

NOTTINGHAM DRINKER

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE NOTTINGHAM BRANCH OF CAMRA - THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
ISSUE 57 - AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2003

FIRST BEER FESTIVAL FOR MELTON MOWBRAY

Details of the first ever Melton Mowbray Beer Festival have now been finalised. It will take place on Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September at the Melton Mowbray Cattle Market, which is two minutes walk from Melton town centre. The festival will feature around 50 real ales including several rare and interesting brews alongside the excellent products from local breweries plus traditional ciders and country wines. The festival will be open from 11am to 11pm on Friday and Saturday and from 11am to 3pm on the Sunday. Admission is free before 6pm on all three days.

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**

There will be live music on Friday and Saturday evenings with an admission charge of £2.50 (£1.50 to card carrying CAMRA members) from 6pm onwards. Hot food is available all day.

As an added attraction there is a Farmers Market on site on the Friday and a car boot on the Sunday, both open till 2pm. Bus number 19, run by Paul James Coaches, leaves the Broadmarsh bus station hourly until 6.35pm (Monday to Saturday), with the last bus back from Melton Mowbray at 5.45pm. There is also a frequent train service via Leicester. More details of the festival can be found at www.nottinghamcamra.org/melton2003.htm Details of the market, including a location map, are at www.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk



IFBB 3rd CASK BEER WEEK

19th to 28th September

The Independent Family Brewers of Britain are organising their third Cask Beer Week and it promises to be bigger and better than before. CAMRA, Cask Marque and Coors have all added their support to the event. The week aims to highlight and celebrate the best of British beers and to highlight the variety of beers available.

Local
Brewers
Hardys and
Hansons are



members of the IFBB and the Bell Inn in Nottingham is supporting the event with a beer festival. Look out for other events around the local area.



**NOTTINGHAM BEER
FESTIVAL 16TH - 19TH
OCTOBER 2003
DETAILS ON PAGE 4**



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



57 check out www.nottinghamcamra.org



Far and Wide 14 - by Ray Peters Diary of a Travelling Tippler

STEAMING THROUGH SUMMER

Real Ale has been an indispensable feature of major steam rallies for many years, and local events such as the Lincolnshire Steam Rally (this year on 16/17 August) have been at the forefront in offering an interesting selection of beers, properly kept and dispensed. At the Moorgreen Agricultural Show (August Bank Holiday) the CAMRA beer tent has become a regular and welcome sight.



Good taste is spreading now to smaller events, and a recent weekend away in Hampshire led us to the preserved "Watercress Line" running for 10 miles through beautiful countryside between Alresford and Alton. Once a month

the "Real Ale Train" offers the opportunity to get properly "Rat-ted" on a Saturday evening, sampling the local brews such as Itchen Valley Fagins and Pure Gold, or Hampshire Ironside (on our visit) - or from other small brewers like Cheriton and Triple fff. Ales are all priced at a sensible £2.00, (with free pint for advance bookings!) and hot food is also available on the train. The journey starts from Alton where there's direct connection with SouthWest Trains - for details visit www.watercressline.co.uk



The Bell at Alresford

Alresford is a charming small town blessed with a wide choice of pubs - the Bell was our choice for an all too quick visit, and has a long and interesting history as a coaching inn. Four real ales were available - including the appropriate "Watercress Line" bitter from Itchen.

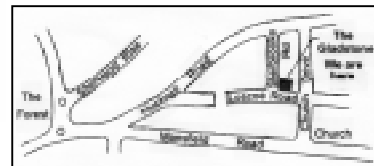
CLOSER TO HOME

Nearer home we noticed that Real Ale Trains are now operating on the Peak rail line between Matlock and Rowsley (see www.peakrail.co.uk) - and of course the station buffet and bar at the Great Central Railway, Loughborough has long been a source of good ale. Another gem is one of the oldest preserved railways - the steam-only Bluebell Line in Sussex, where a full programme of special events includes two railway collectors' fairs: here again real ale is the norm at both stations, and on certain special evening trains. Most of these preserved railways operate evening dining trains in the summer - the Bluebell uses original Pullman cars for this service.

A newer heritage site is the Barrow Hill Roundhouse, near Chesterfield where a major collection of steam and other locos can be seen. At the recent Steam Gala day, 8 steam engines of various sizes were in operation around the site, also offering train rides. Barrow Hill mounts a Beer Festival of their own every April (again with live steam accompaniment),



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

and we hear this year's was especially successful. A real ale bar is now a welcome feature at all other special events - have a look at www.barrowhill.org.uk to check their programme.

Again not far away is the Abbey Pumping Station at Leicester, where the 4 original giant beam engines are still in situ, and operate for special weekend events along with the site's own 2ft gauge railway. At the June Urban Rally this year a record turnout of visiting steam vehicles, classic cars, preserved buses and bicycles (power assisted and not!) kept the crowds enthralled - and three of the beam engines steamed together for a short while. The regular Saturday evening entertainment for exhibitors included circular tours of the town by preserved bus - and Shardlow Brewery's Mayfly and Narrowboat at the bar! Another attraction at this site is the new National Space Centre next door, where Beagle's progress can be followed.

Beauty of Hops - Winners 2003

The eighth annual Beauty of Hops awards were awarded on 4th June at the White Horse, Parsons Green London.

The winners were: -

Single Variety Pilgrim Hop Beer - Beechams Bar & Brewery of Merseyside, with Beechams Pilgrim (ABV 4.5%)

Ultimate Beer for a Ploughman's Lunch - George Gale & Co with Gales Best (ABV 4.0%)

Ultimate Beer for an After Dinner Cheese - Young's Brewery with Old Nick (ABV 7.0%)

**Rosie
O'Briens**

**Mansfield Road
Carrington**

3 Real Ales

Good Pub Food

Open All Day

**Live Music Sunday
Afternoon**

0115 962 2458



COCK & HOOP



The Cock and Hoop was recently awarded maximum score by Cash Marque for all of our 5 real ales. For the months of June, July and Aug, we shall be offering 20p off a pint of any cash ale for CAMRA members on production of their membership cards.

The Cock and Hoop (formerly 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.

Beers on for August and Sept are: Adrums Best, Caledonian Deuchers, Black Sheep Best, London Pride, St Austell Tribute, Timothy Taylor Landlord, Abbot Ale, Old Speckled Hen and Nottingham's Rock, Legend & Supreme!



LETTERS

Dear Sir,
I enjoyed reading Gazza Prescott's article and I would like to add something for those who may follow-up on his article and visit Prague.

It is true that over the year a number of Czech breweries have closed, however, there are some 60 or so which are still brewing beer. There are also a number of micro-breweries around the country who brew a varied selection of beers, one of which uses cherries in one of its beers, and, is more than a match for Belgium product.

Bottled beer plays a big part of beer drinking in the Czech Republic and almost every brewery has a shop that sells bottled beers. People arrive in cars and buy the beer not by the bottle but by the crate. For some smaller breweries bottled beer can be 50% of their output. It should be said that many breweries do not now pasteurise their beer but use a micro-filtration process because it provides a better product. Czechs are discerning as well as conservative by nature and the quality of beer is taken very seriously by both drinkers and brewers alike. One change that I have noticed is that brewers are now ceasing to use the Balling

scale and giving their beers an ABV% that we can relate to.

Apart from the brew pubs mentioned in the article there is one establishment that beer enthusiasts should not miss. This is the Beer Galerie. This small established business is a shrine to independent Czech breweries and the only place I know where you will find a truly varied selection of beer under one roof. Pivni Galerie (to give it its Czech name) is like an off-licence in the UK, but, where as well as buying bottled beer one can sit and taste two different draught beers, all of which come from small independent breweries. The selection of beers numbers up

to a 100 different sorts; and glasses and t-shirts from the breweries are available. Pivni Galerie is situated on U pruhonu in the Northern suburb of Holesovice. Take Tram 14 from the Old Town Tram. The required tram stop is "U pruhonu" on Komunardu. Cross the road turn up U pruhonu and it is situated across the road on the right. It takes about 20-30 minutes. Or if you are the other side of the river you can take tram 12 from the Little Quarter (down the hill from Klasterni Pivozar mentioned in Gazza's article). It is open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm only. I can also recommend various places where one can sample some unusual beers, like a book shop for instance! So, if anyone wants to know more, then they can contact me through the editor.

Ian Jakeway.



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
Midnight closing on Wednesday & Thursday
1am closing on Friday & Saturday (no admittance after midnight)
Function room for hire

36-38 Mansfield Road, Nottingham
 Telephone 0115 947 2739



Nottingham Beer Festival 16th - 19th October 2003

This voucher entitles you to 50p off the admission price before 5pm on Thursday, Friday or Saturday

Not to be used with any other concession

Thursday 11-5 £1 5-11 £3 (quiet night)

Friday 11-5 £1 5-11 £3 (Kelly's Heroes)

Saturday 10-11 £3 (Left Hand Thread)

Sunday 12-3 Free

Commemorative glass and programme £2

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!

