & The Tailshakers; Wed 28: Pesky Alligators **May** – Sun 2: Richie Muir; Wed 5: Sore Point; Wed 12: Bosko; Wed 19: Lovers Block; Wed 26: Pesky Alligators; Sun 30: Rif-raf **June** – Wed 2: Rif-raf; Wed 9: Performance & Cocktails (Stereophonics tribute band); Wed 16: Kellys Heroes; Wed 23: Rollo Markee & The Tailshakers; Wed 30: Pesky Alligators **Black Lion**, Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent. 0115 933 2138 Occasional live music

Bunkers Hill Inn, Hockley, Nottingham. 0115 910 0114 **April** – Sat 3: Airstrip 1+ Deepfried Sanchez + Red Vertigo; Tues 6: French Toast + Lords; Thurs 8: Tigersaw + Black Forest + Black Sea + St Joan; Fri 9: Ardency + Support; Fri 16: Among the Missing; Tues 20: St Catharine's + Support; Fri 23: Hot Box **May** – Fri 14: Hustle + Support; Sat 15: Oblique

Chestnut Tree, Mansfield Road, Sherwood. 0115 985 6388 **April** – Thurs 1: Escape; Sat 3: Happy Hour [The band]; Thurs 8: Pesky Alligators; Thurs 15: Airborne; Sat 17: Loaded Dice; Thurs 22: X-IT; Sat 24: Amada; Thurs 29: Cactus Jack

Cow, 46 Middle Street, Beeston. 0115 925 6070 **Regular** – Jazz every Tuesday evening

Dunkirk Inn, Lace Street, Dunkirk.

Frog & Onion, Noel Street, Hyson Green, Nottingham. 0115 978 7072 **Regular** – Open mike session every Tues night **April** – Fri 2: Loose Cannons (urban blues); Fri 9: Trickster (funky roots); Fri 16: Carlton Cole; Fri 23: Old Basford (funky chill-out); Fri 30: 4Play (originals) **May** – Fri 7: Throb (hard rock)

Gladstone Hotel, 45 Loscoe Road, Carrington. 0115 912 9994 **Regular** – Weds nights: Carrington Triangle Folk club meet in the upstairs room from 8.30 pm

Golden Fleece, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. 0115 947 2843 **Regular** – Mon: 8-11 pm Acoustic Routes (Open mike session); Tue: 8-11 pm Acoustic Routes 2 (Open mike session with a half-hour mini gig from two different bands each week)

April - Fri 2: Counterglow; Sat 3: Tetley Knights; Sun 4: Modus; Fri 16: Absolute Zero; Sat 17: Made in the Shade Wed 21: Baz Warne from the Stranglers (acoustic night); Thurs 22: Jazz; Fri 23: Lovers Block & Psychedelic Breakfast; Sat 24: Porcelain Dolls **May** - Sat 1: Shades of Blue

Horse & Groom, 462 Radford Road, Basford. 0115 970 3777 **Regular** – Tues nights: Acoustic open mike night

Horse & Plough, Long Acre, Bingham. 01949 839 313 Occasional live music
Johnson Arms, Abbey Street, Dunkirk contact Fred Taylor 0115 9786355 **April** – Mon 26: Pesky Alligators

Lion Inn, 44 Mosley Street, Basford. NG7 7FQ 0115 970 3506 **Regular** – Thurs: Open mike night with Steve Bliss & Steve Daulton; Sun (1.30 pm start): various Jazz bands on Sundays (1.30 – 4.30pm) **April** – Fri 2: Calm Down (R & B); Sat 3: Oasis'n't (Oasis tribute); Sun 4: Naadia Sheriff Quartet; Fri 9: Hotbox (Cajun Zodocco); Sat 10: Sunset (Covers 50's – Current); Sun 11: John Johnston Quintet; Fri 16: Uneearthed (classic rock); Sat 17: Lovers Block (Originals); Sun 18: Nichola Farnon Quartet; Fri 23: The Pulse (covers); Sat 24: Moto with Emanpar as support (Rock/Funk); Sun 25: Teddy Fullick Quintet; Fri 30: Bluebaker (anything goes); Sat 31: El Pussycat (Ska) **May** – Fri 7: 3 Legged Cat (Blues); Sat 8: Rolo Markee and the Tailshakers (R & B); Fri 14: Shamus Oblivion (Rock Folk); Sat 15: Tree Beard (heavy wood); Fri 21: Loose Cannons (Urban Blues); Sat 22: Sleeve (eclectic mix); Fri 28: MC Cajun (Cajun); Sat 29: Freedom Sound (psychedelic rock & soul)

Old Volunteer, 35 Burton Road, Carlton. 0115 952 8651 **Regular** – live bands every Friday evening and Sunday afternoons

Plough, 17 St Peter's Street, Radford. 0115 942 2649 **Regular** – Mon: Bluegrass Jam session (bring your own food and try each others); Thurs: Irish folk music in the bar (and a free bowl of chilli with your first pint!)

Railway Inn Station Road, Lowdham. 0115 966 3214

April – Sun 4: Relax; Sun 18: Twilight Zone; Sun 25: Performance & Cocktails (Stereophonics tribute band)

Rosie O'Briens, Mansfield Road, Carrington. 0115 962 2458 **Regular** – live music every Sunday afternoon (4 - 6 pm)

Running Horse 16 Alfreton Road, Canning Circus, Nottingham. 0115 978 7398 **Regular** – Mon: 'Rock the Runner' rock jam; Weds: Colin Staples Blues Jam

Southbank Bar, Trent Bridge. **Regular**: Thurs: Herb Birds; Sun: Feb 1: TBC; Feb 4: TBC.

Star Inn, 22 Middle Street, Beeston. 0115 922 2234 **Regular** – Acoustic routes 'open-mike' night every Monday

Staunton Arms, Staunton, Vale of Belvoir. 01400 281062 **Regular**: Dixie Cats jazz band performs on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Stratford Haven, Stratford Road, West Bridgford. **Regular**: a live band performs on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (Brewery nights).

Tap & Tumbler, 33 Wollaton Street, Nottingham. 0115 941 3414 Live music most Friday nights

Test Match Hotel, Gordon Square, West Bridgford. 0115 9811481 Occasional live music

Turf Tavern, South Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 0115 911 1719 **Regular** – Weds: Commuter & Last Pedestrian and friend(s); Sun: El Gecko.

It's Quicker by Tram

I was working in town a couple of weeks ago so suggests to the missus that she should meet me afterwards for a few drinks and a bite to eat. Then I have a brain wave - the tram starts today let's jump on that and head out to the Fox and Crown in Basford for a Thai meal and a few of their splendid own brewed beverages.

Great idea - or so you might have thought. First of all do they serve food on a Tuesday evening? Now that should be an easy question to ask but it took three phone calls and several confusing pantomime style messages - "oh yes we do", "oh no we don't", - to ascertain that they do in fact serve food on Tuesday evenings but not Tuesday lunchtimes. So it's game on then. Simple plan - meet the missus in the square and leap on a tram, we will be at the Fox and Crown in about 15 minutes tops. Great these new trams aren't they? Wrong!!

We walk across and get straight on a tram at the Market square stop and bag two seats. Soon we are hurtling up towards the Goose Fair site (I won't say the official name of the stop as it is offensive to us Notts County fans), when all of a sudden the tram stops. "Points fault" says the driver in an embarrassed manner, having clearly never addressed the travelling public before.

Things then start to take a turn for the worse. First of all I glance out of the window and see our very own Nottingham CAMRA chairman Richard Studeny eerily grinning at me as he walks past - surely a bad omen? Then the tram limps into the tram stop proper. We then sit and wait for ages. After a bit the driver embarrassingly announces that we can't go any further because Network Rail can't open (or close?) the crossing gates at David Lane so all tram services are suspended. They tell us we can have our money back and get off if we want - a bit of a surprise as the conductor hasn't bothered to collect any fares down the back end of the tram where we are. Besides what use is it getting off in Hyson Green?!!

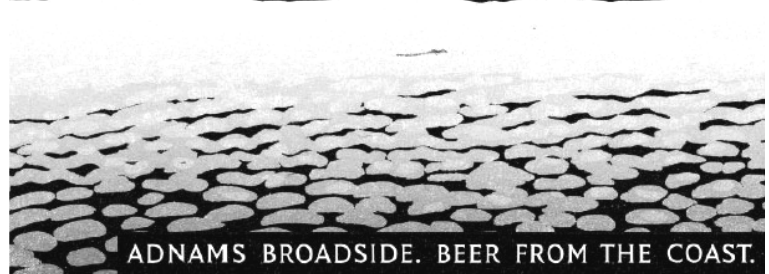
The tram driver then climbs in the other end of the tram and starts to take us back to town. As we go down the hill towards the Poly (oops sorry I mean Trent University - I only work there) they announce the problem is solved. As we approach the University stop I see one tram going the other way at the stop and another just behind it. "We will leap off here" I say to anyone who will listen (by this point my good lady is well brassed of with me and definitely not listening), "and hop back on that one going the other way".

Good idea - only the tram driver is on the phone and won't open the doors. Eventually the conductor attracts his attention and he opens the door. We run across the road only to find that the tram going the other way has now closed its doors and won't let us on!

Have sympathy at this point for the guy who got off with us who has left his car in the park and ride at Phoenix Park and wants to get to it to go home after a hard days work.

We wait at the tram stop for the next tram. "17 minutes" says the sign. Sure enough, we wait 17 minutes in the cold with my good lady getting fonder of me by the minute. By now it is gone 5 and rush hour. The tram

THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2003.
GOLD MEDAL WINNER
STRONG BITTER CATEGORY.



eventually arrives but is full and won't let anyone on. We wait 5 minutes and another tram appears, but it is also full and they again won't let anyone on despite people getting off. After a third full tram my good lady abandons all hope, and we start to walk into town.

When we get to the Theatre Square stop a tram has just pulled up. However there is a massive queue. But hang on, you don't queue for trams like you do for a bus as there are several doors - it is more like barging on to a train. We walk past the queue and notice that nobody is getting on through the back two doors - so we think "why not?" and leap aboard. The tram then pulls off with half the queue not able to get on as the front two sections are full, whilst the back end is still relatively empty.

As we pass the university stop the bloke with the car at Phoenix park and ride is still there, as none of the trams since have been going there as they are all Hucknall bound. We eventually get to the Basford stop and walk round the corner to the Fox and Crown. It is 5.50pm. A journey of 2.9 miles has taken 1 hour and 35 minutes. It really is quicker by tram folks - I could have walked there in half the time!

