

NOTTINGHAM DRINKER

THE FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE NOTTINGHAM BRANCH OF CAMRA - THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE
ISSUE 60 - FEBRUARY / MARCH 2004

National Pubs Week

The Pub – Use It, Or Lose It!

Did you know that nationally around 20 pubs close every month? Without the pub, where would CAMRA be? It would be like having a group of athletic greyhounds, but no dog track to exercise them on! That's why CAMRA has linked up with various partners, including Nottingham based pub group, Tynemill Limited, in order to promote this year's National Pubs Week (NPW) – February 21st to 28th. Other official partners include: Charles Wells, Fuller's,

Batemans, Enterprise Inns, The Publican Newspaper and The British Institute of Innkeeping.

The idea of the campaign is to promote pubs in general – not just the community outlets, but all kinds of pubs. Pubs are for everyone!

Pubs across the country will be joining forces with CAMRA branches to run special events throughout the week, and Nottingham is no exception. See the Nottingham NPW listings on page 2 for what's happening locally.

Richard Studeny, Nottingham CAMRA Chairman told ND: "People from all walks of life use pubs, and for a variety of reasons. It may be for the social aspect i.e. just to meet friends or family; in the more rural areas it may be so you can go and play traditional pub games such as long alley skittles, or darts (now a rarity in built-up areas like Nottingham city centre – when was the last time you saw a dartboard in a city centre ale house?) or maybe just because you fancy a quiet pint to wind down with after a hard day at the office."

"Many people, including myself use pubs as an eatery – I'm often down the pub munching away on something; there is some excellent home-made pub grub around in Nottingham – it's not all nutrition less 'boil-in-the-bag' astronaut food from your national pub companies!"

Continued on page 2

Marquis of Granby Hoveringham

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evenings**

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Pool Table

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meet the parrots**

21-28 FEBRUARY 2004



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The Campaign for Real Ale

www.camra.org.uk/pubsweek

NATIONAL
PUBS WEEK

Bumper Edition for 2004 National Pubs Week



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60 check out www.nottinghamcamra.org



21-28 FEBRUARY 2004



www.camra.org.uk/pubsweek

NATIONAL PUBS WEEK

Continued from the front page.

Also the popularity of Sky sports and the advent of satellite TV are all reasons why someone might choose to use a pub; I don't particularly visit pubs with a big screen or numerous TV monitors, but that's not to say that they shouldn't be there. At the end of the day, some publicans are on an up hill struggle to make ends meet in this day and age of discounted bottles in supermarkets and the booze cruisers, so anything to help improve trade, as opposed to closing an outlet down, has got to be good!"

Mr Studeny added: "There is something unique about the traditional British boozier; it is more of an institution than just a place to go out to and have a pint in, and Nottingham has some excellent music venues too; another good reason to visit a pub if you enjoy live bands!"

National Pubs Week Events

National Pubs Week 2004 will take place between Saturday 21st and Saturday 28th February. Following last years successful launch of National Pubs Week, with 15,000 venues involved, CAMRA has now made this an annual event. This year it is hoped to be even more successful. The Pubs Week was created to encourage people to visit pubs more regularly at a time of year when trade can be slow. The idea is to encourage those people who are not regular pub users and show them what is available out there.

It is hoped that all sorts of different and unique events will be taking place. Local pub group Tynemill were one of the first four industry organisations to agree to be trade supporters of National Pubs Week. A range of activities will be taking place in their pubs across the East Midlands. Further details will appear on their website, www.tynemill.co.uk, or in individual pubs.

A listing of just some events that Nottingham CAMRA is supporting during the week of campaigning are below. Look out for events in your local pub and please support them.

Saturday 21: Survey trip around the Vale (Vale of Belvoir Branch - booking required)

Saturday 21 - Saturday 28: Lincolnshire Poacher Champion Beers Festival

Monday 23: Social at the Plough, Radford 9pm Bluegrass Jam session and bring your own food night for each other to try.

Wednesday 25: Nottingham pub crawl, starting at the Vat and Fiddle at 7.30pm

Thursday 26: Nottingham CAMRA AGM at the Rose of England

Thursday 26: Pub/Survey crawl around Long Eaton, starting at the Tappers Harker Main Street Long Eaton at 7.30pm (Erewash Branch - see back page for details)

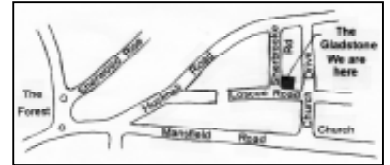
Thursday 26 - Sunday 1: The Bell Beer Festival, Market Square.