This month look out for:

OLD MILL SUMMER SUNSHINE 4.0%
 WOODFORDE'S GREAT EASTERN 4.3%
 THWAITES ORIGINAL BITTER 3.6%
 BATEMANS SUMMER SWALLOW 3.9%
 HARVIESTOUN SCHIEHALLION 4.8%
 NETHERGATE SUFFOLK COUNTY 4.0%
 WYCHWOOD CIRCLE MASTER 4.0%
 COACH HOUSE SUMMER SIZZLER 4.2%
 GOFF'S LAMORAK 5.0%

OAKHILL MENDIP GOLD 4.5%
 INVERALMOND LIA FAIL 4.7%
 WOOD'S SHROPSHIRE LAD 4.5%
 GALES SUMMER HOG 3.8%
 HYDES ROCK 'N' RUIN 4.1%
 TITANIC FARMER'S HALF 4.8%
 STONEHENGE PIGSWILL 4.0%
 CALEDONIAN TATTOO 4.2%
 BADGER IPA 3.6%

Plus many more



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





Horse and Jockey

1 Mill Street, Basford

Hemlock, Black Gold and two Guests
Sunday carvery is complemented by lunchtime and evening menus

Pensioner discounts and childrens menu available
Large function room available
Occasional live music

Licensed for children 12 - 9
Open 11 - 11, Sunday 12 - 10.30

The Horse and Jockey By Basford Crossing
Tel 0115 9787883

Buses 71, 80, 81 or 82 from Nottingham

Plans for the 27th annual Nottingham Beer Festival are now well underway and it will be bigger and better than ever. As always, the star attraction will be the vast range of real ales on sale - a whopping 340 this year, including beers from brand new breweries and rare ales from all around the country. A range of traditional ciders and country wines will also be featured.

The venue is again the Victoria Leisure Centre

and the dates for your diary are Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th October, with opening 11am to 11pm Thursday and Friday, 10am to 11pm Saturday and 12 noon to 3pm Sunday.

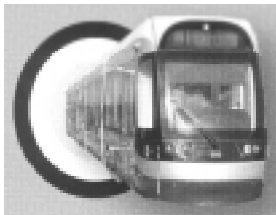
This year the festival has two main sponsors, Hardys and Hansons who have recently launched their new beer Olde Trip Ale, and NET who will be unveiling the city's new tram system a couple of months after the festival. Watch out for the new beers to be launched by our local breweries in time for our festival to commemorate the arrival of the trams.

By popular request Thursday is quiet night with no live entertainment. Friday night we feature the highly regarded Kellys Heroes and on Saturday it is the turn of Left Hand Thread who were such a hit at the Hucknall Beer Festival back in February. Watch out for other live music

during Friday and Saturday. But remember, with two large halls you don't have to listen to the music if it is not your cup of tea (or glass of bitter!).

More details can be found at

www.nottinghamcamra.org/nottmbeerfest2003.htm



BELL INN

Welcoming atmosphere

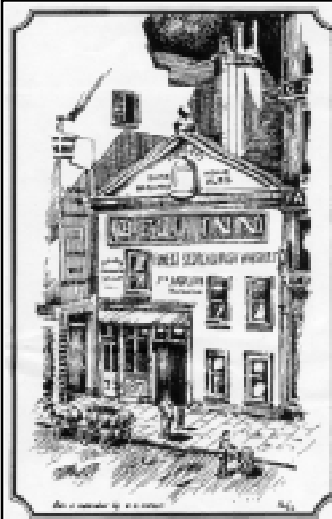
Great food

Good beer

Live music

Come and try it

18 Angel Row, Phone 0115 9475241



RICHARD'S REAL ALE MUSIC DIARY

Real Ale Music Listings for July 31st 2003 Onwards

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. See next *ND* deadline on page 15.

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)

Black Lion, Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent 01949 875785

Bunkers Hill Inn, Hockley, Nottingham 0115 910 0114. Occasional live bands in the upstairs bar

Canal House, Canal Street, Nottingham. Occasional live bands

Chestnut Tree, Mansfield Road, Sherwood 0115 985 6388. **August** - Thurs 7: Pulse; Sat 9: Comfy Chairs; Thurs 14: Stryder; Sat 16: Far-Canal; Thurs 21: Pesky Alligators; Thurs 28: Airbourne; Sat 30: Escape

Cow, 46 Middle Street, Beeston 0115 925 6070 **Regular** - live bands every Friday night

Falcon Inn, 1 Alfreton Road, Canning Circus, Nottingham 0115 9782770. Occasional live music Thursday

Fox & Crown, Basford 0115 942 2002. Occasional live jazz

Frog & Onion, Noel Street, Hyson Green, Nottingham 0115 978 7072. **Regular** - Open mike session every Tues night

Gladstone Hotel, 45 Loscoe Road, Carrington 0115 912 9994 (pub) web address: www.nottinghamus.freeseve.co.uk/gladstone/frontpag.htm **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).

Horse & Groom, 462 Radford Road, Basford 0115 970 3777. **Regular** - Tues nights: Acoustic open mike night and other Occasional live music

Horse & Plough, Long Acre, Bingham 01949 839 313 - Occasional live music

Le Mistral Mansfield Road, Sherwood, Nottingham 07770 226926. There may also be a folk club starting soon on Monday evenings. Web site @: www.nottmus.freeseve.co.uk/gladstone/frontpag.htm

- **Regular** - Sun lunch: (live music) for other gigs book tickets in advance please

Lincolnshire Poacher, 161-163 Mansfield Road, Nottingham 0115 941 1584. Occasional live music

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):

Jazz **August** - Sun 3 (1.30-3.30): Suzanne Mellard Quartet; Sun 3 (4.30-6.00):

Dave Round Quartet; Fri 8: Little Giants (eclectic mix); Sat 9: Dave Onions

(original acoustic); Fri 15: Sally Barker and the Rhythm (eclectic mix); Sat 16:

Jinrai (acid jazz / funk); Sun 17 (1.30-3.30): Jyll Ball with the Henry Farrell

small Big Band; Fri 22: Slider (R&B swamp); Sat 23: Lou D's Blues Shack (

blues); Fri 29: Kick N Rush (comedy skiffle); Sat 30: Tribute night with Treebeard

(heavy wood); Sun 31 (1.30-3.30) Anni Charles and the Ken Newbold Quintet

September - Rollo Markee & the Tailshakers (blues); Sat 6: Mick Rutherford

Band (blues)

(No more information known due to the pub being under new ownership)

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

Peveril, Beacon Hill Rise, St Anns 07799 044 617. Occasional live music

Plough, 17 St Peter's Street, 0115 942 2649 Radford **Regular** - Thurs: Irish folk music in the bar (free for all and a free bowl of chilli)

Railway Inn, Station Road, Lowdham 0115 966 3214 **Regular** - live music Sunday night

Rose of England Mansfield Road, Nottingham 0115 947 2739. Occasional live music Fri & Sat nights

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

Stratford Haven, West Bridgford. Occasional live music.

Tap & Tumbler, 33 Wollaton Street, Nottingham. 0115 941 3414. **Regular** - live bands every Friday evening

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

The Maze, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham 0115 947 5650. Various live music at the w/e (usually a charge)

Turf Tavern, South Sherwood Street, Nottingham 0115 911 1719 **Regular** - Weds: Commuter, Last Pedestrian and a Cyclist; Sun: El Grecko

Victoria Hotel, Dovecote Lane, Beeston 0115 925 4049. **Regular** - Jazz club every Monday evening; live music at the weekends

details of all the events advised of are on the web site

www.nottinghamcamra.org



PLEASE PASS
ND ON



MARQUIS OF GRANBY

BEER FESTIVAL



AUGUST 22 - 25

GRANBY DR BINGHAM

TALES FROM THE NORTH

The arrival of Hardys & Hansons new flagship brew, Olde Trip, has convinced a number of pubs to put the beer on; and in the Hucknall area The Nabbs has elected to again try with cask conditioned ales.

The Nabb Inn is one such pub that has elected to again try with real ale. The pub is located in the estate just across the dual carriageway from Hucknall (Watnall side) and can be reached by using the Hucknall Flyer from Victoria centre.

On the downside, The Will Scarlett, again on the Watnall side of Hucknall, is now boarded up and being sold at auction. As outline planning permission has been granted for a change of use, it is more than likely that the pub will be demolished and houses erected.



On a more positive note the Nelson & Railway, Kimberley is having a makeover and the chosen architects are those who have done such a sensitive job with The Bell. The changes mean that this

popular pub will be shut for a short period but it is to re-open on 28 July. More details will appear in the next edition of ND. Finally, The Queens Head, Kimberley has now opened its garden/patio area and from my last visit would seem to be very popular.

If you have any news or views on the 'Pubs in The North' please contact ND or e-mail me at:

acl@15rockwoodcrescent.freereserve.co.uk.

Prices Survey

CAMRA's annual price survey has shown better news for real ale drinkers in the East Midlands. Last year the rise in price per pint was above the average but this year it is below (1.17% in comparison to an overall increase of 2.65%). Lager prices however did increase by more than the average (3.48% locally and 2.7% for the UK as a whole). Inflation during the same period was 3.1%. The average pint of real ale in the country currently costs £1.98 however it is lower in the East Midlands at £1.90. The price survey showed a difference between prices from national brewers (£1.87), independent brewers (£2.02) and micro brewers (£1.95) whilst the price varied depending on the outlet, national chain pubs (£1.94), independent brewers pubs, (£2.02) or free houses (£1.98).