The Thai food at the Fox and Crown was excellent as were the three Alcazar beers I sampled from a choice of ten plus London Pride and Bass. The Alcazar beer included the recently introduced stout "Time Out" and a new stronger version "Extra Time Out". I would highly recommend this as a superb tram excursion - you can even stop off at the excellent "Lion" on Moseley Street on the way as the tram stops almost by the back door.

The journey back to the Square took about 15 minutes. The Fox and Crown serves Thai food 12 to 2.30 Wednesday to Saturday and 6 to 9pm Tuesday to Saturday.

The Irritable Cellarman

The Vale Mansfield Road Daybrook

Timothy Taylor Landlord
Castle Rock Elsie Mo
Adnams Broadside
McEwans 80/-
Mansfield Cask
Guest Beer



Grade 2 listed building
1930s Art Deco
On CAMRA's National
Inventory of Historic Pubs

0115 926 8864

A warm welcome from Sue and Séamus

Food available all day

Sunday Quiz

Open all day

Happy Anniversary

We're Celebrating 4 Years at
The Johnson Arms with a

Beer Festival

Starting
Monday
26th of April



until
The Beer
Runs Out

1st Night Live **the Pesky Alligators** Mon 26th April at

It's all about excellent beers, a great atmosphere & friendly faces. Coming soon the new summer menu, enjoy it in the BEER GARDEN or late nights at the Tuesday QUIZ.

the Johnson arms

Abbey St, Dunkirk, Lenton – 0115 9786355



Holding a beer festival?
Organising an event?
Let Nottingham Drinker know about it

drinker@nottinghamcamra.org
or 0115 9673047

first sip or two it became quite moreish and I suspect would complement food. The aftertaste was dry with hops to the fore, but the overall sensation was enjoyable and my hat goes off to the brewers for this full-bodied brew. The beer is sold in standard 500 ml bottles and can be found in the more discerning off licenses. Further details about the brewery and the beers on offer can be found at www.freeminer.com

More Bottle (45) by Andrew Ludlow

Freeminer Brewery can be found at the Steam Mill, Cinderford in the Forest of Dean. The two brewers produce a range of craft ales in their 40 barrel plant. I decided to try the 4.8% ABV Speculation and was amazed by the overall depth of aroma and flavours. The beer has a darkish brown hue and comes with plenty of sediment in the bottle, making pouring an art form in itself!

Having achieved getting the beer into the glass I was pleasantly surprised by the clarity of the beer and the relatively low carbonation for a real ale in a bottle. The aroma whilst hoppy was also fruity and spicy, with cloves springing to mind. The taste was complex and perhaps slightly overpowering in that whilst it was apparent that hops and malt were present the flavour, which dominated, was aromatic with the spice well advanced. In fairness after the



Victoria Tavern

40 Wilford Road, Ruddington
0115 931 5911

4 Traditional Cask Ales

Bass and Guests

Meals served

Mon - Thur 12-2.30 & 6-8

Fri - Sat 12-2.30

Sunday Lunch 12-3

Steak night Tues 6-9

Beer at Crich, Oh and Trams as well

Now you have seen the new trams on the streets of Nottingham how about a bit of nostalgia and a visit to Crich Tramway Museum to see some historic trams. As an added incentive there is a real ale bar at some of the events with local beers from Shardlow and Leadmill amongst those available. The list of events where a real ale bar will feature is below. For more details visit www.tramway.co.uk

Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday - Countdown to D-Day

May Day weekend - Nostalgia Day on the Sunday

May 22nd/ 23rd - Edwardian weekend with horse tram

Saturday 5 June - Gilbert & Sullivan Day

August 13th/ 14th - Forties weekend

August 29th/ 30th - Extravaganza

November 6th - Starlights/ Halloween (check nearer the time)

What's in a Name?

UK's fourth biggest brewer, Carlsberg Tetley, has decided to change it's name to Carlsberg UK.

Tetley is a word which has been associated with British beer, dropping it from the company's name does nothing to show a commitment to the Tetley brand or the British ales but their commitment to the global lager brand. This is not the first famous British beer name to disappear, names, such as Whitbread (Interbrew) and Bass (Coors) have been abandoned in favour of a global company name.

THE GLOBE

THE GLOBE

THE GLOBE

THE GLOBE

THE GLOBE

Our second Beer Festival featuring new and unusual beers from Micros around the Country

Bank Holiday Weekend

Friday 30th April to Monday 3rd May

30p a pint discount on real ales
Sundays to Wednesdays on
production of a CAMRA membership
card - including festival beers

Excellent Food till 7pm

Open 11 to 11 daily

152 London Road Nottingham

A few minutes walk from Nottingham Railway Station
Tel 9866881

A Landlords Tale A two part account of the problems encountered behind the bar

The first part of this article appeared in the last Nottingham Drinker and detailed the events from October 1998. We pick up the story as Nomura have bought Innpartnership. Steve's solicitor, Roger Calvert, has advised him to get a fair rents officer, Phillip Booth (now of Chestertons).

I got a quote from Phillip straight away so I knew how much it would cost me and Roger deals with all my affairs so trust prevailed. Now I knew my costs, the daunting might of the corporate bully boy isn't so "frightening" to use a word. Personally, I knew it was going to cost but I felt stronger and more positive, quite unburdened. Letters were going back and forward, sometimes frequent, sometimes not; these were the hardest times when you never heard anything. The new company didn't come near me. I got nothing off them, they were no better at dealing with a "problem", if I should call myself that, than was the last big company. Nomura was to prove like all other companies, nothing more than asset strippers, they strung us along making noises that they wanted this sorted but talk is cheap.

May I say that from the beginning of all this it was protected by "The Landlords & Tenant Act" so my rent was frozen as of October 2000 to the day of new lease, then whatever has been agreed would be paid.

We are now heading for October 2002 and things are looking up. Phil and Roger have got more and more of what is realistic. I think this could be a good Christmas present as it can get stressful you feel alone and isolated except for your Solicitor and Fair rent officer fighting your "cause" because it becomes a cause you want more and more to Win.

The two year post was passed and it looked to be a bleak Christmas on the lease front. Nomura moved the goal posts again but we were near. January 2003; new year, new lease, I was hoping - wrong. Nomura sold to Pubmaster. I was devastated until I spoke to Phillip who reassured me that this was a good thing because Pubmaster are committed to buses more than a bank playing at pub landlord. They, as a group did what any big group would do, try and get the most and give the least. My trusted warriors were having none of this. Roger and Phil called a meeting, held at my pub with three of Pubmaster's men that count because I was sick of being close and then being bought by another group and sold again. This was it, hopefully the fight around the table, so to speak. I was very impressed with my warriors, they knew their stuff against the best the pub company had sent, and a thing was born called "The Heads of Terms". We had agreed a loose workable agreement, now it had to sent to be their solicitors. More fun as a month or so later they changed their solicitors, so back to the beginning. Now things were hotting up, Pubmaster were after their pound of flesh, but were more in the real world than any of the previous owners.

In April 2003, we thought we had a deal but the terms had been, lets say, bent by our opposite solicitors. This was quickly brought to their attention and changed. I will say this hurt deep, into the soul of everything you believe in, in as much as "How can something this simple take so long" when we had virtually all agreed some many months earlier.

My wife was feeling the strain on numerous occasions and this last one hurt us, I phoned Roger and said we needed to sign quick or we were going to just walk and leave everything we had worked for, during 20 years in this trade. Reading this, it may not come across how frustrating

it is. Compounded by three new owners and nearly three years, it takes its toll. It's the unknown all the time, that's hard, and it started to show on my wife first. That got to me and the children and all we wanted to do was work and live a life, sometimes a hard life, but we choose it and do not regret that choice. If nothing else comes of this little insight into renewing your livelihood, oops sorry, lease, then it should be that the companies, rather than being just rent collectors, need to think of longevity not their next quarters figures and that real people with real lives pay the going rate.

Roger on receiving my call must have put the cat among the pigeons because within two months we had a draft document agreed and a lease came and I am proud, proud to say it was signed on September 29th 2003. I have put proud proud, proud because that's how I feel about Roger and Phillip and ourselves for taking on the pub groups or banks playing at it, sticking it out and seeing it through to fruition. Pubmaster were hard, but fair and I can honestly say it was an excellent result albeit a long haul.

The final lease resulted in a ten year lease instead of three. 100% kept instead of giving 50% away in machines, a 2% hidden charge that used to be lobbied and a rent reduction phased back to the original rent I was paying in 1998 in year three of my ten year lease. Thereafter it will be rent renewal time in 2006. I take responsibility for fully repairing and insuring of the building and fully tied on all beers/bottled beers/& PPS which I used to be anyway.

The initial increase that Greenalls Innpartnership wanted was a massive £37000 a year with a little relief for discount barrelage, that was in 2000. My lease now is actually worth approx £20,000 more in the first year to us in machines/rent/2% levy charge gone etc all saved because of fighting for the right to work in a profession racked with legislation/tax/closures/takeovers/brewing/recruitment/ and more hardships than anybody should have. Why can't these people who preach INVESTORS IN PEOPLE, start to improve it with actions, not by printing it on the bottom of their stationery: May I take this opportunity to thank Pubmaster for being the pubgroup who did sort out the lease. Thanks are also due to my solicitor, Roger Calvert of Young & Pearce, Talbot Street, Nottingham - 9598888 and my fair rents officer, Phillip Booth, Independent when we started now at Chestertons Nottingham.

Please if you are entering or already in the trade take legal advise or professional advise whenever your gut feeling tells you. Remember if it costs you £100 for the advice its better than £1000's or your home later on.

For all you publicans remember the battle cry *Don't let the buggers grind you down.*

If anyone wants help on anything in the pub game whether entering or already in it regarding lease or renewals I am more than willing to highly recommend the above names afore mentioned.

Thanks for reading this, its long but not as long as it took in reality to enable me to write this
Steve & Tracey - Golden Fleece, Nottingham.
Since writing the article Punch has taken over Pubmaster.



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Buses from Nottingham

In praise of PUBLIC transport

No.28 of a series in which Spyke Golding looks at the use of buses and trains to visit pubs

This month we take a look at the pubs in and around Arnold

I am very pleased to find that NCT seem to have overcome their driver shortage problems at last. As I normally catch 6 buses a day in all, to be able to say that two months have now past without a bus I went for failing to run is impressive. What's more, they were virtually all on time, and any lateness has only been due to traffic jams. Well done NCT! I caught my first trams before writing this article, to visit the Fox and Crown at Basford, and very impressive they were too! We've got a great public transport network now; so I hope you'll all be using it to get round a few pubs!