A quote from Andy Neal, consumer marketing director, Scottish Courage: "Taste and flavour are important only to a small group of people... most people just want a cold beer"

THERE'S A PUB FOR YOU



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5 Real Ales

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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
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Live Music Sunday
Afternoon

0115 962 2458



Four fonts walk into a bar. The barman says, "Oi - get out. We don't want your type in here"

A jump-lead walks into a bar. The barman says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything".

A man walks into bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says, "Pint please, and one for the road".



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!



LETTERS - 1

Dear Sir,
I spent this Christmas in what could be the most remote bar in the world. Located in the Tortuguero Canal area of Costa Rica, it could only be accessed by means of a three hour boat journey down the Sarapiquí River. But guess what? It had bar stools! (photo attached - mine is the empty stool as I took the picture) I spent a pleasant Christmas Day sitting on one, drinking Cerveza Imperiale and enjoying hearing American customers telling me what a wonderful man Tony Blaire is, and embarrassing French customers by slagging off their race and telling us how they had removed the word "French" from their language. Apparently they now eat "freedom fries" with their Big Macs. On Boxing day I was continuing to enjoy the experience when, suddenly and totally out of the blue, my bar stool collapsed, unceremoniously depositing me on the floor. The Americans, living as they do in a litigation culture, immediately told me that I could be in for \$1 million in compensation. That was before they even checked to see if I was OK! Checks, of course, soon revealed that the stool had been sabotaged. All I need to find out now is just how the short, fat and very irritable person managed to pull it off, and the action can go ahead. I am therefore offering a reward of 10,000 pints of JHB for information leading to his conviction. In the meantime, could you please inform him through your columns that I shall be sending him, as a belated Christmas gift, one of Princess Anne's dogs.

Yours Sincerely, Spyke Golding

Hi there,
I'm a member of Derby CAMRA and attended the 27th Nottm Beer Fest this year. It was (as usual) excellent apart from one thing - the Cherry Bomb had run out by the time I arrived!

I have a question: would you please let me know what year the first Nottm. Fest was held?

The reason I ask is that I was at a car-boot sale recently where I picked up a couple of half-pint glasses. The first is dated 1976 - the logo's a yellow square with green border featuring the CAMRA logo and the words "Traditional Draught Beers" and "Nottingham Festival." The other is dated 1977 - featuring a white square with blue border with the CAMRA logo and the words "Real Ale" and "Nottingham Festival." Counting back from 27/2003 I believe that the first fest should have been 1977. I am therefore puzzled by the 1976 glass. I would appreciate any light you can shed on this matter.

Regards, Paul

You really do have a find there. The first official Nottingham Beer Festival took place in 1976 - the yellow rectangle and the second Festival was 1977 (blue rectangle). The reason that the number do not add up is that we missed 1979 - so those who have been collecting all the glasses often ask if we have any spare 1979 glasses.

Nottingham CAMRA actually ran a beer festival when we hosted the National AGM in 1975 - but as the Beer Festival was limited to CAMRA members no glass was produced, nor do we count it as one of our annual events.

Cheers Andrew Ludlow



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RS goes EG

You may have noticed a new column in the Nottingham Evening Post Friday supplement, The Essential Guide (EG) written by Nottingham CAMRA Chairman Richard Studeny. Obviously the twelve thousand readers of the Drinker aren't enough for him as there is a rumour that the Post has a slightly larger circulation figure! The column is a regular feature and will feature various items on pubs, beers etc, and will appear every week so look out for it.

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8 real ales on offer daily

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(Across from the Cornerhouse)
0115 9472124

SIZE DOES MATTER!

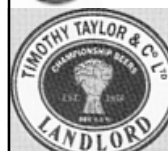
At Langtry's we have always been proud to offer an extensive range of quality real ales. We can now offer EVEN MORE CHOICE from micro breweries across the country!