Enjoying reading this? You've joined CAMRA? Now, what would you like to see us doing?

Help us to get to know you, and you us. E-mail alanward@nottinghamcamra.org or write in.

CAMRA National Inventory Launch

CAMRA's National Inventory of pub interiors of outstanding historic interest has been revised and a new booklet published listing all the pubs in the country. There are four entries in Nottinghamshire, two full entries for pubs with intact interiors – The Trip to Jerusalem and the Five Ways at Sherwood. and two in the appendix, for pubs where there are features of importance – The Test Match and the Vale on Mansfield Road. It is proposed to have a feature on these pubs in a forthcoming edition of the Drinker.

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THE PORTLAND ARMS

Portland Road, Off Alfreton Road
Canning Circus
Nottingham 9420181

**TRADITIONAL CASK ALES
INCLUDING CASK MILD**

**TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
SERVED 12.00-4.00 ONLY £3.75**

QUIZ AND STICKY 13'S EVERY TUESDAY

SKY SPORTS - POOL TABLE - BEER GARDEN

**The Portland Pot
Stew or Chilli + Granary Bread
only £1.20
Served Mon - Sat**

Member of CAMRA?

Want to receive breaking news, special membership offers or even the ND or "Top-up" by e-mail, hot off the press? Then please update our records by sending me a short e-mail so that we can add your e-mail address to our list - alanward@nottinghamcamra.org



More Bottle (41) by Andrew Ludlow

One of the advantages of writing this column is that now and again friends hand over bottled beer suggesting that it may be useful for an article. Late last year a bottle of 'The Famous Spingo Ale' appeared, courtesy of Martin, who had travelled to Helston to watch a football match and could not resist the opportunity to sample Blue Anchor Ales. The Blue Anchor Inn, 50, Coinagehall Street, Helston dates back to the 15th Century, was originally a monk's hospice and is one of the oldest brewpubs in the country. The beers are brewed at the back of the pub (which is characterful to say the least and well worth visiting), as are the two main beers - Spingo Medium and Spingo Special.

I was fortunate to have the chance to try Spingo Medium in a bottle. The beer was copper brown in colour and whilst quite lively, was crystal clear (careful pouring had kept the sediment in the bottle). The aroma was beautifully rich with both malt and hops present. The overall taste favoured malt, but with a pleasant fruitiness. This gave way to a dryness, particularly in the aftertaste, which was rather well balanced.

The bottle claimed that the beer was 4.8% ABV, although it certainly tasted

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

**Happy Hour Mon - Sat 2-6pm
50p off all draught beers inc cask**

stronger than that.

My thanks to Martin, for not drinking the beer and if you are in Cornwall this summer, make the effort to visit Helston, find the Blue Anchor, and enjoy a quality ale in the pub, and take a few bottles home for further enjoyment.

Following up from the last ND it was pleasing to see that Vale Pale Ale, a bottle conditioned beer from Brewsters, is available in The Globe on London Road.



THE BELL INN

MARKET SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM

2003 REAL ALE FESTIVAL

Monday 15TH TO Friday 19TH SEPTEMBER 2003

OVER 40 REAL ALES STRAIGHT FROM THE CASK

IN SUPPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FAMILY BREWERS OF BRITAIN

CARD HOLDING CAMRA MEMBERS SESSION 12-6PM SUNDAY 14TH 2003

HOT FOOD AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES

MONDAY FROM 6PM YOUR FIRST FESTIVAL PINT COMES
WITH A FREE HOT JACKET POTATO AND CHOICE OF FILLINGS

THE BELL INN, 18 ANGEL ROW NOTTINGHAM NG1 6HL

www.hardysandhansons.plc.uk e-mail brianrigby@thebellinn1437.fsnet.co.uk



HOLE IN THE WALL



The Hole in the Wall on North Sherwood Street is currently stocking a selection of guests alongside the Mansfield Cask and Pedigree. Lunches (12-2.30) and early evening meals (5-7) are served throughout the week and a traditional Sunday lunch is available. Currently there are Steak nights on Mondays. One thing the pub has quickly become renowned for is the Soul and Motown nights, held every Saturday, with some well known DJs being booked. Sky sports and a pool table are available. The pub can be contacted on 0115 947 3162. **Now open until midnight on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.**

2003 Mild Trail Results

For the second year running we received over 100 entries for the Mild Trail, everyone who entered can claim a free pint from this year's Nottingham Beer and Cider Festival (16th - 19th October at the Victoria Leisure Centre). There were also 30 lucky winners of the limited edition "Born To Drink Mild" T-Shirts kindly donated by **Hardys and Hansons**. The **Fox at Sneinton** also donated a free gallon of beer for the "first out of the hat."

The boy and girls, lads and lasses voted for the Best Drink of Mild and the Best Mild Display. The **Plough** at Radford retained the title for best pint, just beating the **Fox & Crown**, Basford who moved up from third place last year to second this. In third place came the **Peveril** and fourth, the **Horse & Groom**, New Basford.

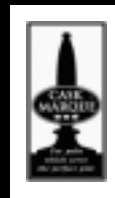
A new-comer to the Mild trail won first place for the Best Display; who could miss those dancing feet leading you to the Mild pump on the bar at the **Rose of England?** Second place went to the **Horse & Groom** who featured their forthcoming Mild ales. The **Newstead Abbey** moved up from fourth last year to third this year displaying their own colourful Mild posters. In fourth place was the **Fox & Crown**.

Put May in your diary for 2004, for as little as four pints and 8 pub visits you could have the chance to win a T-Shirt and free beer, you could also have an excuse to follow the Trail and visit pubs you've never been to.

Royal Ale

To complement Duchy Originals, the quality food brand established by the Prince of Wales, which donates its profits to The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation, Wychwood Brewery has produced a new beer. Duchy Originals Organic Ale is being sold in 500ml bottles by Waitrose and throughout the independent trade. The 5% ABV organic ale is described as 'a ruby-coloured flavour-packed brew, which combines the rich caramel flavours of the barley malt with the signature ripe orange nuance of the First Gold hop'.

the Johnson arms



Abbey St, Dunkirk, 0115 9786355

DIFFERENT GUEST ALES EVERY WEEK
plus our regular casks Greenalls & Wadworth

Win a Gallon of Ale At Our TUESDAY NIGHT QUIZ
Free to enter

For a relaxed atmosphere, regular live music & excellent freshly prepared dishes from Gilly's Kitchen

Sat 30th August

Big BBQ 1pm - late

Live Music from Richie Muir 4pm

With Extra guest ales to wash it all down



BATEMANS

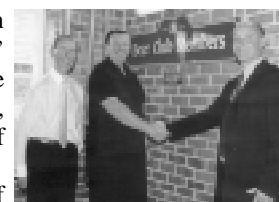
Bateman's Brewery has just signed up its first member of the 'Bateman's Beer Club', Mr. Jim Carley, a member of Chesterfield Branch of CAMRA and his wife Wendy travelled over to Wainfleet for the inauguration ceremony, where they were welcomed by George and Stuart Bateman, as well as Haydn Biddle, the Brewery's Chief Executive.

After a celebration lunch, Jim's 'brick' was unveiled in the new Brewhouse, 'The Theatre of Beers'.

The 'Theatre of Beers' was opened in 2002 and provides a tour of the Victorian brewery. Amongst the display of memorabilia are original documents from 1899. The indoor and outdoor games area features old traditional pub games.

Last year Batemans joined Cask Marque, the independent accreditation scheme set up to improve the standard of serving a 'perfect pint'. Before any of Batemans tenants are put forward for their Cask Marque Award they are given a Cellar Management Course, at the brewery. These courses have not only been for their tenants, managers and free trade customers, but also for all of Bateman Brewery staff whether they work in the offices, brewhouse or on transport.

The course has now been opened to anyone who not only enjoys drinking the 'perfect pint' but also would like to know more about the handling of beer.



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In praise of PUBLIC transport

No.24 of a series in which Spyke Golding looks at the use of buses and trains to visit pubs

A visit by bus to the nearby village of Ruddington

It is thought that Ruddington was first established by Saxons in 550 AD; the name meaning "Rudda's people", although some believe the name came from its reddish soil. Much later Danish invaders settled alongside the Saxons, calling their area "Easthorpe". Ruddington is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but did not really become well known until the early 19th century, when it began to expand rapidly due to an influx of framework knitters. A museum in Chapel Street now commemorates their work, and is well worth a visit. In 1900 the Great Central Railway station opened, attracting a few industrialists to build factories in the vicinity. The station was eventually closed to passengers in 1963 and to freight in 1968. Today, at the Heritage Centre, preserved steam locos can be seen in action. There are plans to eventually reopen the line to Loughborough, from where steam trains already operate to North Leicester.