Arnold's first mention in the annals of history was in the Domesday Book (1086) where it appeared as Ernehale, with a population of 150. The meaning of Ernehale is not entirely certain, but is believed to have meant "Herons Corner" which seems quite likely as Ernehale had several brooks and streams which ran down from the hill sides down into the village. These fed the then wet land which would have been ideal for herons. To this day, Arnold is often subject to flooding. It boasts one of the oldest churches in the UK, St. Mary's, dating from 1176. The English painter Bonington was born in Arnold, and both Robin Hood and Dick Turpin are said to have stayed there.

Some of the pubs featured are in estates that are a long way from the centre; I have planned a route that uses NCT buses to avoid too much walking and wasted drinking time. Get a £2.20 Day Rider ticket, purchasable on the bus.

To start at *The Arrow* (1), get a no.56 from Long Row, convenient evening



services leave at 17.58 18.20 19.00 and 19.50. A magnificent example of modern architecture or totally over the top? I'll leave you to form your own opinion! Rebuilt in the nineties to replace an awful arrow shaped sixties structure the exterior looks more akin to a country hotel. Inside there is one massive, high ceilinged room with a gigantic chandelier and flights of stairs leading to two open plan first floor level drinking areas. The lower room ranges from pool and table football at one end to a non-smoking restaurant area at the other. Good value food from the John Barras standard menu and some blackboard specials are served all day. There are two banks of hand pumps; on my visit only Gale's Swing Low was available but I'm told there are usually more guests than this. There is an outside patio drinking area too.



To get to *The Eagle* (2), walk down Gedling road as far as Rolleston Drive, and

catch a no. 59 at 3 minutes past the hour. This pleasant post war estate pub has a good atmosphere and well kept "Mansfield" Bitter and Charles Wells Bombardier. There's a good public bar with darts and pool in an area with black painted floorboards, and a carpeted section with seating separated behind wood and glass screens. The large, split-level lounge has upholstered settles and wooden chairs, bar stools with a foot rail and an ornamental fireplace. The top level is cigarette free, and there is good carpeting throughout and proper curtains. There is also a patio drinking area at the front and side of the pub. Good value lunches are served, and there are popular quiz nights on Tuesdays and Sundays with an "open the box" jackpot.

From the stop outside, the no. 59 leaves at ten minutes past the hour and will take you straight to *The Friar Tuck* (3), another Barras pub serving good pints of Marston's Pedigree and "Courage" Directors'. One massive U-shaped room wraps around the bar, but there are lots of separate areas, some split-level, and wood and glass screens. There is a pool and darts section, and Sky Sports is shown all round on TVs and plasma screens. The same good value food menu as the Arrow is served all day, and huge filled batons are their specialty snack.

It is just a short walk now to *The Ernehale* (4), a J. D. Wetherspoon house. There is one large

room split into different areas by part walls, and it is quiet with a great atmosphere. The range of beers here is usually better than the City



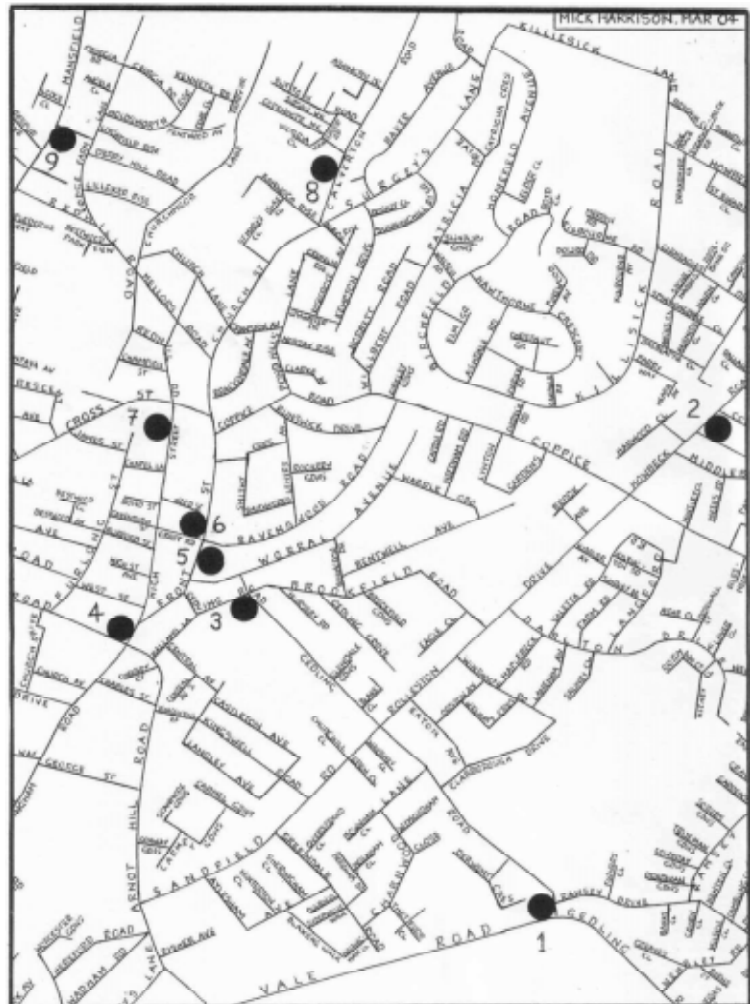
Wetherspoons, with an interesting micro or two usually on tap. The beers are, as we have come to expect in Tim Martin's pubs, remarkably good value, as are the all day meals. Try the Curry Night on Thursdays!

There are two pubs just up Front Street which appeal to the younger drinker. *The Cross Keys* (5) and *the Horse and Jockey* (6) are much of a muchness. Both were once good, solid locals, the first Shipstones and the latter Home Brewery but now they have been knocked about beyond recognition and turned

into "fun pubs" complete with music and screens. The Cross Keys has "Home" bitter and "Courage" Best, the Jockey just "Mansfield" Bitter.

The Druids Tavern (7) is a much more down to earth pub, in fact, to be completely honest, is very much in need of a makeover. The Hardy's and Hanson's Bitter is great, and the atmosphere is good when it is busy despite the loud music, but – the décor?? The poolroom has a cheap cord carpet and the walls are painted in a garish yellow and green with a terra cotta coloured door. The tiny front bar has a red carpet settles whose fabric has seen better days. The back room, with a small stage is even worse and must be seen to be believed. There's a Karaoke night on Fridays.

The Longbow (8), came as a pleasant surprise beerwise as for many years it had no real ale. I found hand pumps dispensing



“Webster’s” Green Label and Gale’s Swing Low. This range changes regularly. To get there, if you don’t fancy the walk, you can take a no. 58 from Front Street at 8 and 58 minutes past the hour, and back at 25 and 55 past. The front bar is decorated in a similar way to the Eagle’s lounge, but not split-level and with a check wallpaper. There is a public bar at the rear to the right with darts, pool, skittles and a projection TV (for big games only). The other back room to the left is a huge restaurant cum children’s room with playground type equipment at the rear. Meals are served daily at lunchtime, and there’s a quiz night on Wednesdays. There are outside tables at the front.

Our final stop, *The Wagon and Horses*, is actually in Redhill but is well worth a visit. The small, comfortable front room is childfree and has a TV and quiz machine. It is partially separated by



a through fireplace from the back room, which has a conservatory extension that can be used by families. It is carpeted throughout and has upholstered settles and wooden chairs. There is a function room and an outside drinking area. The beers, always well kept, are Charles Wells Bombardier, Marston’s Pedigree and an occasional guest. Meals are served all day, and include their special pies and sausages. To get back to the City from here catch a number 87 round the corner on Redhill Road at 47 minutes past the hour (until 2247) or a Stagecoach Express 737 at 2350 (Fri. & Sat. only) on the main road outside the Ram, which, sadly, no longer has real ale.

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Amsterdam – sex and drugs and cracking beers! - Part 2 of a Guide to the Dutch City

We continue Gazza Prescott's guide to the bars of Amsterdam. Back to the beer. A good introduction to the Amsterdam Brown café (so called as the walls – and everything else - are stained brown through years of collective nicotine abuse) is the Golleem. This place has been a specialist beer café for the last 20 or so years and has similarities with the Beer House in Manchester in that it has good periods and bad periods. Now is a pretty good period, so to get there, take trams 1, 2 or 5 from outside Centraal station south for 3 stops to Spui, pronounced something like "Spoy", or retrace your tracks from the Turkish baker to Leidseplein and take the tram 1 2 or 5 north 4 stops to Spui. Before we visit the Golleem, however, follow the tramlines south for 100 yards from Spui tramstop and you will see a long, thin café, the Bieaard, on your right. This is one of a chain of cafes, the name meaning a carillon of bells as heard in the Low Countries. This café caters for the tourists unashamedly, but its draught beer selection of well over 10 beers can hold some surprises and it's almost worth a visit to see the waiting staff taking orders via handheld computers and, on their return to the bar, the order is on a tray ready to go out. Technology can be a wonderful thing with the right application!

From Bieaard, follow the pedestrianised Spui north until you come to a small alley called Raamsteenweg on your left. Down here, on the right, is the Golleem. The contrast between this bar and Bieaard is glaring, with Golleem being dark, brooding and minus the bustle. The sounds of drinking and conversation rule here, and the list of about 200 is pretty good although they major on Belgian beers. The beers available are chalked up round the walls in a strange font that makes it difficult to read but this is all part of the experience. Choose a beer, climb the steps to the small back section, and soak up the atmosphere and wonder why there's nowhere in the UK anything like it. Unfortunately.

The next call is a café in a similar vein, but one that's probably the smallest viable café I've been to. Retrace your steps to Spui tram stop and take trams 1, 2 or 5 one stop north to Dam square. This is one of the most famous places in Amsterdam, not least because the legendary Damrak ends here. It also houses the royal palace and the Nieuwe Kerk (New church) and is a surprisingly picturesque place. In a small alley just to the north of the square (Gravenstraat 2) is Café Belgique. This tiny place must only be able to admit about 25 people, one reason being the huge ornate bar running the whole width of the room. The place seems to ooze welcome and hospitality and they offer the products of the local Ij brewery as well as the Trappist brewery of La Trappe near Tilburg. The stairs to the right lead not to more seats, but to the toilets. I was really impressed with this café and if the beer list were more adventurous I'm sure it would reach my top 10 of European bars. It has a sort of unforced charm that is difficult to manufacture and the locals were friendly, although it does attract quite a few tourists by virtue of its location. These were, on our visit at least, not the zombified types who, thankfully, stick to the safe bland bars of the red light area and Leidseplein. The best beer shop in town is very close to here, on Paleisstraat. The Bier Koninck (Beer king) is a fantastic place, certainly one of the best I've ever been in and one that puts all British off-licenses to shame by the number, variety and price of beers stocked never mind the glasses, t-shirts and other beer related wares. The beer is also amazingly cheap for the central location, with most being only •1-2 a bottle. Dutch micro beers are in the raised area at the back to the right, and the Lambic section is down the well-hidden stairs. They apologise profusely for charging us •6 for a bottle of Cantillon St Lamvinus - which is probably the rarest beer Cantillon do and worth at least double this; I've heard of it fetching \$60 a bottle in America!. We bought 12 bottles for about •20 which is a pretty good deal by all accounts. This place is probably the third essential visit when in Amsterdam and very central too.