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ROOSTER'S BODY WARMER 5.2%
MARSTON'S OLD EMPIRE 5.7%
H & H PEAK PERFECTION 4.1%
INVERALMOND THRAPPEDLOUSER 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%
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Plus many more



Meal Deal - 2 meals for £6.49
Food served Sun - Thurs 12-9
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Horse and Jockey

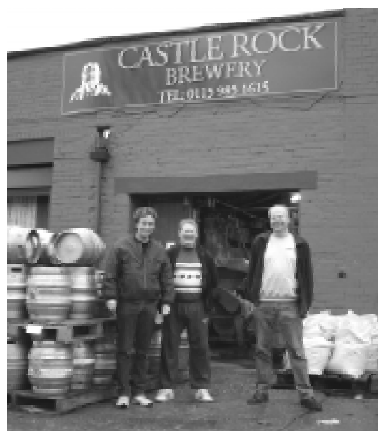
1 Mill Street, Basford

Hemlock, Black Gold and two Guests
 Sunday carvery is complemented by lunchtime and evening menus
 Friday night restaurant 6 - 10
 Large function room available
 Occasional live music
 Licensed for children 12 - 9
 Open 11 - 11, Sunday 12 - 10.30

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 Buses from Nottingham

Three get to brew (and drink) their own beer

A day in January saw an early start and the promise of some hard work ahead for three friends from Birmingham. The venue was the Castle



Rock Brewery, next door to the Vat and Fiddle in Nottingham. The reason, Alan Nunn had won the 'be a brewer for the day' competition held at the Nottingham Beer Festival in October, the prize being donated by Castle Rock. He brought along his two friends Nic Reid and Simon Wood to help out and maybe sample some of the earlier brews next door later in the day. The three are seen outside the

brewery and inside, along with Bomber from the brewery, at the start of the brewing day. Pete Wooding, the head brewer, was showing them the process, and gaining free labour for the day, but missed the photo call whilst looking for something to light his pipe with! The three will be back to collect a polypin of the beer they helped to brew and promised to be back at next years festival, to be held from Thursday 21st October through to Sunday the 24th.



Star Inn, 22 Middle Street, Beeston. 0115 922 2234 **Regular** - Acoustic roots 'open-mike' night every Monday **January** - Sat 31: Mick Rutherford
Stratford Haven, Stratford Road, West Bridgford. **Regular** - every 2nd Tuesday of the month (on Brewery nights) **February** - Tues 10: Pesky Alligators
Strings Bar (Gateway Hotel), Nuthall Road, Cinderhill, Nottingham. **February** - Fri 27: Pesky Alligators
Tap & Tumbler, 33 Wollaton Street, Nottingham. 0115 941 3414 **January** - Fri 30: RIM **February** - Fri 6: Performance & Cocktails (Stereophonics tribute band); Fri 13: Strangle Hold; Fri 20: Loaded Dice; Fri 27: Big Muff **March** - Fri 5: TBA; Fri 12: TBA; Fri 19: TBA; Fri 26: Led Zepplca
Test Match Hotel, Gordon Square, West Bridgford. 0115 9811481 **February** - Sun 28: Pesky Alligators
Turf Tavern, South Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 0115 911 1719 **Regular** - Weds: Commuter & Last Pedestrian and friend(s); Suns: El Gecko
Victoria Hotel, Dovecote Lane, Beeston. 0115 925 4049 **Regular** - Jazz club every Monday evening (see listings for details) **February** - Sun 1: Sparky; Mon 2: Hot Club; Sun 8: Ritchie Muir; Mon 9: Burgandy Street Blues; Sun 15: Roy de Wired; Mon 16: Teddy Fullick; Sun 22: No Fixed Abode; Mon 23: TBA; Sun 29: Pesky Alligators **March** - Mon 1: Hot Club; Sun 7: Nick Pure Genius; Mon 8: Burgandy Street Blues; Sun 14: Fieldwork; Mon 15: Teddy Fullick; Sun 21: Roy de Wired; Mon 22: TBA
White Hart, Glasshouse Street, Nottingham. **February** - Sat 21: Pesky Alligators

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

RICHARD'S REAL ALE MUSIC DIARY

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 is 11th March.