Getting to the village by bus is very straightforward: Barton services 14 and 54 leave Nottingham Broadmarsh on the hour and half hour until 1930 then hourly on the half hour. They come into the village along Wilford Road and so are handy if you start at the Jolly Farmers. The last one back is at 2349. The NCT service 10 is a City Loop service, and leaves Victoria Centre every 20 minutes until 1905, then half hourly. The last one back is at 2335, and gets back to the City in time to connect with other NCT midnight services. It enters the village via Packman Drive and Easthorpe Street, and there is a handy stop close to the Red Heart. There are seven pubs in Ruddington, which is probably why it receives a big influx of residents from the nearby Clifton estate on weekend nights. Two have been left out of this crawl. The Bricklayer's Arms on High Street, which sells no real ale, and the White Horse on Church Street. This pub does sell some real ale, but the quality was so poor on my last four visits that I felt unable to include it. Our first stop, then, is



the *Jolly Farmers* (1). Dating from the 1840s, it has been altered substantially over the years; some rooms have been knocked together, and a new section built at the rear to accommodate a children's room and a separate skittle alley that is also used as a function room. For about 20 years in the 50s and 60s it was kept by a landlord known as "Jolly Jack Sykes" – not because of the pub name – but because he never smiled and often swore at the customers!

The front door leads into the Public Bar, with darts and a partially separated pool area. The original fireplace remains here, and a large mirror hangs above it. There is a lounge to the right, which is comfortable and has some nice prints hung on the walls, which like those in the rest of the pub, are covered in embossed paper painted in a peach colour. Although the pub is fairly quiet in the week, it comes to life on Friday and Saturday nights when a 60s/70s disco pulls in the crowds. Sadly, the only real ale is Wolverhampton & Dudley brewed Mansfield Bitter.

Our next stop, the *Victoria Tavern* (2), is first mentioned historically as a beer house in



1858. This attractive, white painted building has a few tables outside at the front where you can watch the world go by on a warm summer's night. There's a tiny public bar on the right with a loud jukebox, and large screen TV for sporting events. The cosy, narrow beamed lounge is on the left, and leads through to another outside drinking area at the rear. Draught Bass, Adnam's Broadside and two guest beers are on sale here, and I'm told that there will soon be three more hand pumps for guests.

Onward, now, to the *Red Lion* (3) an imposing, white painted street corner local. Originally in Vicarage Lane, it was relocated to its current site in 1830, and is now known locally as "Tillo's" after a family who kept the pub for most of the last century, until 1980. This very popular pub has a traditional public bar with darts, and a smart lounge with beams and brasses. There is also a corridor bar with a few seats, and a few outdoor tables in the car park. The beers are Mansfield Bitter, Theakston's Mild and Courage Directors, and there is occasionally a guest beer.

Just up the road, the *Red Heart* (4) is yet another white painted building with a large three-dimensional red heart in its sign. Once a Shipstone's pub, it is now badged as Greenall Whitley

and sells Courage Directors as its only real ale. It is a lovely old beamed pub, but the main room at the front is now dedicated to a young clientele, with pool, a very loud jukebox and

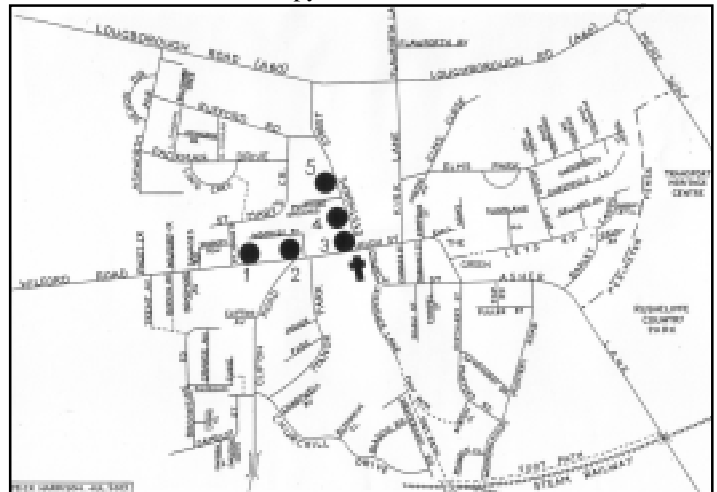


big TV. The tiny, beamed lounge at the rear is, however, a haven of tranquillity by comparison. It is a most attractive room, with Monet and other prints and lots of bric-a-brac, and should not be missed.

It is just a short walk up the road to our final stop, the *Three Crowns* (5). Known locally as the Top House, the pub had just reopened after a major refurbishment when I visited it, and a Thai restaurant, the Luk Pra Tor, was due to open shortly in the pub. On the new painted sign, the three crowns are actually the pub's chimney pots, which have crown shaped tops. They are also etched into the pub's new windows, but a builder friend reckons that these pots are known as "queens" rather than crowns – although I do not feel that "the Three Queens" would be a good name for a pub!

Inside, there is a small entranceway room, partially separated from the long main bar behind. It is decorated in a modern, bistro style with light wood, brass poles and white and pale green painted walls. An old, illuminated Watney's Red Barrel hangs behind the bar to remind us of the bad old days, but the beer selection here is superb! The range varies, and there's always a Nottingham Brewery beer. On my visit it was Legend, accompanied by Timothy Taylor's Landlord, Springhead Bitter and Adnam's Bitter. A fine place to finish your evening and try a few different beers before the last bus!

The latest public transport news, and many past articles can be viewed on my website, www.spykes-travels.co.uk



Summer Brews and Blues in the Vale

Hello again to our growing (or groaning, who knows?) group of Vale devotees. We have had a good start to the summer with only a couple of small disappointments. Cyril's minibus has been ferrying us from pub to pub and festival to festival during June. Firstly to the Nag's head at Saltby, which proved to be a nice little festival, 10 beers from local micros that sold out by the Sunday night, surely every festival holder's hope! 2 weeks later we were out to The Crown, Old Dalby. A similar amount of beers were on offer, once again mainly from local brewers, although from slightly further afield. This pub's superb beer garden lends itself well to this sort of event, and it proved to be a very relaxing evening. Whilst we are at Old Dalby we would like to remind readers that a Petanque match is taking place between the pub team and VoB on Tues 12th August, players and support are most welcome.

A further trip had been planned for 12th July to the Palmerston Arms, Peterborough but unfortunately summer lethargy must have set in so we had to cancel due to lack of support - maybe another time if the interest is there.

Our July meeting was held at the Sugar Loaf, Ab Kettleby, the new brewery tap for Belvoir Brewery. Colin met us at the brewery for a small update tour and some beer tasting, and we then moved on to the pub for the meeting (and more beer!). This pub is well worth a trip out from Nottingham as it is situated on the main Nottingham -Melton bus route with the stop being just 10 yds from the pub. So no excuses. The latest beer from Belvoir

is Golden Brown at 4.5% brewed for the Derby Festival.

The main topic up for discussion at this meeting was the upcoming Melton Beer Festival. Dates have been fixed for this on the 19th-21st Sept at Melton cattle market. 50 beers are planned, plus live music on the Friday & Saturday nights. If anybody is interested in helping at this inaugural festival for VoB they will be most welcome, so please contact Martyn on 01949-876479 (pm) or email bridgetandmartyn@supanet.com.

Local pub news is a mixture of good and bad. Sadly, Shaun at the Chequers, Cropwell Bishop has moved on and the pub is currently under temporary management. This is a pity as on our last group visit to this pub on the Mild Trail it was bursting at the seams, admittedly a Saturday night, but this is not necessarily always the busiest night for pubs in the Vale. Onto better news. Anthony at the Durham Ox, Orston, a twice former vale pub of the year, has made an arrangement with Swindon brewery, Archers, whereby every Monday night a new barrel of one on the range is put on and served at £1.40 per pint until it goes - when it's gone it's gone until the following Monday. This is intended to carry on right through the summer and, if successful maybe beyond. Surely worth a trip out in the early part of the week on a balmy summer day or evening, to sit out in the flowery beer garden or under the shade of the trees in front of the church, the whack of willow against leather - whoops, sorry, I've got my Johnners head on, but you get my drift. Well, that's it until next time, we're off to daydream some more.....

VALE PUBS

The 1st in a new series of articles about each pub to be found in the Vale of Belvoir CAMRA Area starts with The Chequers at Barkestone-le-Vale.

Barkestone is a tiny village in the heart of the Vale of Belvoir. At one time there were no fewer than five pubs in the village but now only the Chequers remains. Despite the smallness of Barkestone-le-Vale, the pub is quite elusive, so much so that the proprietors have offered a free pint of beer to anyone who can find it, bringing with them the voucher on this page. Free beer notwithstanding, finding the pub is on it's own a rewarding experience.

Parts of the Chequers are very old with extremely thick stone walls, but there have been additions over the years. In 1791 Robert Hall was the proprietor of the "Chequer" carrying on through to 1830, but he may have been a son with the same name.

Since being a Home Brewery pub, for many years the Chequers sold no cask ale but a little over a year ago the pub was purchased by Mark and Sarah Attewell and now houses two hand pumps. Regular beers are Flowers IPA & Marstons Pedigree. It was at this time that every pub in the Vale of Belvoir CAMRA area sold real ale - a proud boast that we believe that no other branch can match. The new owners have refurbished the Chequers in a most pleasing and sensitive way. Flock wallpaper has been replaced with plain terracotta paintwork and



natural wood finish floors. This simple approach is matched by the chairs and tables.