The next visit is probably the best bar in town. t'Arendsnest serves only Dutch beers and owner Mr Arend (Arend means Eagle, hence the "Eagle's nest") is very enthusiastic about his bar and the beers he serves. To find this beacon of Dutch brewing, head west down Raadhuisstraat from Dam square until you reach Herengracht. Follow the road north on the far side of the canal and after a short while you will find this superb bar with an apparently excellent Belgian restaurant next door. This may be useful as t'Arendsnest serve no food except a pretty good Portiekaas and the Kaasplanktje ("little cheese board") is La Trappe cheese and well worth a try. The bar has a superb selection of beers on draught, about half being guests. The delight for any beer ticker, however, must be that the café tries to get at least 1 beer from every brewery in the country – if possible (some don't bottle their beers). The bottled beer

list is simply outstanding and we whiled away 3 evenings without making much of a dent in the list. The staff are knowledgeable and friendly, the atmosphere is quiet and the appreciation of beer is the name of the game. Whatever else you do in Amsterdam, get to this café and support it. They deserve to succeed.

Walk back towards Spui and find Kolksteeg, a small lane heading off Kolkplein towards Damrak. A short way along here on the right is one of the most famous specialist beer cafes in town, In de Wildeman (twinned with the Lincolnshire Poacher). The bar is a converted spirits house taproom and has something almost unheard of in Amsterdam – a no smoking room! This oasis of pure air is on the right as you walk in and, perhaps tellingly, is usually as quiet as a morgue compared to the boisterousness of the bar on the left. The beer list here is superb – 16 on draught, 8 being wisseltaps, and about 200 beers in bottle with a good number of Dutch ones amongst the Belgian and German examples. The service is informed and sharp and it's easy to spend far longer than you intended here. It's proximity to t'Arendsnest makes for a situation where you can make the 2 bars the only ones you need to visit all night. This would miss out on the anarchism that is t'Ij, the sophistication of Boulevard and the calm of Golleem but if you have limited time here these are the 2 bars not to miss in town.

The last specialist beer café in the centre is a short walk from Centraal station. From outside the tram stops, walk to the busy road bridge at the start of Damrak and turn left. Follow this road for a short distance and carry on down Zeedijk. A short distance along here is Het Elfde Gebod, a plush, quiet and very civilised place. This is a classic café with a fair beer list featuring mainly Belgian beers with a few interesting ones amongst them. There is carpet on the tables for some reason unknown to me and the place just billows calm and genteelness, a bit of an anachronism compared to the streets outside. This bar is recommended for a beer or two but beware, some of the beers are a bit pricey.

So ends this tour of Amsterdam.. There are dozens of other bars worth a visit in this city of extremes, and you could spend weeks drifting round trying out likely looking bars. I've only listed the ones that I've visited myself and liked, although there are many more I've got on my list of "future visits required". For example, there used to be a great brewpub in the centre called Maximillians but this closed in 2002. It has recently been bought by the Bieaard chain, and is rumoured to be restarting brewing again by early 2004. The bar is already open albeit under a different name. Read the recommended publications in the glossary and do some exploring is probably the best advice I can give!

To conclude, Amsterdam is a fantastic city for the beer tourist – as long as you visit when everyone else has left, i.e.; autumn or winter. There are many bars that offer quality artisanal beer (not enough offering Dutch beer though) and the superb public transport system makes it easy to get around. Architecturally the city is a delight with its tall gabled townhouses and myriad of canals and is certainly one of Europe's prettier capitals. There aren't the dozen brewpubs of Vienna or the cheapness of Prague but Amsterdam spins a potent spell over its visitors. After my first visit I hated the place, and now I've come full circle and love it. Just avoid the obvious tackiness and you will lose the crowds in minutes. It has some of the finest bars anywhere (Ij is anachistically superb, T'Arendsnest is quietly excellent and In de Wildeman is boisterous and yet relaxed) and a few days spent here will expand your mind – without needing to resort to a "coffee shop" or "space cakes"!

The Bars

Boulevard, Cruquiusweg. Tram 10. Excellent food and interesting Wisseltaps.

Ij Proeflokaal, Funenkade 7. Tram 10 / Bus 22. Open 15:00-20:00. Only sells Ij brewery beers, these can be very good – or not. An essential experience.



De Bieaard, Oude Markt 24. Tram 1,2,5. Good selection of draught beers, a bit busy.

Gollem, Raamsteenweg 4. Tram 1,2,5. 200+ Belgian beers, atmospheric and quiet.

Café Belgique, Gravenstraat 2. Any tram to Dam Square. 40 mainly Belgian beers.

t'Arendsneest, Herengracht 90. Any tram to Dam square. Tries to get at least 1 beer from every Dutch brewery. Run with enthusiasm and skill.

In de Wildeman, Kolksteeg 3. Over 200 beers. Trams 1 2 5 6 13 or 17. Superb bustling bar with 8 wisseltaps and lots of Dutch artisan beers in bottle. An essential visit.

Het Elfde Gebod, Zeedijk 5. Good selection of beer in a relaxed atmosphere.

De Bierkoning, Paleisstraat 125. Any tram to Dam Square. Simply superb beer shop with outstanding range of beer, glasses and other stuff at very reasonable prices.

Appendix

The Serious Drinker's guide to Amsterdam by Hugh Shipman. A superb little book, a little out of date now (T'Arendsneest is still listed under it's old Bieaard name) but lists loads of other bars and gives good general advice on bar etiquette and language.

The Good Beer Guide to Belgium and Holland by Tim Webb (CAMRA). The best beer guide CAMRA have ever produced, now in its 4th edition. Written with wit and an impressive depth of knowledge by the main man of Benelux beers in the UK.

Ron's Amsterdam pubguide by Ron Pattinson. <http://www.xs4all.nl/~pattro1ro/pubs.htm> Ron is from Newark, but now lives in Amsterdam and has written this guide to lots of bars that most beer lovers would never get to, along with the usual ones. Written with enthusiasm and good humour, he also has guides for a vast spread of cities throughout Europe. Well recommended.



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TALES FROM THE NORTH

Another local pub has been awarded Cask Marque status - The Lion Revived in Bulwell. I am advised that the award was given as recently as the 6th February and judging by the quality of the Hardys & Hansons beers on offer in the pub (Kimberley Bitter, Olde trip and guest Seasonal Ale) it is well deserved.

The Lion Revived is worth searching out, as it is not far from the Railway Station, and perhaps more relevant these days the Tram stop. Just cross the market and head for the by-pass and the Lion awaits.

Doors open 10.30-4.00 and 7-11 (Sun 12-4 & 7-10.30). Food is available 12-2.30 and the unusual split-level pub boasts a total of three ghosts!

So a visit to Bulwell is well worthwhile, if only to keep the spirits up. If you know of any news then please contact ND or e-mail me at andrew.ludlow@nottinghamcamra.org



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Erewash Valley News

Saturday 3rd April sees a trip to the Mansfield Beer Festival. We will be catching the 14.56 Robin Hood line train from Nottingham Station. On Saturday 24th April there is a bus and walking trip to include, Milford, Makeney, Holbrook, Coxbench, Kilburn, Horsley Woodhouse and Smalley. We will be catching the 11.50 Transpeak service from Derby with a Zig-Zag ticket, this will allow people to

return when they want and to complete as much of the trip as they want. Contact Mick and Carole Golds on 0115 9328042 for further details. The following month on Friday 28th May there is a trip to the Bentley Brook Beer Festival, this will be a mini bus trip starting from Long Eaton and collecting at Ilkeston. We will be leaving Long Eaton at approx 18.00. For more details contact John Parkes on 0115 8491354.

Erewash Pub News

A real ale gain is the Potters snooker club at Langley mill, having now got 2 handpumps, but at this moment in time the beers that will be available are still to be decided. The Stanhope Arms at Stanton By Dale, now has 3 handpumps serving Pedigree, Green King IPA and John Smith Cask. The Royal Oak at Cotmanhay now has Bass and Pedigree. The Cat and Fiddle at Kirk Hallam has Kimberley bitter on Electric dispense. The Needlemakers Arms in Ilkeston now has 2 real ales, coming from the Punch Tavern portfolio. The Sports Man on Derby Road in Long Eaton, has also now got 2 real ales on handpump, this time Bass and Abbott Ale, both at £2.00 a pint. This is a live music venue, with various rock and cover/tribute bands. The White Lion in Marlpool and the Gallows Inn at Ilkeston both no longer sell real ale.

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Secretary - Andrew Ludlow
Treasurer - Steve Armstrong
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Drinker Editor - David Mason
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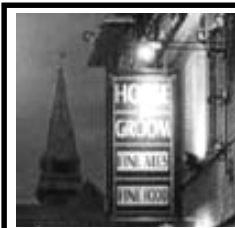
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Food times:

12 till 2.30pm Monday - Friday
5.30 till 7.30pm Wednesday - Friday
1 till 4pm Sunday

**Tuesday's: open mike night with Doc Shellard.
Any style, any standard!**

**First Weds of month (8.30 pm):
Jazz night with Roger Bird & Spicy Advice**

Friday's: live bands from 9pm

St George's Beer Festival



Fri 23 (6-11pm)
Sat 24 (Sat 12-11pm)

Admission:

£5 inc 3 ½ pints
½ pint tankard
festival programme
½ pints beer vouchers
just £1 each

Function room available for hire – up to 100 people – buffet and DJ available on request

The Meadow Club comes back to Life

The Meadow Club on Meadow Lane, at the back of the Notts County Stand has been closed for many months. It had never been owned by the club and has had a series of tenants who have operated it as a club with varying degrees of success.

The good news is that it has now reopened as "the Meadow" with a pub license so anyone can go in, there are no longer membership restrictions. It is now owned by Notts County for the first time and will initially open before and after both Notts and Forest home games. A refurbishment is planned for the summer after which it will open on a more frequent basis and will probably host events such as live music and perhaps even occasional beer festivals.