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) **January** - Wed 28: Pesky Alligators **February** - Wed 4: Sore Point; Wed 11: Ritchie Muir; Wed 18: TBA; Wed 25: Pesky Alligators; Sun 29: Relax **March** - Wed 3: Kellys Heroes; Wed 10: Lovers Block; Wed 17: Anne Duggan; Wed 24: Ritchie Muir; Wed 31: Pesky Alligators **April** - Wed 7: Rif-raf; Wed 14: Ritchie Muir; Wed 21: Rollo Markee & The Tailshakers; Wed 28: Pesky Alligators

Black Lion, Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent. 0115 933 2138 Occasional live music

Bunkers Hill Inn, Hockley, Nottingham. 0115 910 0114 **February** - Sun 1: Soeza/Lords (Rock); Fri 6: Lou Ds (Blues/Shock); Fri 13: Moto plus support (contemporary Rock); Fri 21: TCB; Fri 27: Slider (Blues/Swamp)

Chestnut Tree, Mansfield Road, Sherwood. 0115 985 6388 **January** - Thurs 29: Amada (covers - not to be missed); Sat 31: Metric Conversion (soul / Blues) **February** - Thurs 5: Absolute Zero (covers); Sat 7: Joker; Thurs 12: Tightrope (soft rock); Thurs 19: Happy Hour [The Band] (covers); Sat 21: Mick Rutherford Band (Rock) **March** - Thurs 4: Pure Genius; Sat 6: Pulse; Thurs 11: Electric Chilli; Sat 13 Hugo Steady Band; Thurs 18: Rolling Clones; Thurs 25: Shades of Blue; Sat 27: Tin Rat **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 (see listings) **January** - Fri 30: Beer Monsters **February** - Tues 3: Mike Turner Hot 4; Fri 6: Little Giants; Tues 10: The Swing Beans; Fri 13: Far Canal; Tues 17: Rachel Pennell & Guests; Fri 20: The Project (ex Morpheus); Tues 24: TBC; Fri 27: Indigo C; Sun 29 (12-3 pm): New Orleans Hot Shots

Dunkirk Inn, Lace Street, Dunkirk. **January** - Fri 30: Pesky Alligators **Frog & Onion**, Noel Street, Hyson Green, Nottingham. 0115 978 7072 **Regular** - Open mike session every Tues night and live bands every Friday night. Please note that this venue will be closed for a refurbishment during January 2004

Gladstone Hotel, 45 Loscoe Road, Carrington. 0115 912 9994 (pub) web address: www.nottinghamus.freeserve.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) **January** - Fri 30: Blues Basement; Sat 31: Treebeard **February** - Sun 1: 40 Winks with Zacoster; Sat 7: Basement; Sun 8: Winter Wilson; Fri 13: Chimney TBC; Sat 14: Blubaker; Fri 20: Trickster; Sat 21: Treebeard; Fri 27: Shades of Blue; Sat 28: John's not mad; Sun 29: Fieldwork **March** - Sat 6: Crisis TBC; Sat 13: Deep Sound Channel; Sun 14: Ali and the Cats; Sat 20: Inker; Sat 27: Blues Basement

Horse & Groom, 462 Radford Road, Basford. 0115 970 3777 **Regular** - Tues nights: Acoustic open mike night **January** - Fri 30: Borderline **February** - Fri 6: Slinky Peach; Fri 13: Lean Valley Boys; Fri 20: The Nag (a Bingham based cover band, apparently very good!) **March** - Fri 5: Fieldwork; Fri 19: Shades of Blue

Horse & Plough, Long Acre, Bingham. 01949 839 313 Occasional live music **Johnson Arms**, Abbey Street, Dunkirk contact Fred Taylor 0115 9786355 **January** - Thurs 29: Denis 'Sinatra' Moss **February** - Sun 1: Ritchie Muir; Thurs 5: Sparky; Sun 8: Ron Stone; Thurs 12: Martin Taylor; Sun 15: TBA; Sun 19: Messengers; Sun 22: Sparky; Thurs 26: TBA; Sun 29: TBA

Le Mistral Mansfield Road, Sherwood, Nottingham. 07770 226926 **Regular** - Sun lunch: (live music) for other gigs book tickets in advance please. **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 - 3.30pm); **January** - Fri 30: Anne Duggan (Eclectic Mix); Sat 31: Blinski (Folk) **February** - Sun 1: Liz Tillotson Quartet; Fri 6: Rollo Markee & The Tailshakers (Blues); Sat 7: El Pussycat (Ska); Sun 8: Dave Round Quintet; Fri 13: Loose Cannons (Urban Blues); Sat 14: Idle Hands (R & B); Sun 15: Richard Smith Quartet; Fri 20: Drugstore Cowboys (Rock & Roll); Sat 21: Brasillica (Latin Funky Jazz); Sun 25: Teddy Fullick & Friends; Fri 27: Buster (originals); Sat 28: Magic Car (Folk/Country); Sun 29: Anni Charles & the Ken Newbold Quintet