The layout is basically open plan with the bar in the middle, facing you as you enter. To the left there is a raised area with a pool table set back, and on the right there is a room with TV but arranged so that the television does not affect the drinking area.

The Chequers is that rare item - a wet pub. As there is no kitchen at present the only food available remains items such as crisps, nuts and scratchings. But the beer is always superb and prices have been kept down. This is a true family run pub. Sarah's Mum, Avril, travels miles to help out every day and is often found behind the bar. There is good local trade, often engaged in pool, dominoes and darts.

One advantage the Chequers has over many rural pubs is that it is open each and every lunchtime, and all day at weekends. It is only a short distance from the Grantham Canal, so thirsty walkers and cyclists can easily get themselves a drink.

We hope you will use your voucher and visit this little gem.

Mild Trail Success

The VoB Mild trail seemed to be a great success, with fantastic support from both landlords and "trailers". We had 21 completed Mild trail forms, a record amount for VoB. Interestingly, every form returned to us was complete, we are sure that there are as many if not more partially filled in forms flying about, so thanks to all for supporting this enjoyable campaign. At VoB we think that it certainly seems to have made a difference by having our trail form attached to the Nottingham one sent out with the Drinker.

All completed form senders will receive our "Gold Certificate" and this years lucky prize winner is M. J. Chiswick from Mapperly, a very cheap prize will wing its way out soon - a great deal quicker than last years, rest assured!

There were joint winners for the vote for pub serving the best Mild. These were the Marquis of Granby, Granby (who served 13 different milds through the month!) and the Nags Head, Saltby. The Horse & Plough, Bingham was a very close 3rd. It was noticeable, though, that the most popular Mild this May, according to your comments, was the exceptional Grantham Dark from Oldershaws, so hats off to Gary for this excellent beer. Enough Mild for now, let's see what next year brings.

The Chequers Barkestone-le-Vale

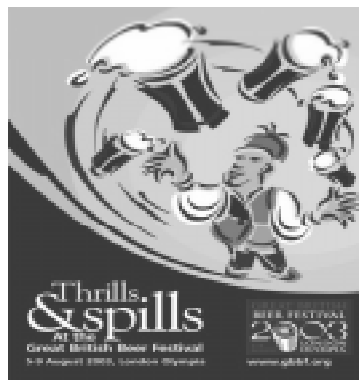
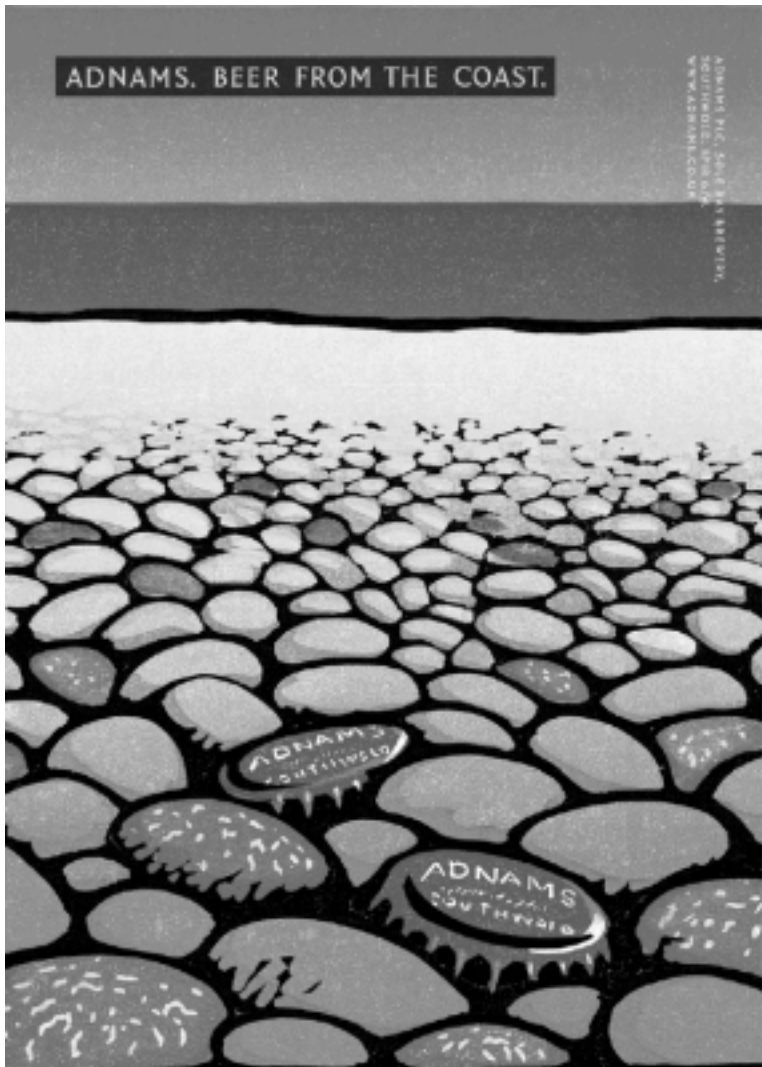
This voucher entitles the holder to one free pint of cask ale.

Valid until 30/9/03

ND QUIZ - No 4 – JUST FOR FUN

Quiz number 4 from Gordon, answers to the quiz are on page 15.

- 1) What is the chemical symbol for silver?
- 2) In which county is Ilkeston situated?
- 3) Name the author of 'Bleak House' and 'Dombey and Son'?
- 4) What was the former name of the 'Lincolnshire Poacher' on Mansfield Road?
- 5) In the 2000-2001 season, who scored the most league goals for Nottingham Forest F.C.?
- 6) Which group topped the charts with 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in 1992?
- 7) Holly Hunter, Tom Cruise and Gene Hackman starred in which 1993 film directed by Sydney Pollack?
- 8) What is the title of 'Linkin Park's chart topping album?
- 9) Which club did Mark Stallard play for before joining Notts County?
- 10) The seaport of Antwerp is in which country?
- 11) The Gladstone public house in Carrington is situated on which road?
- 12) How many days in the month of November?
- 13) What colour is the precious stone 'The Ruby'?
- 14) On which date is St Swithins day?
- 15) In which year was the Battle of Waterloo?



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Nottingham Drinker currently offers two ways of guaranteeing you receive your copy of the Drinker. A pdf version of the newsletter can be sent direct by email for you to either read on the screen or print out and take to your local. If you are interested, then send your email address to davidmason@nottinghamcamra.org A word of warning – the pdf file is somewhat large and may clog up your inbox. The same service is also available for the ND Top Up newsletter.

Alternatively, you can have the Drinker delivered to your door by post. Just send 6 1st class stamps and 6 2nd class stamps for first class delivery and 12 2nd class stamps for second-class delivery. The bonus is that you will receive the new ND Update newsletter, although this will be sent with the following Drinker.

A Brewery with a View

Callow Top is a small, select holiday park situated just north of the picturesque market town of Ashbourne, nestling within a delightful elevated country setting with breathtaking panoramic views overlooking the Dove Valley and with the famous Tissington Trail and High Peak Trails, Dovedale and the Manifold Valley, all within walking distance from Callow Top. If this isn't tempting enough the clincher comes with the news that the park now has its own on-site brewery!

The Haywood Brewery went into production at the end of June initially producing two beers; Dr Samuel Johnson at 4.2% and Imperial IPA at 5.2%. The beers will be on sale in local free houses as well as the on-site pub "The Callow Inn". As you would expect, an order has already been placed for Nottingham Beer Festival in October!

More details and a map can be found at www.callowtop.fslife.co.uk/welcome.htm

Looking After Each Other

New pubs are trying to maximise ground floor space for drinkers, so the toilets are being put in attics or basements: a trek and inconvenience (no pun intended), but no problem for the able bodied (or lazy). As disability issues have been brought to everyone's attention more and more over the years, all new pubs or re-designs now have to incorporate facilities for disabled customers and this is to be applauded. These have to be placed on the ground floor so that access is not compromised. However, these facilities are being abused by some establishments where access to these facilities is open to everyone, degrading the quality of the convenience for those not able to get up or down stairs.

Please bear this in mind when you need to go and respect facilities provided for others.



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Featuring over 35 cask ales from far & wide, many of these new & unusual

All stillage beers on temperature control

Live music both weekends

Beer Garden Barbecue both weekends

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Moving? Change of name, address, phone, e-mail? Then drop me a line at alanward@nottinghamcamra.org so we can update your details and we don't lose touch.



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For Castle Rock beer orders, call in, telephone 0115 9851615 or 9850611, or fax 0115 9851611

www.tynemill.co.uk

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF the first National Pubs Week in February, CAMRA's plans for a repeat in 2004 include looking to sign up key trade partners to support the event.

And we are very proud to see our name among the first four companies to agree sponsorship. 'National Pubs Week is a fantastic opportunity to attract new customers into the Great British Pub!'

says Colin Wilde, our Commercial Director. The other three partners to sign up are Charles Wells, Enterprise Inns and the Publican Newspaper. NPW runs from 21-28 Feb 2004.