The even better news is that it serves real ale. Initially Marstons Pedigree will be the regular beer with a guest brew selected by Nottingham Beer Festival cellarman Steve Westby - initially this has been from Nottingham Brewery. However the real ale policy will be reviewed after the refurbishment and with Steve involved in this it should get even better.



Another event occurring down at Meadow Lane is the Pie Quiz Night organized jointly by The Pie, the fanzine of Notts County, and the Supporters Trust. The general knowledge and trivia quiz will be held in the banqueting suite at Meadow Lane and real ale from Nottingham Brewery will be on sale. There is a rumour that Nottingham Beer Festival Cellarman, Steve Westby, may have an

involvement but if you are still interested in winning prizes then just turn up at around 7.30pm on Tuesday April 6th. Teams can be from 4 to 6 people and entry is £2 per person, all proceeds to Notts County Supporters Trust.

Still got some items from Christmas you don't know what to do with? Can't be bothered to have a car boot sale. We are always looking for items for the Tombola at the Nottingham Beer Festival. If you have anything you think might be useful then please phone Keith on 07811 909688

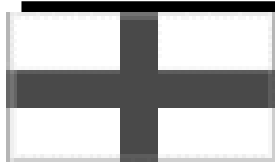
Nottingham Beer Festival - your chance to contribute

The Nottingham Beer festival is the biggest event in the beer drinker's calendar in the East Midlands. It may be in October (21st to 24th to be precise) but the planning starts now. We could always use some extra help, even at this early stage. If you would like to get involved then just turn up at our first festival meeting of the year. It is upstairs in the Bell at 8pm on Wednesday 7th April. You will be made more than welcome.



Saturday Night Sunday Morning - See Ray's Round on the back page

The Golden Fleece



St Georges Week of Music

Wed 21: Baz Warne from the Strangers (acoustic night); Thurs 22: Jazz;
Fri 23: Lovers Block & Psychedelic Breakfast
Sat 24: Porcelain Dolls; Sun 25: TBA

April Gig Guide

Fri 2: Counterglow
Sat 3: Tetley Knights
Sun 4: Modus
Fri 16: Absolute Zero
Sat 17: Made in the Shade

May Gig Guide

Sat 1: Shades of Blue

Fleece Food

Mon – Sat 12 noon till 7.30 pm
Massive menu & daily specials

Home cooked Sunday Lunch a choice of
Topside of beef, New Zealand lamb Halal
chicken breast or veggie lasagne, veggie
meatballs, or veggie Kiev.

1 course £5.50; 2 course £6.50; 3 course
£7.50 (if you can eat it!)

REAL ALES INCLUDE

Abbott; Adnams; Archers; Batemans; Black Sheep; Cains;
Deuchars IPA; Elgoods; Gales; Green King Old Speckled Hen;
Hardys & Hansons; Hook Norton; Hop Back; Jennings; Robinsons;
Tetley Mild; Wentworth; Youngs

**Do not forget every Monday & Tuesday Open Mic with half hour slots available
For more details call the pub or drop in and pick up a Gig Guide**

105 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN 0115 947 2843

A Breath of Fresh Air in Sherwood

Real ale lovers and foodies with an affection for French cuisine won't be disappointed with Le Mistral Café in Sherwood. This Mansfield Road bistro serves a different pin (4.5 gals) of real ale each Friday and Saturday night. Local brewers Nottingham, Mallard, Belvoir and Brewster's will have their beers featured at weekends on a rotating basis. At least now dinners will have the opportunity to drink draft real ale with their meal, even if it is only on weekend nights. The rest of the time various bottled conditioned beers are served, such as Brewster's Vale Pale Ale (4.5%). VPA has a subtle biscuity malty flavour.

Owned by Jim Anderson, and managed by Kate Baxter, formally of the Lion Inn, Basford, Le Mistral Café is proud to support local suppliers. 15 teas and several coffees are available all brought in from local traders.

The food is well presented and reasonably priced as too are their drinks. Their steaks are particularly succulent.

The Mallard

Worksop Train station, Worksop
St Georges Beer Festival 2004

Friday 23rd April to Saturday 24th April

Open daily from 12 noon - 11pm

- Approximately 16 cask ales, including some festival beers & brand new beers
- Selection of fruit wines, ciders, lagers & bottled continental beers available
- Free admission
- Food available at all sessions
- Winner of North Nottinghamshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003
- Be early to avoid disappointment!!!!!!

For further information please contact Sarah on 07789 778857 or email themallard@supanet.com

A monthly police surgery is also planned so it really will be a case of 'ello, 'ello!

Arrangements on their real ale policy might change in the future depending on how sales go. So please give the business your support.

Le Mistral is translated as a cold north westerly wind in Provence, France, and is a real breath of fresh air to Sherwood.

This year's Pub Week, 21st to 28th February saw a few souls venturing out on a wet and windy day around some of the interesting city centre pubs. The highlight of the tour was a look into the Norman cellars below the Bell in the Market Square. Whilst the Bell cellars used for storing the beers are impressive, covering a large area, these are nothing compared with those at the lower level and accessed by ladder. A good torch was necessary, although the early gas lighting and the original electrical wiring are still in place. This made a fascinating tour, and threw the times out for the rest of the visits! The cellars at the Salutation were also visited but no ghosts spotted on this visit. The tour concluded with the third pub vying to be Nottingham's oldest, the Olde Trip to Jerusalem.

Don't forget to read Nottingham CAMRA Chairman Richard Studený's column every week in the **Evening Post**. It is published on a Friday in the EG supplement. Richard writes about the pubs in the area, local events and issues concerning the drinker. He also has a 'pint of the week' recommended after exhaustive research! The column contains dates of local meetings and festivals so if you can't find your copy of the Drinker you know where to look.

ND QUIZ - No 8 - JUST FOR FUN

Quiz number 8 from Gordon, answers to the quiz are on page 17.

- 1) What is the real first name of Sean Connery?
- 2) Marlon Harewood left Nottingham Forest for which club in November 2003?
- 3) In which year was 'Into the Groove' a number 1 hit for Madonna?
- 4) Name the author of 'Bridget Jones's Diary'?
- 5) From which musical is the song 'Stranger in Paradise'?
- 6) Which presenter hosts the premiership on Saturday nights on ITV 1?
- 7) What is the name of the pub on Chestnut Grove, Burton Joyce?
- 8) On which river does Warwick stand?
- 9) Which boxer was known as 'The Brown Bomber'?
- 10) Nashville is the capital of which American state?
- 11) In which year were the summer Olympics last held in London?
- 12) What is 'Arachnophobia' the fear of?
- 13) In which midlands city is 'The University of Central England' situated?
- 14) Which electoral constituency does Michael Howard represent?
- 15) Which bowler bowled the most county championship overs for Notts. CCC in the 2002 season?



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Open mic night every Sunday

Live bands every Friday night

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Gale's SB; Marstons Pedigree;
Tetley Dark Mild; Theakstons Bitter;
Theakstons Mild

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every Saturday night**

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All live sporting events shown on big screen TV - Wheelchair access



NEW BOOZERS' SUMMER TIME!

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hats, T-shirts, polo
shirts, fleeces - see
posters in pubs
...from
CASTLE ROCK**

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orders, call in,
telephone 0115
9851615 or 9850611,
or fax 0115 9851611**

A REVOLUTION IS SET to take the pub trade by storm at the end of March, when this government's determination to vacillate over every important issue reaches a logical conclusion for delighted publicans and enthusiastic beer drinkers.

The proposed new opt-out clause for British Summer Time will have a 'triple-whammy' beneficial effect. Firstly, by not putting the clocks forward, we'll get a lie-in. Then, pubs can open an hour later, so we won't have to serve that infuriating geriatric who's in as soon as he's out of his care home. And finally, at what should be closing time, there'll be an extra hour for drinking - legally! Then we'll need a lie-in...

Our correspondent, Avril Poisson, comments: 'Although the clocks should go forward on 28 March, the best date to celebrate the decision not to change is four days later.'

ELBOW WARRIOR

Beers brewed to support the Wildlife Trusts...

Apr: CLOUDED YELLOW (4.2%)
Pale, naturally cloudy, brewed with malted wheat

May: MAY (3.7%)
Pale, with Centennial hops

June: HAWKER (4.0%)
Russet in colour, brewed with Challenger hops

'The Natural Selection'

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

11th-17th - Vat & Fiddle - Newby Wyke Brewery Week
13th - Stratford Haven - Brewery Night (tbc) with music from Richie Muir
25th - Vat & Fiddle - Cotleigh Brewery Week
29th - Lincs Poacher - Oldershaw Brewery evening

MAY

9th-15th - Vat & Fiddle - Big Lamp Brewery Week
11th - Stratford Haven - Brewery Evening with Live Music (tbc)
23rd-29th - Vat & Fiddle - Abbeydale Brewery Week
Broadway Café Bar - see in-house leaflet for details of cinema showings



CASTLE ROCK HARVEST PALE - THE GRIN REAPER!



www.tynemill.co.uk

Trips and Socials

Greetings, we have a few events coming up which I hope will be of interest.

The free mini bus trips, as I have said previously are getting very popular and a number of people are now being disappointed, so please book early. Another plea I must make is, that if you are booked on a trip and cannot go, for whatever reason, (I don't need to know the reason, it's none of my business) but please let me know as soon as possible, so I can offer the seat to another person who may be interested. The up and coming trips will be, in April - Bleasby and Burton Joyce, in May, the Wysall area and in June, the Watnall area.

As mentioned in the last issue, I'm trying to organise a number of brewery trips this year, but I'm afraid things got away from me slightly, so the first of these will be in May, when a trip has been booked around Hardys & Hansons brewery at Kimberley. As the normal service buses to Kimberley are very frequent, we will be availing ourselves of public transport. The brewery tour is limited to 20 people, for safety reasons, so it's on a first come, first served basis. Also on a health and safety note, please be aware that we will be climbing a number of stairs and some of the floors may be slippery, so you are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear. You will also need to be fairly able-bodied as it's a fair way around. We have been asked to be at the brewery gates at 18.45. After the brewery tour and some brewery hospitality!! We shall be visiting one or two of the local pubs to round the evening off.