March - Fri 5: Joker; Sat 6: Kingsize (Ska); Sun 7: Suzanne Mellard Quartet; Fri 12: Stumble Bros (Rock & Blues); Sat 13: Shades of Blue (Blues); Sun 14: Special Jazz session from London (Dick Pierce on trumpet - played with Ronnie Scott); Fri 19: The System (Blues/Jazz); Sat 20: Kongeroo (High energy R&B); Sun 21: New Milestones; Fri 26: X-it (60's & 70's covers); Sat 27: Old School (Rock & Blues); Sun 28: Tony Harper Quintet

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 **January** - 30: Loaded Dice **February** - Sun 8: Wicked Messenger; Sun 15: Performance & Cocktails; Sun 22: Ritchie Muir; Fri 27: TBA; Sun 29: Kinky Afro **March** - Fri 5: Dan Ashley; Sun 7: Kinky Afro; Sun 14: Beggars Belief; Sun 21: Wicked Messenger; Sun 28: Step Two **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 Alfretton Road, Canning Circus, Nottingham. 0115 978 7398 **Regular** - Mon: 'Rock the Runner' rock jam; Weds: Colin Staples Blues Jam

Southbank Bar Trent Bridge, West Bridgford. 0115 9455541 **Regular** - Herb Birds every Thursday - **February** - Sun 1: Fab

Dear Sir or Madam,

I refer to your article in Issue 59 of the Nottingham Drinker, regarding the withdrawal of some late evening NCT services.

The service change of 26 October 2003 was introduced following communication from our regulator, the Traffic Commissioner, that he would no longer accept a shortage of drivers as an acceptable explanation for the cancellation of services. (Those changes introduced in Hucknall are, according to the Trent Barton website, for commercial reasons). The NCT changes were due to driver shortage and not to improve profits or reduce operating costs.

With estimates of over 32,000 unfilled bus driver vacancies across the UK, NCT were facing a similar situation as many other bus companies: not enough staff to operate the advertised timetables and journeys being cancelled because there was no driver available to drive the bus. It is regrettable that many of the cancelled journeys were actually in the evening, when it was most difficult to cover work. Recent incidents of crime (gun shootings, drugs etc.) did not help this matter, nor did vandalism and driver attacks, such as those in Clifton on route 48 and in Bestwood Park on route 89.

A complete review of our services identified those routes and journeys which were carrying fewest passengers. At a time when our driver resources are limited, we have to concentrate their use on our core routes and core journeys. As a commercial bus company, we could no longer justify running late evening journeys which carry a handful of people, when commuter buses were left in the garage without a driver. It is simply not the case that many of the withdrawn buses were actually the most popular. Were this the case, we would have looked to remove other journeys from our network.

For many routes, late evening timetables have returned to pre-September 2001 levels, with last buses at around 23.00. Some routes, (e.g. 1, 16, 87) continue to have departures after this time at 23.15, and all of our Go2 routes have a midnight departure on Monday to Saturday evenings - many of which are leaving the City Centre with maximum capacity.

Our passengers have started enjoying a far more reliable service and we have been contacted by many about the vast improvement to our network. Since the service revision, our performance has increased from an average of 98% to 99.8%, with those journeys not operating due to traffic, breakdowns, road traffic accidents etc.

When announcing the service revision, NCT gave an assurance that once more drivers were recruited we would reinstate withdrawn services and enhance frequencies.

From 5 January 2003, two bus routes will be reinstated (the 22, and 51) and two late evening journeys will return also. The 23.26 service 38 from City to Bilborough and 23.30 service 48 from City to Clifton (operating 10mins earlier) will be reinstated on Mondays to Saturdays. It would be appreciated if you could advise your readers of the return of these two journeys in your next edition.

NCT have arranged Recruitment Open Days for January 2004 and will continue to actively recruit new drivers throughout the year. When our driver levels increase further, we will look to reintroduce further routes and increase frequencies across the network, and consideration will be given to evening buses.