COMING EVENTS

August

- 2nd - Vat & Fiddle - Big Bob's pub warming party
- 12th - Stratford Haven - Phoenix Brewery night with live music from 'Little Me'
- 22nd - Horse & Jockey - Marie's '1st anniversary as manager' bash with live music from 'Beer Monsters'

28th - Lincolnshire Poacher - Kelham Island Brewery night

September

5th-7th - Newhouse - 'End of Summer' South West Beer Festival, with cream teas & Cornish pasties

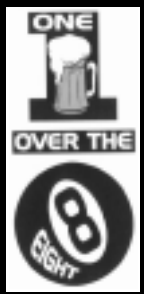
STOP-PRESS: All-new entertainment programme now on at The Forest Tavern

EG-ALE-OGY!!

Beers brewed in support of the Notts Wildlife Trust.

- August: OAK (4.4%)**
A robust well hopped bitter
- Sept: HEATHER (4.2%)**
Good proportion of wheat malt, naturally cloudy-ish!
- Oct: HEDGEHOG (3.8%)**
Best not to ask for this one served flat - it's got a reddish tint anyway!

'The Natural Selection'



1-OVER-THE-8': NOW INCLUDES SPECIAL FOOD OFFER!

New Kid on the Block

Well not quite so new. On Friday 13th June, the Vat and Fiddle's popular and genial senior barman Bob Gregory became the pub's new manager following the departure of previous boss Neil "Traff" Trafford. A good day for Bob, and in his own words, his prime objective is to make his customers feel welcome and to give them what they want. He aims to provide a range of beer styles at all times from the light hoppy variety through to the darker maltier types as well as mild and continental bottled and draught beers. You will notice that Bob has introduced Bacardi Breezer alco-pops to the chiller cabinet. Not a popular move with some, but not all our wives and girlfriends like beer, my wife likes them and choice is what it's all about. One of the fundamental reasons CAMRA was formed, CHOICE!



The Campaign for the Manor Continues

The campaign to save The Manor pub in West Bridgford suffered a setback when a hastily-arranged Rushcliffe Development Control committee meeting voted by 13 to 12 in favour of the latest Marks & Spencers planning application. Over 150 objectors attended the meeting despite not being informed by the Council that the meeting was taking place. There was uproar after the vote, as objectors voiced their disgust at the antics of several of the councillors and officers.

However, the local Community Association claims to have identified massive flaws in Rushcliffe's decision process and are now in the process of taking the Council to court. Campaign group member Duncan Fawthrop said "It is a sorry state of affairs when local residents have to resort to legal action against the Council who are supposed to be representing them. It's not lost on the Community Association members that they are paying for both sides of the argument - our side through donations, and the other side through council tax. But if this is the only way to get Rushcliffe to follow proper procedure, then that's the way we have to go. It is a real concern that this Council, and others, seem inclined to view any pub with a decent-sized car park as a development opportunity. Local amenity considerations don't seem to enter the equation." With the imminent closure of the South Notts Hussars and the Chateau this will leave just 12 pubs (and 5 bars) to serve a population of over 40,000.

City Brew

Mitchells and Butlers is looking to go back on a deal to give investors back £400m. It is now looking to bid for Scottish and Newcastle's pub estate. M&B is planning to link up with Whitbread to put in a joint bid. If M&B is unsuccessful it may be threatened with takeover. Scottish and Newcastle will be disposing of it's pub estate within the next few months. Several pub companies are expected to put in offers. The estate consists of 1450 pubs, including Chef & Brewer, T&J Bernard and Rat & Parrot, and is expected to raise approximately £2.5bn. Heineken has been given clearance to take over BBAG, the Austrian family run brewer. The European commission has also approved plans by Heineken and Diageo to buy a 28.9% stake in Namibian Breweries from Interbrew. The commission has also approved plans by S&N to take over Parfil, a holding company owning 51% of Portuguese Brewer Sociedade Central de Cervejas. S&N already has a 49% stake.

Bellhaven, Scotland's largest brewer announced better than predicted sales and profits. Jennings Brothers have announced that they are confident of making further progress this year. Yates is proposing to increase the number of Ha!Ha! outlets. The company opened an establishment in Nottingham in April. JD Wetherspoon is selling some of its smaller outlets, including one in Worksop, to the Laurel Pub Company. Hardys and Hansons has bought 5 more pubs for a total of £2M. the pubs are in Derbyshire, North Notts, South Yorkshire and Leicestershire. The company now has 177 tenanted houses and 75 managed houses.

Lucky 13 in Austria - Part 1

Apologies to Gazza Prescott for the heavy editing of this article, but limited space necessitated. The article has been divided into two, and you can read the rest of his adventures in the next edition of the Nottingham Drinker. The full version is available at www.nottinghamcamra.org

It all began with a chance conversation at the Turf Tavern beer festival in Oxford in April. Our table mates were knowledgeable on European beer culture, so we began to discuss various cities and their beery merits, or lack of in some cases. At one point I was jerked out my dreams of drinking Dum Cerne by the bucket load in Prague, back to reality. Vienna? 10 brewpubs? Surely no city has this many? This needed investigating further. I contacted some knowledgeable mates, and put out a call on worldscopgen for info. I received various reports of the brewery count ranging from 7 to a ridiculous 13 – just how many brewpubs does a city need? It was then that Paul Harrop contacted me as he has his own website listing breweries in Germany and Austria. He offered me a hand written guide to Vienna – which I gratefully accepted. It provided information about 11 brewpubs and various other brewery taps and larger concerns in Vienna, not to mention a working monastic brewery in Salzburg.

A few days later, I had booked a single Ryanair flight from Stansted to Salzburg and the return from Klagenfurt (of which I knew nothing but liked the name) for the total of £63. Almost before I knew it we were in the departure lounge at Stansted at 06:00 on a Sunday morning. The flight was on time, and we were soon there.

Salzburg airport was small and efficient, and we soon had our bags and were waiting for the trolleybus to the centre of town. At the main station, I acquired a timetable for nothing as I think the clerk was feeling sorry for me fumbling through my rudimentary German, and we went off to explore the city. There are 2 brewpubs in town, the Berndt Tobsch Weiss beer brewery and the Augustiner Kloster, the monastic brewery. We walked the ten minutes to Tobsch, but found it didn't open until 16:00, so we strolled off into the centre of town.

We had a beer at a riverside café (Stiegl, the local beer) and then hiked up the hill to the Kloster. Reading about this place beforehand, I thought it sounded like a pastiche of monastic life laid on for tourists. You pay for your beer, then select a pottery mug from a rack. You then wash it under a fountain, a guy fills it from a wooden barrel, and you repeat as necessary. If required, you buy food from stalls next to the beer halls. I soon decided that the distance from the centre would make most tourists think twice about visiting; it's a good 15 minute walk uphill. When we arrived we found that it had just opened and was very quiet. The beer halls were tremendous; huge stained glass windows and wooden tables with that kind of still, brooding air that some spiritual places have which I can't quite pin down. We were concerned that the serving area seemed closed, but there were a few locals with beer – where had they got it from?

Before I had to resort to my pathetic German again, we discovered the beer garden. The place had been open about 15 minutes and it was already packed with locals swilling down litre mugs of beer, with a few clad in lederhosen to add a bit of surrealism. The beer ordering procedure was exactly as I had read, so we collected our half litres of beer and retired upstairs to the cool bierhalles, which were practically empty. The beer was fantastic; a pale Märzen, which tasted just like chewing a handful of pale malt. It was hazy, perfectly conditioned, refreshing and totally drinkable. We had intended to stay for about an hour then head back to Tobsch, but our stay somehow transmuted into over 2 hours and included some of the cheese, ham and bread from the stalls outside and a gorgeous cake to boot. Reluctantly, after far longer than we had intended, we drained our mugs and faced the blazing heat again for the 20-minute walk to the Tobsch Weiße beer brewery.

On arrival, once again the blazing heat had drawn the customers into the patio area, with the front door closed and a sign directing customers to the garden entrance! We sat inside and chatted to the very sociable barman who spoke excellent English. We sampled the Helles Weiße and Dunkel Weiße, both 12.5 plato (about 5%), the dunkel being preferred for the butterscotchy, complex flavour. The third beer, 1901, was not available. The dunkel was so good we had another, but the train to

Innsbruck soon beckoned and we made our way back to the station. On arrival in Innsbruck, we took a wander round the town, which far from being chalets and children skipping down hillsides was medieval and buzzing with life. The only brewpub, Theresienbräu, is close to the center so we sat outside and scored the 3 beers available; Original, Weiße and Sommerbier, all of which had a lemony hint and were quite impressive. What was not so impressive was the service, which was very slow. We had intended to have a round of our favourite, but it took so long to get the beers we decided to give it a



miss and head back to the station for the overnight train to Vienna.

The couchette was, unfortunately, like traveling in a mobile oven and we emerged at Vienna (or Wien as the locals call it) hot, tired and irritable. It was only 06:00 but the temperature was rising fast and looked like it would easily reach the quoted 35 degrees. Our mood got slightly better when we discovered that almost all Austrian stations have a cake shop, and my vote for bargain no.2 of the week must go to the cherry cakes; a huge round cake with cherry or apricots for •2! The coffee was pretty good too. We had been consulting the various maps and lists of brewpubs, and decided to get one of the furthest ones in the book to take the pressure off us the next day. After all, 11 in a day is a bit daunting, especially as we wanted to sample all the beers in each one! So, we headed out to the Bierhaus Cult, situated out in the northeast of the city. The tram system in Vienna is one of the world's largest, and it is enviable in its coverage of the city. It links in with the U-bahn (underground) and S-Bahn (schnellbahn, or local trains) and buses to form the finest public transport system I've ever seen. Even better, a 24 hour ticket is only •5!