It has come to my attention that some people seem to think that all of the CAMRA trips, socials etc. are for CAMRA members only, this is **NOT** the case. **EVERYONE** is welcome to come on any CAMRA trip, outing or whatever. You will be presented with a membership form, as a hint!, and I might also have to make a nominal charge for some over-subscribed outings (don't worry it will probably only be £1) and obviously on trips where we charge everyone, then you will have to pay £2 more than members. Membership is currently only £16; I'll leave you to do the sums. As ever, please see the back page for full listing of dates and times of the above-mentioned events.

Also don't forget that you can now contact me electronically, through e-mail. I can be contacted at: raykirby@nottinghamcamra.org



City Brew

Enterprise Inns is to put 250 pubs up for sale to prevent regulatory issues following the £2.3 billion acquisition of the Unique Pub Company. Enterprise issued £50million of new equity to fund the acquisition. Despite having over 9000 pubs the concern is with local monopolies. One of Britain's oldest breweries is to close, the Scottish and Newcastle Fountainbridge brewery will close at the end of the year with the loss of hundreds of jobs. Following his six month sabbatical Tim Martin, currently executive chairman of J D Wetherspoon, is stepping down from the role. Instead he will be non-executive director on a part time basis. The company announced a profit rise for the last quarter. Redruth Brewery in Cornwall has announced that the brewery is to close.

The 8th Hucknall Beer Festival took place on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st February this year, but not on the Sunday. This was caused by the Festival achieving a total sell out of beer and cider at precisely 11.00 at night. The full range of beers and ciders were sold and plans are now in hand to increase the range of cider and beer for next year's event. Left Hand Thread treated the Saturday night audience to another brilliant show and all in all Hucknall is definitely the place to visit, in

Gordon Brown has been named as 'CAMRA's Parliamentarian of the Year 2004' in recognition of his contribution to the future of the small breweries sector following the introduction of small breweries relief in the 2002 Budget. The introduction of small breweries' relief has benefited hundreds of small local brewers making their businesses more viable and enabling them to invest in new plant and jobs. Now CAMRA has called for small breweries relief to be extended to bring maximum benefit to Britain's small brewers and include the regional breweries which make up a large proportion of the 15% of the market that isn't in the hands of the four global companies. A CAMRA survey has revealed that 31% of regular pub goers would buy a locally brewed beer in preference to non-locally brewed beer and has called upon the national pub chains to stock more locally produced beers.

VALE OF BELVOIR

Marquis recognised as great pub Nationally

We are justifiably proud to start our bit this week with the announcement that The Marquis of Granby, Granby was awarded runner up in CAMRA's National Pub of The Year. This is a great achievement for this tiny village pub and is testament to the fantastic enthusiasm that Loz & Sue have injected into it since their arrival just over 2 years ago (can it only be such a short time - it hardly seems possible!). As far as we know (although we may stand corrected) it is the first time that a Nottinghamshire pub has got into the final and it is certainly fully deserved.

If you are the only person in the East Midlands who hasn't yet been out to the Marquis in the last 2 years, shame on you! Sort yourself out. The award will be presented on Tuesday 8th June at approx 8.30pm, so expect the pub to be very full, but also expect some truly exceptional beers to be served - we will be there and expect to see lots of you as well. By the way the winner was The Crown & Thistle in Gravesend, Kent - we're sure it's a very nice pub.

So, Spring is upon us again, and as we all know it's just one small step up to Mild in May. We expect to have 18 pubs again on the trail and hope that it will be as successful as last years. Once again you'll find the VoB trail together with Nottingham in this issue, and additional trail leaflets will also be available at participating pubs. Mild in May will be launched in the Vale at the Nags Head, Saltby on Tues May 4th and we will be holding 3 trips through the month all starting at Horse & Plough, Bingham (see diary dates for info / contact details).

Our last branch meeting saw us at The Anchor, Plungar where our final GBG selections were made and as a tie in with National Pubs week we had survey trips on 21st & 28th Feb to finalise the last couple of entries where marks were very close. We were at the Rose & Crown, Hose on March 9th for our AGM, where Colin's Star Mild was on form. The usual incumbents were re-elected and quite a lively meeting followed. April 13th will see us at The Bull, Bottesford where we will be taking on the pub teams at skittles & dominoes. I fear defeat is imminent, but the practice will put us in good stead for our next foray into the wilds of Newark, where we shall, of course, once more be victorious (does that sound a bit dramatic - I think not!).

There are a few changes in the offing in the Vale including The Cranmer Arms, Aslockton where Tracy & Julian Coy have taken over as landlords. Tracy is local, having moved a whole half mile from Whatton to Aslockton. They have been in since the end of last year and are hoping to put a 3rd handpump on in the near future. The pub has been a past venue for VoB CAMRA skittles matches, as have the Durham Ox, Orston & the Black Horse Hose. We hope to have dates for you in future months when we will be getting out to the skittle alleys again - it seems to have been a long winter. The Red House, Knipton is still closed for refurbishments and it is as yet unclear in what form it will re-open as. We will keep you informed.

Brewsters Brewery have brought out a new ale; Rutterkin, a 4.6% golden beer made from Mount Hood Hops.

Well, that's all from the Vale this time. We expect to see you out and about now that winter is pretty much done!

Cheers.

VALE PUBS The Nags Head at Saltby

A short while ago the area covered by VoB was widened and some classic Vale villages with pubs to match came within our boundaries. One of these was Saltby, home to the Nags Head, owned and run by Mark & Phillipa Yarwood.

The village is pretty much on the furthest edge of the south eastern part of the area, being about 4 miles the other side of Waltham on the Wolds, and involves quite a journey for most Drinker readers. Unfortunately you will have to drive there as public transport does not penetrate this far but, as with many Vale pubs, it is well worth the journey.

When the couple took over, approximately 2 years ago, the pub was in a fairly run down state. After some much needed refurbishment, Mark & Phillipa have produced a pub with an increasing reputation for well kept Cask Ale and good quality food.

There are three handpumps, serving London Pride, usually one from the Adnams stable and at least one from a local brewery, generally Oldershaws, Belvoir or Brewsters. Indeed on last years Mild trail Oldershaws Grantham Dark was voted the most popular Mild on the trail, and the Nags Head was voted joint winner of best mild served.

Last year the pub hosted their first beer festival serving approximately 12 beers, all from local micros. We gather that the plan is to host other small festivals on occasion, any details of which will always be found in the Drinker.

Although both owners are accomplished chefs, Mark does the cooking and Phillipa looks after the bar. Although this is a beer publication their food policy is well worth mentioning. They avoid all bought in and ready prepared items and try to source fresh ingredients locally. They are supporters of the Campaign for Real Food and, to coin a phrase, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. There is a full and varied menu, including a vegetarian option.

At the time of writing the Nags Head is open every lunchtime, but it is always best to check in a d v a n c e . Telephone number is 01476 860491



Pete's Joke

What is the difference between a dead frog and a pint of Fosters? There are more hops in a dead frog.

Get away this weekend...

www.BedandBreakfast-Directory.co.uk
www.SelfCatering-Directory.co.uk



LondonHotel-Directory.com
BarcelonaHotel-Directory.com
PragueHotel-Directory.com

Time4Web.co.uk - Website design, hosting and promotion

Red Lion

Alfreton Road Canning Circus

Monday Guest Ale – only £1.60 all day – a different beer each week

Red Lion Bitter from Ringwood

Pedigree Guest Beers

Coming soon - Caledonian IPA

Food served Monday - Friday 12-2

Sunday Brunch 11-2

Tuesday 'T' Deal - Buy a Pint and get your tea for 99p!

Open all day from 11.30

Live music 12th April Easter

Monday – Paul Robinson

0115 9520309



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0115 926 5612**

On CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pubs

For those who remember the Vaults in Leicester there is some good news – a new venture called 'Out Of The Vaults' is opening on King Street, a short distance from the site of the Vaults. This is being run by Paul Summers and Jude Crighton, both formerly of the Vaults. The location is handily placed between the railway station and the Leicester beer festival site.

Wetherspoons has announced that it may start introducing televisions to its pubs due to the popularity of televised football. Currently none of the pubs have a TV although the Lloyds No 1 chain, also owned by Wetherspoons, do feature large screens. The idea is to have dedicated areas. It is just as well all the establishments are large as there are already designated non smoking areas and family areas.

QUIZ NO 8 ANSWERS

The answers to quiz number 8 on page 14

- 1) Thomas
- 2) West Ham
- 3) 1985
- 4) Helen Fielding
- 5) Kismet
- 6) Desmond Lynham
- 7) The (Famous) Lord Nelson
- 8) Avon
- 9) Joe Louis
- 10) Tennessee
- 11) 1948
- 12) Spiders
- 13) Birmingham
- 14) Folkestone-Hythe
- 15) G J Smith (400.1)

The Government has announced that there won't be a total ban on smoking in pubs, but has given the industry three years to improve its efforts. The Public Places Charter on Smoking, a self-regulation scheme, was introduced in 1999 and encourages pubs to introduce a clear smoking policy throughout the premises.

The Government has announced that taxpayers will not be paying for changes to the new licensing laws. Fees charged should cover all costs associated with the changes. However any increased fees would have to be passed onto customers, quite often taxpayers!

There are proposals to put health warnings on drinks, including bottled beers. They would take a similar format to those currently on cigarettes. A motion is being presented to the House of Commons and this could influence future Government policy.

Peterborough CAMRA is celebrating it's 30th Anniversary by commissioning 30 different breweries to each produce a special beer. Whilst most of the breweries will be around the local area some will be from further afield. Different types of beer, including a mild for May, are proposed. All the beers will have a unique pump clip designed by the branch and featuring local icons of the branch. Look out for the beers throughout the year, including some at their beer festival in August. If you are a licensee and interested in serving some or all of the beers contact Paul Brammer on 07903 651583.

SNIPPETS

Hardys and Hansons seasonal beer for April is Spring Hop whilst Original Gravity will be available during May.

Castle Rock's seasonal beer in support of the Wildlife Trust for April is called Clouded Yellow, a 4.2% beer made with malted wheat and naturally cloudy. May's brew is called May, a pale 3.8% beer with centennial hops.

The Mallard on Worksop railway station has been announced as the winner of North Nottinghamshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2003.

The Earl of Chesterfield, Shelford, is now selling micro brewery beers as well as Bass.

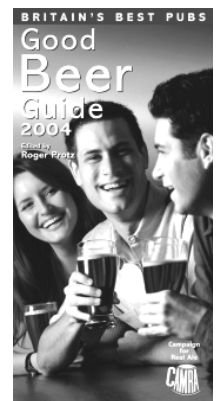
The Toll Bar on Upper Parliament Street is now run by the Pub People Co; the company who currently run Bunkers Hill, the Lion and the Frog and Onion.