Regards Anthony Carver-Smith

Dear Sir

As a drinker and real ale fan, and a director of NCT, I thought I should respond to the lead article in Dec/Jan Drinker. (Please note these are my personal thoughts, and not necessarily those of NCT. I believe you have already had an official response.)

Its a bit much to say that the City pub is in danger, isn't it? People will always come into the City to drink, and its fair to say that as Nottingham becomes a 24 hour city, with a massive population of 18-25 year olds, the City will never be left customerless. Its also fair to say that its not always the case that we have "had the ability to visit pubs in the evening and return home with ease". When I was a lad (not that long ago), the last 35 left at 11pm from Friar Lane. No leisurely drinking up time for me. All last buses left at 11pm, none after, so if you wanted a late drink in town, you were a bit stuffed. If you missed the last 35, it was a long walk, let me tell you. Now we have post 11pm departures on all main line services (midnights on all Go2 services), and some of the network services as well. The fact that there aren't as many after 11 as we once thought were needed is in part down to those people who used them, or rather didn't. Its fair to say that virtually every bus company in the country withdraws a well patronised service only as a last resort. Also reliability must be paramount for these services, and NCT have decided that they'd much rather have as near to 100% chance of running those on the timetable as possible, rather than somewhat less chance of running

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



ADNAMS BROADSIDE. BEER FROM THE COAST.

several more at times like 23.40. I think all people who've waited for a last bus which never turned up will agree with me on that one.

Its also unfair to say that "if you can't return by bus, chances are you won't go by bus". There are a large amount of NCT customers who do just that one way journey at the weekend, and in the week. Buses are full taking people in to the City, but late night licences and club after club in the City mean they stay on until 2am, and get a taxi home. Bus into town, taxi back. Thats just a fact of life for the younger generation. What's "missing" in your last paragraph, is the bus driver themselves. Times have changed, and so has Nottingham. Despite that, NCT have introduced significant numbers of post 11pm departures on many routes and this should not be dismissed so flippantly.

As an illustration of this, NCT, in conjunction with the Big Wheel, and as part of the Nottingham Beer Festival ran a voucher promotion in the Evening Post, where the holder of a cut out voucher got a free bus journey on the day, ostensibly to use to get back safely from the festival itself. The Evening Post has a circulation of around 100,000. This promotion generated 9 (nine) redemptions.

Rob Hicklin

The writer of the 'It makes me so chuffing angry' article on pub TV is right on the money with his (or her) remarks. I go to a pub for live music, a quiz or a meal, not to have 'Eastenders' forced down my throat. I have also come to the conclusion that a conspiracy exists between publicans and BSkyB as goes live sports coverage.

On said subject why do people go to their local to watch a game when there is coverage on BBC and ITV? Fans (sic) get steadily drunk whilst they are watching, then pile out on to the streets acting like kids and causing vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour. Pub TV is the root cause of city centre soccer hooliganism. Saying all this, bravo to the Bell, Running Horse and all J D Wetherspoon hostelries for being TV free zones. Why can't all the other pubs be just like these?

So at the end of the day the bottom line is that pub TV should be America's problem and not become one of ours. For those bar lizards who like Sky sports coverage may I suggest they get a system of their own installed so they can enjoy Premiership soccer in the privacy of their own bricks and mortar.

Yours Neil White

THE PORTLAND ARMS

Portland Road, Off Alfreton Road
Canning Circus
Nottingham 9420181

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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**



before drinking. The flavour was well balanced with hops appearing well, although no way could this be called a bitter beer. Interestingly the aftertaste was minimal and the overall experience was that of drinking a fine medium strength English beer. Original weighs in at 4.4 ABV and is sold in 500 ml bottles.

More details about Barum are available on their web site www.barumbrewery.co.uk.

For those planning a visit to Devon for a summer break, it is well worth looking out for Barum, with their amusing beer labels and rather good beer.

More Bottle (44) by Andrew Ludlow

Barum Brewery is to be found in South Devon but its range of bottled conditioned beers - 'Real Ale in bottles' can be found much further a field. I recently acquired a bottle of Original, which is apparently one of twelve beers, which they now produce in bottle-conditioned form.