Back to the beer! We eventually found the Cult, which looked decidedly un-Vienna like in its suburban way. Inside, however, the bar was friendly and the brewery was tucked into a small room to the left of the bar with viewing windows. There were 2 beers on; Helles, which was a hazy pale beer with some bitterness, and Schnitt, a deep brown toasted malt brew. Both were pretty good. We then U-Bahned it to Fischerbrau where one beer was available, Fischer Helles, which was dryish with hints of lemony hops. No seasonals, unfortunately. After a bit of confusion with the map, we decided to head back and cane in the Siebensternbrau (Seven stars brewery), which was very close to the hotel on tram route 49. The air conditioning brought considerable relief, and the 2 beers we had were excellent – Prager dunkels, vaguely based on the dark bohemian lagers, was caramelly and sweet, and Helles was a lovely pale, dry, bitter and lemony lager. All in all, a good start and a whole day of brewpubs to look forward to tomorrow!

Brewpubs visited

Augustinerbräu, Augustinergasse 4, 5020 Salzburg.

Superb monastic brewery with one excellent standard beer and the odd special. Amazing serving rigmarole and bierhalles! Open from about 15:30, 15:00 Sundays.

Weißbierbräuerei Bernd Tobsch, Virgilgasse 9, 5020 Salzburg.

Good, but totally different than Augustiner. Big old yellow building, easy to find 10 mins walk from the station. Serves 3 beers, all wheat, Helles, Dunkel and 1901. Brewery is round the side.

Theresienbräu, Maria-Theresienstraße 51-53, 6020 Innsbruck.

Modern brewpub in a road close to the station and centre. Two standard beers (original and Weiß) plus a seasonal. Service was very poor on our visit, but the beer was fine.

Bierhaus Cult, Deublergasse 9, Wien (Vienna!)

Strange location, but a good pub that is nothing like the rest. Beers are quite tasty, brewery very visible. Take U6 to Florisdorf, then take tram 26 from under the railway bridge to the stop after the big flyover. Head down any road on the left, and Deublergasse is the first road, pub on the right. Open from 16:00 every day until late.

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Lucky 13 in Austria Part 1 - continued

Fischer Bräu, Billrothstraße 17, Wien.

Tram 38 goes right past the door of this nice old brewpub which gets very busy. One standard beer and seasonals. The food looked excellent, and the beer was very good. Open 16:00-01:00.

Siebenstern-Bräu, Siebensterngasse 19, Wien.

Very large modern pub with tram 49 running outside. The "Seven stars" brewpub serves excellent beers with several specials, and the food is good too. Handy for the Hotel Kugel just down the road! Open 10:00-00:00 every day.

Trips and Socials

I apologise if this column and Ray's Round seems a bit disjointed, but this is the first one done from home. (It was much easier when I did it in my lunch hour at work, no distractions!!!!!!)

I have had 34 replies to my survey and much thanks to all who took the time to fill it out.

The results were very interesting and I hope to be introducing some or all of the suggestions contained therein.

Our free minibus to pubs in the branch area still gets a good response, but I must apologise again to those on the Wysall trip, for the late arrival of the bus, this was due to a mistake on the part of the bus company, for which they have apologised. It shouldn't happen again.

The trip in August will be to the Papplewick and Linby area and September will be Thurgarton and Hoveringham. Please support these trips as the local landlords are always pleased to see us and it gives the branch a better idea when selecting pubs to be put forward for entry into the Good Beer Guide.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pubs and landlords we have visited thus far for their hospitality, with a special personal thanks to the landlord of the Robin Hood and Little John at Lambley for the way he looked after us on our visit. For those interested in day trips and beer festivals (there were

quite a few in the survey), on Saturday September 13th I am looking to run a bus (size depends on the numbers interested) to two pub beer festivals, on the same day. These are the Coalheavers Arms, Peterborough (the Milton brewery tap) and the Green Man, Stamford (we all know how good their festival is). Other CAMRA branches will also be attending these and we have been invited to meet up with them. Please contact me if you are interested, so I can gauge numbers and I can work out a time of leaving to suit most people.

You should by now have seen advanced publicity for the first Melton Mowbray beer festival. The branch is running a bus to the event on the Saturday, hopefully to arrive before 6pm to get free entry, so if you are interested please let me know. For those who like local pub festivals the Bell Inn will be holding its first, (and hopefully not last) beer festival running from Monday 15th to Friday 19th September. Please give Brian, (the man in charge) your support and show the good people at Hardys & Hansons that we, the drinker, would like more of these. (Their previous festivals at the Meadow Covert and the White Hart were very good)

For those afraid to pick up a phone and speak to me, you can now contact me electronically, through e-mail. I can be contacted at: raykirby@nottinghamcamra.org

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On CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pubs

Nottingham Brewery would like to thank all those people who supported it. Hopefully, it won't be too long before there is another one.

Alcazar ales have been seen in quite a few local pubs including the Three Wheatsheaf's on Derby Road and the Newmarket on Parliament Street.

Nottingham Brewery beers are continuing to find new outlets locally. The two newest establishments to be selling the beers are Yardleys on St James Terrace, at the corner of Mount Street, and the Marquis of Lorne on Middleton Street off Ilkeston Road.

Castle Rock's seasonal beer in support of the Wildlife Trust for August is called Oak, a 4.4% robust well hopped bitter. September's brew is called Heather, a 4.2% brew, with good proportions of wheat malt and naturally cloudy.

Erewash Borough Council is organising Sunday evening music nights in pubs including Kelly's Heroes at The Carpenters Arms, Dale Abbey on August 3rd, Jazzfish at the White Hart, Stanley Village on August 10th, the Earl Jackson Band at the Punchbowl Inn, West Hallam on August 17th and El Advino at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook on August 24th.

A new Toby Carvery has opened on the Colwick Loop Road. It is currently serving Bass although a second handpump is available should the demand be there

The Cock and Hoop in the lace market is continuing to offer 20p off the price of a pint to CAMRA members producing a valid card throughout August.

Award of Excellence

Nominations have been received for three pubs for the next Award of Excellence. The award is given by Nottingham CAMRA to those pubs that provide that something extra. The three nominations are for the Globe on London Road, the Black Lion in Radcliffe on Trent and the Lincolnshire Poacher on Mansfield Road. Voting will take place at the August Branch Meeting to be held at the Rose of England on the 28th. If you are in the vicinity all are worth a visit to see why they were nominated.

A presentation will be made to the successful winner, look out for details in the Drinker or Top Up. If you know of a pub that you think deserves an award then come along to a Branch meeting and nominate it for the next award.



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SNIPPETS

A new Wetherspoons pub has opened in Alfreton. Situated on King Street, it is called the Waggon and Horses and not the original proposed name, The Henry Morewood.

Hardys and Hansons seasonal beer for August is Frolicking Farmer at 4.2%, whilst the September beer is Swallows Return at 4.1%

Flexible pub opening hours are coming closer as the Licensing Bill progresses through Parliament. The Bill is currently going forward for Royal Assent. CAMRA is calling for all sectors of the beer and pubs industry to embrace the Bill and work with the Government and Licensing Authorities. In the meantime, the number of establishments applying for late licences continues to increase - see page 15 for details.

Hardys and Hansons has won the 'Company of the Year' award in the Evening Post Business Awards. The company which employs 1800 staff has seen it's turnover and operating profits rise in recent years. The company is continuing to expand, recently launching Olde Trip ale.

October has been declared cider and perry month.

One of the Country's oldest pubs at Burgh Island, a few miles from Plymouth, has been selling Olde Trip. The Pilchard claims to have been around since the 1300's and normally offers a couple of real ales. This year they were selling - Olde Trip! It was proving very popular with the locals, who were proudly drinking the beer in Olde Trip glasses.

The Cross Keys on Main Street at Epperstone has reopened after a refurbishment including providing an extended lounge and a new patio with outdoor heaters.

The Newcastle Arms on North Sherwood Street is currently closed and undergoing refurbishment.

The beer festival at the Plough in Radford was very successful and

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Late Night Drinking in Nottingham

We have another addition this month and I've also added a warning to one establishment.

The Canalhouse, Canal Street - open Thursday to midnight, 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 THERE ARE BOUNCERS ON THE DOOR YOU MAY BE REFUSED ENTRY AFTER 11.30)

Rose of England, Mansfield Rd - open Wednesday and Thursday until midnight, Friday and Saturday until 1am (no admittance after midnight).

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

The Forest Tavern, Mansfield Rd - open 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 then entry will involve a door charge)

Cock & Hoop, High Pavement - open Friday and Saturday until midnight.

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

Southbank Bar, Trent Bridge - open Friday and Saturday until midnight. Also occasional evenings until Midnight, usually for sporting occasions - see pub for details.