There is a new agreement between SIBA, the Society of Independent Brewers, and Enterprise to supply beers. The SIBA members beers will also be available in Unique Pub Company houses. Avebury pubs are also taking SIBA beers.

Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewing group, is to close the Fountainbridge Brewery in Edinburgh ending 255 years of brewing tradition in Scotland. The brewing of many of the beers is to be transferred to the Caledonian Brewery as part of a deal which creates a new 'Caledonian Brewing Company'. S&N closed the Home Brewery in Nottingham many years ago, along with the Matthew Brown Brewery in Blackburn and the Courage Brewery in Bristol.

The Union Pub Company, the tenanted division of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries has signed up to the Cask Marque initiative.

Nigel Sellars of the Victoria Tavern in Ruddington has obtained the Cask Marque award.



Good Beer Guide 2004

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A Day Out in the Black Country



When one considers having a pub-crawl in a different area, Wolverhampton is not a place that immediately springs to mind. On a previous visit, a shopping trip combined with a tram ride on Birmingham's Metro System, I discovered that there were several pubs within a few minutes walk of the railway station and would possibly make a 'grand day out'.

With this in mind and after consulting the Bible ('The Good Beer Guide'), on Wednesday 18th February 2004, Bob and Maggie Millinson and myself decided to give it a go. Using Central Trains Groupsave offer, we left Nottingham station and travelled direct to Shrewsbury. This train takes the longer route via Leicester and Hinckley before going through Birmingham and on to our destination. We then caught the local unit as far as Codsall, all of eight minutes away. The station buildings have been converted into a Holden's pub. Several handpumps were in use, including a guest beer, on this occasion it was Frankton Bagby's Scruffy Herbert at 4.2%, £2.10 per pint. Although light in colour, it was well received by all three of us. This is a new brewery to us located at Church Lawford, near Rugby. Because the local trains are hourly, it was possible to spend an hour in here, so we had Holden's Winter Cheer, 4.6%, £2.10 and Holden's Special at 5.1%, £2.00 before crossing the 1883 footbridge for the train back to Wolverhampton. On exit from the station, turn right and take the subway and stairs to the Great Western on Sun Street passing the low level station, currently being refurbished. It had been abandoned, although a derelict parcels coach and track were still in situ. Here, as well as hot food being

available until 2.30 (as in the Codsall station), a good selection of Holdens beers plus a Bathams brew were available. Here we tried Holden's Sedgely Lifter, 4.7%, £2.30, and Bathams Bitter, 4.3% £1.75. Time to finish with railway station pubs and head for the centre.

After retracing our steps back to Wolverhampton High Level, we headed along the footpath by the bus station and onto Lichfield Street passing the Grand Theatre and Wetherspoons' The Moon under Water and took the first street on the left, Princes Street, where you will find the Tap and Spile. As well as offering televised sports programmes like football and horse racing, it also supplies a good selection of real ales. We tried Ma Pardoes Bumblehole, 5.2%, £1.96 and Timothy Taylors Landlord, 4.3%, also £1.96. Boddingtons Bitter was also available.

Heading back to Lichfield Street and turning left, we found the Poada. This is an absolute gem. Not just because of its decorated frontage, and its choice of real ales, but it also offers CAMRA members 20p off a pint on production of a valid membership card. Here we tried Cains FA, 5.0%, at just £1.60 and Highgate Fat Catz 4.8%, £2.20! Almost next door is the Goose in the City, a Wetherspoon style pub that served an excellent Greene King Abbot 5%, also at £1.60. Then it was time to have a rest and take a walk down Darlington Street to Chapel Ash, at the bottom of the town. Once you turn left out of the Goose the next pub is only about ten or fifteen minutes away.

Across the ring road at number 38 Chapel Ash is the deceptive Clarendon Hotel. A very plush

establishment selling Banks's Bitter as well as Marstons Resolution, 4.7%, £2.14 and Banks's Original 3.5%, £1.72. Further along to number 90 Chapel Ash, and almost hidden, is the Combermere Arms. Looking like a converted house this typical locals pub with several small rooms is a real treat. We tried Cameron's Strongarm 4.0%, £2.00 and Badger Tanglefoot 5.1%, £2.30. Be warned though, it is closed between 3pm and 5.30pm during the week, (Mon-Thur). Also of note is the tree in the gents!!

Time to turn back and head for the station. Although the Hogshead on Stafford Street just before Lichfield Street was tempting, the Moon under Water, previously mentioned, was too much of a temptation so we called for a meal and our final drinks of the day, St Austell Tribute, 4.2% at just £1.35 and Courage Directors, 4.8%, also at £1.35. Catching the 20.08 to Birmingham it gave us time for the 20.47 back to Nottingham. For anybody wanting a different day out, why not try Wolverhampton? There is even a good pub guide to the Black Country showing public transport links including the Metro, it is produced jointly by Travel West Midlands, Midland Metro and CAMRA and can be viewed on line at www.travelwm.co.uk/events/pubguide.asp or call Travel West Midlands on 0121 254 7272 for a free copy.

In pursuance of fine ale,
John Kent



tram-friendly - Shipstone Street stop

The Lion Inn

44 Mosley Street, Basford



0115 970 3506

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004

Excellent food served daily

10 cask-ales always on sale
including local microbrewery guests
Selection of cask milds and guest ciders

Regular Brewers featured include:

Batemans; Bass; Elgoods; Everards;
Hook Norton; Hopback; Kelham Island,
Mallard; Nottingham; Oakham; Old Mill;
Pheonix; Springhead and Titanic

St George's Beer Festival

Thurs April 22nd – Sun April 25th
wide choice of ales to choose from

Brewer of the month for April features Mallard
Brewery Tasting notes available with a chance
to win a polypin of Mallard beer

Live music at the Lion...

Open mike night every Thurs
Live music every Fri & Sat
Live Jazz every Sun lunch

A wide choice of World Wines

Easy access from Nottingham city centre on new tram route (Shipstone Street stop)

Wheelchair access

Music quiz every Monday

Secure car parking (CCTV)

www.pubpeople.com

www.overall-online.co.uk

Late Night Drinking in Nottingham

Please note the licensees reserve the right to close if no customers are in, these are permitted hours.

The Canalhouse, Canal Street - open Friday & Saturday to lam

Fellows, Morton & Clayton, Canal St - open Friday & Saturday to midnight.

Lloyds No. 1, Pelham St - open every night until midnight. (Please note: when the bouncers are on the door you may be refused entry after 11.30pm)

Bunkers Hill Inn, Hockley - Friday & Saturday until midnight, may open until 1am if the trade warrents it

The Nags Head, Mansfield Road - Thursday to Sunday until midnight.

The Forest Tavern, Mansfield Rd - Monday to Saturday until midnight, Sunday until 11.30. (Please note that the Maze behind is open until 2am, but as they have live music most nights, entry will involve a door charge)

Cock & Hoop, High Pavement - Thursday until midnight, Friday and Saturday until 1 am.

Company Inn, Castle Wharf, Canal Street - open every night until midnight.

Southbank Bar, Trent Bridge - Thursday to Saturday until midnight. Also occasional evenings until midnight, usually for sporting occasions - see pub for details.

Coach and Horses, Upper Parliament Street - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until midnight.

Orange Tree, North Sherwood Street - Monday to Wednesday until midnight, Thursday to Saturday until 12.30am.

White Hart, Glasshouse Street - Friday and Saturday until midnight.

Tap and Tumbler, Wollaton Street - Friday and Saturday until 1am

Grosvenor, Mansfield Road - Thursday to Saturday until midnight, Sunday 11pm.

Tap and Tumbler, Wollaton Street - Sunday - Thursday until midnight, Friday and Saturday until 1am.

Please give these houses your support, which will hopefully show other pubs that this is something that we, the drinkers, want and they will decide to apply for a late licence.

If there are any establishments out there, that are not on the above list, and offer this facility then please contact me, Ray Kirby, (0115 9297896) and I will be pleased to include them in future columns.

Rays Round continued from Back Page

From here you can get the No. 30 bus back into the city (the stop is just across the road). The route is along Ilkeston Road, while in this area why not try out another pub that has recently introduced cask ales? The White Horse on the corner of Faraday Road has had new licensees since late last year, and they have been building their real ale trade ever since. The older members among you may remember that the outside of this hostelry appeared in the film 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning' (1959, I believe, but I could be wrong. Anyone with the right answer, can tell me when they see me and claim a prize of them buying ME a drink!!) Anyway, back to the present, the pub now has three ales available, a regular of Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3% £2.20 and two guests Tetley Imperial 4.3% £2.20 and Greene King Old Speckled Hen. Other guests to feature recently have been from Adnams and Jennings. A two bar house that has a good regular clientele, but I'm sure they wouldn't mind a few more visitors if you are in the area. It's only by supporting these people, that they will support us, by giving us, the real ale drinker, what we want.

To close, I must report a rumour that has been told to me, about a stalwart CAMRA member, who apparently does his ironing!? accompanied by a bottle of ale

bought from his local supermarket. (I have no report as to his state of dress while he performs this task!! I did not wish to inquire any further as I thought that it would be more information than I actually wanted to know!!!!)

(For those that need this sort of information, apparently he mainly does T-shirts and pillowcases???) For those ladies interested, I can enquire if he will take orders!!!!!!

The above information was gleaned on the Sunday at the end of the Bell beer festival, an excellent affair that was topped off by the last few barrels (well the remainder of those barrels) going for £1 a pint. All I went in for was to use my last two tokens (I left some three hours later!, I think!!)

Brian, a big thank you to you, and the brewery for putting on such an excellent event, keep up the good work, and not forgetting all the staff for their hard work, thanks from me. Finally, don't forget that The Globe on London Road has a 30p discount, from Sunday to Wednesday, for CAMRA members, who says it doesn't pay to join. Thanks Pete, keep up the good work. Also Tynemill are still running their "One over the eight" promotion, see their pubs, and their advert elsewhere in these pages, for the details. I might see some of you around on the Mild trail, so until next time, happy drinking.

Cheers, Ray.

DRINKER INFORMATION

7000 copies of the *Nottingham Drinker* (ND) are distributed free of charge to over 200 outlets in the Nottingham area including libraries, the Tourist Information Centre, pubs in Nottingham, outlying villages and local towns. It is published by Nottingham CAMRA and printed by Neartone, Catton Street, Arnold, Nottingham - Tel 0115 967 0317.