The normal precautions were necessary - pour slowly to leave the sediment in the bottle. What emerged was a mid brown beer with what I can only describe as a full and thick head. The aroma was fine and delicate with a floral fragrance and a hint of hops, which matured as the beer was consumed.

It was slightly over carbonated for my liking, but that is easily overcome, by allowing the beer to stand a little

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Trips and Socials

Greetings, at the beginning of another fun filled year of trips and socials (well you have to live in hope!) The mini bus trips got more popular as the year went on and it's more of the same this year. Out of all the pubs we visited (over 50, sorry it was too much to actually count them!), only one (the Green dragon at Oxtou) had no beer. So much for the "No call for real ale". The next ones due, are Lowdham in March, and Bleasby and Burton Joyce in April. Book early to avoid disappointment.

On the meetings front, the February meeting is our AGM, when a new committee will need to be elected. If you have any comments, questions problems etc, if your committee are not doing things the way you would like, please turn up and voice your opinion. If you feel strongly enough that you could do a better job, stand for the committee, we always welcome new blood. (I always need a fresh supply of blood).

Even if you don't want to commit yourself for a full year, we always need suggestions to help improve things in the branch (keep them clean please).

I am hoping to have a number of guest speakers at the branch meetings, the first one will be a gentleman from Cask Marque at the March meeting. As Cask Marque usually raises a lot of comments, I'm sure you will have lots of questions. So please turn up and have them answered.

I am trying to organise a number of brewery trips this year, the first of these will, hopefully, be in March, so keep your eye on the Top Up for further details.

The last week in February is National Pubs Week and a number of events have been organised, see the diary dates for further info. 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

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

We purchased our pub in October 1998 on an existing three-year plus three-year lease renewable after three years and rent renewal on every third anniversary. The owners were then Greenalls formerly Shipstones. The lease was up for renewal on October 26th 2000 because the first year of the three was under the outgoing licensee before I purchased it. Seems easy doesn't it, nothing to scare anyone up to now.

Our Business Development Manager (BDM) came to see us about our rent and lease as we expected, the usual upward only rent was a concern for us as I always believed (stupidly so) rent review as a discussion where everything about trade conditions, good and bad, were thrown on the table and the bartering started about rent etc. How wrong was I? We had heard rumours about a take over of Greenalls (Innpartnership) Group by numerous people. This was strengthened when I sat around what I thought was a negotiating table. The offer I, and numerous other licensees, were being offered was ridiculous, but was packaged for quickness of licensees signing to this new deal 'the one deal fits all', (very good when selling a massive company).

The deal offered to our pub rent wise was a rise of 87.5% a ten-year renewable lease with fully repairing and insuring an extra cost to us. 50% of the machine income would go to them, we were currently on 100% as all licensees should be. This meant approximately £37,000 per annum **more**. I was laughing as he spoke because this man really was sincere and believed what the big pub group he worked for had told him to say. I said there must be some good news surely and was promptly told by this mere messenger of woe that I would be set a target on barrelage for the year and when I hit this, this would mean a massive beer discount of around 53% of the increase in rent. Whoopee, I said so now my rent increase was only 34.5% on last year plus 50% of machines and full repair and insuring. The insult was the word "target" not only did they pre-set this target, they set it at a full composite barrel (36 gallons) a week more than I was doing anyway.

My reply to the word "target" and 50% machines was simple. "If I am paying you rent for this building everything else should be mine i.e. all machine income and as for "targets" who are you to give me targets never mind set them well past a pub doing very well with regard to barrelage." This was getting heated as the young BDM sitting in front of me was getting flustered. With all the knowledge one acquires over 17 years in the trade, this wasn't going to be a pushover.

The next meeting was arranged some days later on the phone, quite amusing because the BDM said, as if I should shake in my shoes, that the Regional Director (RD) was to come to preside over this meeting. The meeting started and straight away the headmaster story, the RD, spoke to imply that I shouldn't dare say this was not a good deal, I listened to his authoritative voice and waited until he had finished. My response was nothing more than to remind him the BDM he had brought with him was on his payroll, not me, as I reminded him I was self employed paying lots of money into the pub group which in turn paid both of them, so could I have a bit of respect, that without people like us there is no **them** and not to lose site of the fact that this was supposed to be a renewal, a discussion, not dictatorial.