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

Hole in the Wall, North Sherwood Street - open Thursday to Saturday until midnight.

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

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.

Get away this weekend...
www.BedandBreakfast-Directory.co.uk
www.SelfCatering-Directory.co.uk



LondonHotel-Directory.com
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QUIZ NO4 ANSWERS

The answers to quiz number 4 on page 10

- 1) Ag
- 2) Derbyshire
- 3) Charles Dickens
- 4) The Old Grey Nags Head
- 5) Chris Bart-Williams (14)
- 6) Queen
- 7) The Firm
- 8) Meteora
- 9) Derby County
- 10) Belgium
- 11) Loscoe Road
- 12) 30
- 13) Red
- 14) July 15th
- 15) 1815

DRINKER INFORMATION

6000 copies of the *Nottingham Drinker (ND)* are distributed free of charge to over 180 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, inclusive of FREE typesetting and design, if required, costs 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 nottsdrinker@hotmail.com Six advertisements can be bought for the discounted price of five. Advertisements/pre-designed graphics etc can also be accepted on disc in Tiff, Jpeg, or Bmp format.

Publication dates

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Socials and Trips

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Web Site

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

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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

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Send your remittance to: The Membership Secretary, CAMRA,
 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW or join online at www.camra.org.uk



ND 57

Nottingham

Trips and Socials

August

Tue 12: **Papplewick and Linby** free minibus trip from the Playhouse Bar 7pm

September

Tue 2: **Five Ways**, Edwards Lane, Sherwood. Social including Presentation of National Inventory certificate 7.30pm onwards

Sat 13: **Coalheavers Arms, Peterborough and Green Man, Stamford** Trip from the Playhouse Bar. Time to be advised - see Trips and Socials Page 7

Wed 17: **Hoveringham / Thurgarton** free minibus trip from the Playhouse Bar - 7pm

Sat 20: **Melton Mowbray Beer Festival** Trip from the Playhouse Bar. Time to be advised - see Trips and Socials Page 7

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

August

Thurs 28: **Rose of England**, Mansfield Road, near Victoria Centre. ND Top Up available

September

Thurs 25: **Newshouse**, Canal Street, near Broadmarsh Bus Station. Nottingham Drinker available

Committee Meetings

August

Thurs 14: **Bell**, Market Square

September

Thurs 11: **Salutation**, Maid Marion Way

Regional Meeting

September

Sat 13: - Criterion, Leicester 12 noon

All details on

www.nottinghamcamra.org

Newark

Branch Meetings start at 8pm

August

Thur 7: **Rose and Crown**, Balderton

September

Thur 4: **Wing Tavern**, Newark -TBC

October

Thur 2: **Bramley Apple**, Southwell -TBC

Call Phil Ayling for more details on 01636 687013 or web site: www.newarkcamra.org.uk

Local Beer Festivals

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

Tue 5 Aug - Sat 9: Great British Beer Festival, London Olympia Over 450 beers, ciders, perries and imported beers. Entertainment and food stalls. Open 5 - 10 Tue, 12 - 10.30 Wed, Thur & Fri, 11.30 - 7 Sat., Details on www.gbbf.org.uk

Fri 15 Aug - Mon 25: Fox and Crown Summer Beer Festival, Church Street, Old Basford. Over 35 beers, music and BBQ at the weekends. Open all day.

Tue 19 Aug - Sun 24: Peterborough Beer Festival, The Embankment, a few minutes walk from bus and rail stations. Over 350 beers, ciders, perries and country wines. Entertainment in separate marquee, Food stalls. Open 7 - 11 Tue, 12 - 11 Wed, 12 - 2.30 & 5.30 - 11 Thur, 12 - 2.30 & 5.30 - 11.30 Fri, 12 - 3.30 & 6 - 11 Sat, 12 - 3 Sun Details on www.beer-fest.org.uk

Fri 22 Aug - Mon 25: Island Beer Festival, Marquis of Granby

Sat 23 Aug - Mon 25: Plough Beer Festival, Hickling

Sun 24 Aug - Mon 25: Moorgreen Show, Watnall - CAMRA Real Ale bar at the agricultural show. Open 12-7 Sun, 11-7 Mon. £2

saving on admission for CAMRA members

Thur 4 Sept - Sat 6: Birmingham Beer Festival, Aston Students Guild, Aston Triangle. 90 real ales, ciders and entertainment. Open 12-3.30 & 5.30-11 Thur & Fri, 12-11 Sat

Thur 4 Sept - Sat 6: Tamworth Beer Festival, Assembly, Corporation Street. Open 5-11 Thur, 11-11 Fri & Sat

Fri 12 Sept - Sun 14: North Notts Beer Festival, Market Hotel, West Carr Road, Retford. Open 11-11 Fri & Sat, 12-3 Sun.

Mon 15 Sept - Fri 19: Bell Beer Festival, Market Square, Nottingham. Over 40 beers, food. Open all day (Open for CAMRA members 12-6 Sun)

Fri 19 Sept - Sun 21: Melton Mowbray Beer Festival, Cattle Market, Scalford Road, Melton Mowbray, 2 minutes from town centre, over 50 beers. Open 11-11 Fri & Sat, 11-3 Sun.

Thur 25 Sept - Sat 27: Burton Beer Festival, Burton on Trent Town Hall, King Edward Place, 5 mins to Rail Station over 100 beers, food, live music. Open 7-11 Thur, 12-3 & 6.30-11 Fri, 11.30-5 & 7-11 Sat.

Belvoir

August

Tue 12: **Crown**, Old Dalby - Petanque match versus pub team

September

Tues 9: **Plough**, Hickling - Branch Meeting

Contact Martyn or Bridget on 01949 876 479 or

bridgetandmartyn@supanet.com



Welcome to this months musings. We have had quite a few changes to the hostelries of the city since my last column. You all should have seen news of these in the last Drinker and the new "Top up".

So I decided to save my legs and bus fare and look at those in the city centre!

My first port of call was the Newmarket on Lower Parliament Street, (opposite the Palais). Four beers are now available; Alcazar Black Fox (a mild) 3.9%, Greene King Ruddles bitter 3.7%, Charles Wells Bombardier 4.3% and Greene King Old Speckled Hen 5.2%. All of these are priced at £2.10; make it easier for the bar staff I suppose! (I understand that on occasions they also have another Alcazar beer).

From here, I walked down Glasshouse Street to the newly refurbished White Hart (for those that don't know, it used to be Owd Boots) This is a Hardys and Hansons house, which I must admit I haven't been in for a long time, the place looks very pleasant and welcoming, with three hand pumps on the bar serving H & H bitter 3.9% £1.98, Olde Trip 4.4% £2.08 and the seasonal ale £2.10, (lately it has been Vintage 1832 and Guinea Gold). The staff are very friendly and are keen to welcome new customers.

As I was in the area I decided to call in at the Forresters Inn on

Thur 16 Oct - Sun 19: Nottingham Beer Festival, Victoria Leisure Centre, near Sneinton Market. Over 340 Beers, ciders, perries and country wines. Entertainment Friday and Saturday evening. Open 11-11 Thur & Fri, 10-11 Sat, 12-3 Sun More information on www.nottinghamcamra.org/nottmbeerfest2003

Erewash

August - No meeting

September

Wed 3: **Iford Club**, Station Road, Ilkeston - Branch meeting - 8.30pm

October

Wed 1: **TBA** - Branch Meeting - 8.30pm

Contact John Parkes on 0115 849 1354 for further details. or web site: www.erewash-camra.org

Mansfield

BM = Branch Meeting at 8.30pm

August

Tue 5: **Greyhound**, Mansfield Woodhouse-followed by pub crawl Call Brian Haydon for more details on 01623 453148 or web site: www.mansfieldcamra.org

Huntington Street (not to be confused with the pub of the same name on St Anns Street, which has no real beer) This is an Oakwell Brewery pub. It is a traditional back street local selling Old Tom mild 3.8% £1.30 and Barnsley bitter 3.8% £1.38. Good quality ales and an excellent rock music jukebox, make it well worth a visit.

I next visited Bunkers Hill, which has seen a change of licensee, who has cut down on the beer range, but improved the choice. Four ales are available at the moment. Cotleigh Tawny 3.8% £1.90, Oakham JHB 3.8% £1.90 and Exmoor Stag 5.2% £1.90 were on at the time of my visit. (The new tenant is trying to educate Punch taverns in what makes people visit a cask ale pub). So give it a try if you are near by.

No visit to this area would be complete without a visit to The Moot Hall Inn, on Carlton Road. Ten regularly changing hand pulled ales and a cask cider are featured here. At the time of one of my visits Oakham JHB 3.8% £1.70 Wickwar Spring Ale 3.8% £1.70, Blythe Blythe bitter 4% £1.80, Atlas Latitude 3.6% £1.80 & Glentworth Donny Star 4.3% £1.80 were some of the beers on offer. It is run by Geoff who first opened the Bunkers Hill and offered ten ever changing real ales. So most of you will know what standard to expect, and you won't be disappointed!

It's been a bit hectic for me of late so I'm sorry if the above seems a bit short, (but I'm sure the editor won't mind). I'll be back next issue for more of the same old garbage.

Cheers, Ray.