Advertising

ND welcomes advertisements subject to compliance with CAMRA policy and space availability. Advertising rates start from £15 for a small advert (1/16 of a page) an 1/8 of a page is £25, a quarter of a page £40 and £75 for a half page. A premium is charged for the front and back page. Call 0115 9673047 or email drinker@nottinghamcamra.org Six advertisements can be bought for the discounted price of five. Advertisements/pre-designed graphics etc can be accepted on disc in Tiff, Jpeg, or Bmp format. If required typesetting and design can be carried out at extra cost.

Publication dates

The next issue of ND (issue 62) will be published on Thursday 27th May 2004 and will be available from the Branch meeting at the Victoria in Beeston The copy deadline is Saturday 1st May. **NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR NEXT ISSUE**

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E-mail: drinker@nottinghamcamra.org

Socials and Trips

For booking socials or trips call Ray Kirby on 0115 929 7896 or at raykirby@nottinghamcamra.org

Web Site

Nottingham CAMRA's own web site is at www.nottinghamcamra.org

CAMRA Headquarters

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Useful Addresses

For complaints about short measure pints etc contact: Nottingham Trading Standards Department, Consumer Protection, NCC Advice Centre, 15 Middle Pavement, Nottingham Tel: 0115 950 7910.

For comments, complaints or objections about pub alterations etc, or if you wish to inspect plans for proposed pub developments contact the local authority planning departments. Nottingham City's is at Exchange Buildings, Smithy Row, Nottingham.

If you wish to complain about deceptive advertising, eg passing nitro-keg smooth flow beer off as real ale, pubs displaying signs suggesting real ales are on sale or guest beers are available, when in fact they are not, contact: Advertising Standards Authority, Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN

Acknowledgements

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JOIN CAMRA TODAY!

I/We wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale and agree to abide by the Rules.

Name(s)

Address

.....

Postcode

Signature

Date

I/We enclose the membership subscription for:

Single £16 Joint £19 (same address)

OAP £9 OAP joint £12 (same address)

Under age 26 £9 (date of birth

Unemployed/disabled £9

For Life and Overseas rates, or payment by direct debit, contact

CAMRA HQ (01727 867201).

Send your remittance to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA,

230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. or join online at www.camra.org.uk



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NOTTINGHAM AND AREA CAMRA BRANCH DIARY DATES

Nottingham

Trips and Socials

April

Wed 21: **Bleasby & Burton Joyce**, free mini bus from Cast (formerly the Playhouse Bar) - 7pm

May

Wed 19: **Wysall area**, free minibus trip from Cast (formerly the Playhouse Bar) - 7pm

Tue 25: **Hardys and Hansons**, Kimberley, Brewery trip, meet at the Brewery 6.45pm

June

Mon 7: **Watnall area**, Free minibus trip from Cast (formerly the Playhouse Bar) - 7pm

Book with Ray Kirby on 0115 929 7896 or by email to raykirby@nottinghamcamra.org CAMRA cards must be shown for the £2 discount offered on some trips.

Branch Meetings

All meetings begin at 8pm Everyone is welcome to come along

April

Wed 7: **Bell**, Market Square, Beer Festival meeting - upstairs

Thur 29: **Navigation**, Wilford Street, ND Top Up available

May

Thur 27: **Victoria**, Dovecote Lane, Beeston, near rail station or No 33 bus, Nottingham Drinker available

June

Thur 24: **Bunkers Hill**, Hockley, near Ice Arena. ND TopUp available

Committee Meetings

April

Thur 15: **Trip to Jerusalem**, Castle Road

May

Thur 13: **Rose of England**, Mansfield Road

June

Thur 10: **Salutation**, Maid Marion Way

Regional Meeting

June

Sat 12: **Willys**, 17 High Cliff Road, Cleethorpes, noon

All details on www.nottinghamcamra.org

Newark

Branch Meetings start at 8pm

April

Thur 1: **Five Bells**, Claypole
Call Phil Ayling for more details on 01636 687013 or web site: www.newarkcamra.org.



Local Beer Festivals

Further details of some of the beer festivals are elsewhere in the Drinker

Thur 25 Mar - Sat 27: Leicester Beer Festival, Charotar Patidar Samaj, off St Margaret's Way, nr St Margaret's church (5 mins bus stn, 15 mins Rail stn), 100 beers, ciders, Indian & English food available
Open 11-11 Thur, Fri & Sat.

Fri 26 Mar - Sat 27: Bingham Rugby Club 2nd Beer Festival, Pavilion, Brendon Grove, 20 beers
Open 6-11 Fri, 12-11 Sat.

Thur 1 April - Sun 4: Mansfield Beer Festival, Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road, 100 beers, ciders & wines, food, live music Fri and Sat evening. Open 5-11 Thur, 12-11 Fri, 11-11 Sat, 12-2 Sun.

Fri 9 April - Mon 12: Green Man Easter Beer Festival, Scotgate, Stamford, up to 60 beers. 01780 753598 for details.

Thur 22 April - Sun 25: The Lion St George's Beer Festival, Mosley Street, Basford, open all day.

Fri 23 April - Sat 24: The Mallard St George's Beer Festival, Worksop Railway Station, Worksop, 16 beers inc festival and new brews, food, open all day.

Fri 23 April - Sun 25: Horse & Groom St Georges Day Beer Festival, Radford Road, Basford, open all day.

Mon 26 April until the beer runs out: Johnson Arms 4th Anniversary Beer Festival, Abbey St, Dunkirk

Fri 30 April - Mon 3 May: Globe Beer Festival, London Road, Around 30 beers on stillage including some new and unusual brews, open all day, hot food available every day till 7pm.

Fri 30 April - Mon 3 May: Clock Inn Mayfest Beer Festival, Market Street, South Normanton www.theclockinn.co.uk

Fri 21 May - Sun 23: Rail Ale Festival at Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Campbell Drive, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. Free bus from Chesterfield railway station, 70 beers, ciders & fruit wines, live music Fri & sat evening. Train rides 12-4 Fri & Sat Open 12-10 Fri & Sat, 12-3 Sun. www.barrowhill.org.uk

Fri 28 May - Sun 30: Newark Beer Festival, Riverside Park, (2 mins Castle station), 120 beers, ciders, perries & country wines, live music except Fri lunch. Open 11-10 Fri & Sat, 12-10 Sun.

Erewash

April

Sat 3: **Trip to Mansfield Beer Festival**. Catch 14.56 Robin Hood line train from Nottingham Station.

Wed 7: **Country Park Tavern**, Old Coppice Side, Marlpool. Branch Meeting - 8.30pm

Sat 24: Bus/Walking trip by bus - see page 12 for details Contact Mick and Carole Golds on 0115 9328042 for futher details

May

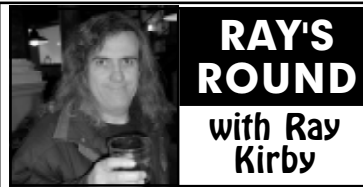
Wed 5: **Durham Ox**, Durham Street, Ilkeston, Branch Meeting - 8.30pm

Fri 28: Trip to the **Bentley Brook Beer Festival**, mini bus trip starting from Long Eaton (6pm)and collecting at Ilkeston. Details contact John Parkes 0115 8491354

June

Wed 2: **Harrington Arms**, Sawley. Branch Meeting - 8.30pm

Contact John Parkes on 0115 849 1354 for further details.



To begin with I must apologise for the small number of hostelries visited for this month's "round" but this issue is generally curtailed by the amount of CAMRA business that must be undertaken at this time of year. The 'after Christmas period' might be quiet for you lot out there, but us in the local branch have to sort out the entries for next years Good Beer Guide, sort the Mild trail (see the pull out) and this time we've also had the new tram guide (see details elsewhere in this publication) I'm fair 'cream crackered!'

Only a short round, but I was very impressed with what I found.

I visited a couple of pubs that I have not been to for a long time.

The first was the Hemlock Stone, situated on the island at the junction of Wollaton Vale and Bramcote Lane. A large two bar pub with a public bar that has a large screen for midweek soccer etc. and a 'quiet' lounge where you can sit and talk. One part of this is also designated as a "no smoking" area. They have two regular ales, W & D Mansfield cask 3.9% £1.91 & Scot Co. Directors bitter 4.8% £2.09, also on are two guest beers, these change regularly, but at the time of my visit were Caledonian Six Nations 4.2% £2.14 and Nethergate Body Warmer 5.2% £2.36 (and it wasn't as you would expect, it was a light in colour beer and didn't drink as it's strength would suggest, very nice) (also I was told that the guests drop to one in the summer, when the clientele switch to lager!?) No accounting for taste I suppose)

Belvoir

April

Tue 13: Skittles & Dominoes versus pub team, **The Bull**, Bottesford 8.30pm.

May

Tue 4: Mild in May Launch, **Nags Head**, Salby.

Tue 11: Branch meeting, venue to be confirmed, 8.30pm.

Sat 8, 15, 22: Mild in May Trips, all leaving **Horse & Plough**, Bingham. PHONE / E.MAIL to confirm all May events before attending.

June

Tue 8: Presentation, Runner Up in National Pub of the Year, **Marquis of Granby**, Granby.

For details contact Martyn or Bridget on 01949 876 479 or bridgetandmartyn@supanet.com

Mansfield

BM = Branch Meeting at 8.00pm

April

Tue 6: **Sherwood Ranger**, Ravenshead, BM & pub of the season presentation

May

Tue 4: **Court House**, Mansfield BM Call Brian Haydon for more details on 01623 453148 or web site: www.mansfieldcamra.org.uk

This pub can be reached via the no. 35 bus from town to Bulwell, (a stop almost outside), or by the no. 30 from town to Wollaton Vale (again a stop just outside).

From here I walked down Bramcote Lane to its junction with Wollaton Road, where The Admiral Rodney can be found at the Square in Wollaton Village. (you can catch the No.30. but as it's only about a 5 minute walk, it hardly seemed worth the wait) In here, I was very pleasantly surprised with the range of beers on offer.

W & D Mansfield Cask 3.9% £1.95, Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3% £2.22 W & D Marstons Pedigree 4.5% £2.18, Scot Co. Theakstons XB 4.6% (before anyone says anything, I know that Scot Co. have sold the brewery back to the Theakston family, but this will still be brewed in Newcastle)

Castle Rock Elsie Mo 4.7% £2.26 and also changing guest ales, (I just missed a Hydes beer) and they also had Shepherd Neame Early Bird 4.3% £2.21. It is a two bar pub, with a very large lounge, which has sitting areas off to the sides, and a small public bar, which also has an extra sitting room off, which houses a TV for those interested in watching the sports. Also there is a small snug which has its own entrance at the front of the pub.

All in all a couple of pubs well worth visiting, and showing them some support for their efforts.

Continued on Page 19