I am not easily intimidated but now I felt like a man, a self employed man all alone against a giant faceless corporate group whose might could crush me financially as I had threatened to take legal action.

Weeks went by and then the phone rang, we set up another meeting, this was only with the BDM. What a change, he came in, brought free glasses, ashtrays etc, laughed and joked – I was straight on my guard, I thought what's he got up his sleeve. Me being me, I asked him straight out, the reply was that he had been authorised to de repairs to the pub out of around £20,000 decorating etc, if I signed the new agreement, and that as he spoke 350 licensees had signed this new agreement. I had to control my laughter because here he was offering a good sum of money to do up their own property and making it sound like they were doing me a favour, also I had to question him about mentioning 350 people who had already signed because I find it a ploy and very disrespectful to talk about other people when he was here to discuss something so personal to oneself and business as everyone is so different. The meeting ended and so did any chance of having a business relationship with Innpartnership. They never acknowledged us as people or as one of their pubs for months, a case of "its my ball, I'm not playing no more". I

got in contact after a few months as things needed doing, repairs which under my old but still binding lease they should acknowledge and repair. The war started here with one last effort or bribe from them.

The now very open sale of Innpartnership to Nomura Japanese Bank was common knowledge and it all started to fit that of the 1,100 tenants leases, 780 had now signed this new lease of death, in my case this would have been true. How did so many sign it I hear you say. Answer!!! They set another meeting up and said that they had re-thought my lease. I was looking forward to hearing this. The day came and the BDM stated new facts and figures but not much better at all; then came the answer to the above question. Then, at this meeting he offered the work on the pub they had previously stated would still be done but a sweetener of £5,000 cash would be paid to me for any extra work or whatever I wanted to do with it, it was mine to do as I liked. He then quoted the figure of leases that had already signed. I quickly realised how desperately they needed an easy format for a buyer to have to work with on acquisition of Innpartnership. This was a little unnerving but very opportune to twist more out of them. The meeting ended.

The final meeting before I got professional help, was very bullying, hard sell, you know the type. Something inside all of us gets a little angry and you automatically have NO as an answer and that was when my solicitor had to be called. At this stage Nomura have bought Innpartnership. My solicitor, Roger Calvert advised me to get, for want of a better word, a fair rents officer. I got a man recommended by Roger called Phillip Booth (now of Chestertons). I ran through everything with Phil & Roger and the long hard fight began.

The conclusion to this tale from Steve and Tracey of the Golden Fleece will be in the next edition of the Drinker



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In praise of PUBLIC transport

No.27 of a series in which *Spyke Golding* looks at the use of buses and trains to visit pubs

This month we visit historic Belper, by bus or train

Until Jedediah Strutt moved to Belper in 1776, it was a small town known only for producing nails. If your surname is Naylor it is likely that your family originate from there! Strutt developed a knitting machine, which made his fortune; he then went into partnership with none other than Richard Arkwright to build the first water powered cotton-spinning mills here. Over 27 years, from 1786 six mills were built. The original North Mill was destroyed in a fire in 1803 and was rebuilt by his son William, and is still recognised today as one of the world's most significant historic industrial buildings. When it comes to pubs Belper is very well endowed – we found 16 selling real beer and describe them all here so that you can make your own choice and use the map to plan your own crawl. Trains or buses can be used to get here; your choice may be influenced by the fact that two of the best pubs, 9 & 10 on the map are up a big hill and the R62 bus takes you up there! This service leaves Derby at 35 minutes past the hour; the Red Arrow express from Nottingham is the quickest way to connect. The last R62 back is at 23.35 (Fri. & Sat. only) from the Trent Bus Garage in King Street, connecting with a Night Arrow service at 00.30. If you finished up at pub 9 or 10 up the hill, a bus connects with this at about 23.20 from Chesterfield Road. You can also get a direct bus from Nottingham to Belper, the Transpeak service departs daily at 17.20 and 19.20 in the evenings, but does not take you up the hill, dropping you off by the Trent Bus Garage on King Street. There is no late service back on this route. Travelling by train, it is best to go on a Saturday, when there is a train at 19.09 (change at Derby) and a direct one back at 22.51. These are Central Trains services, so remember that 3 or 4 adults can travel for the price of two. Do check these details before going, as timetables often change.

And now for the pubs! Remember, you are not expected to do all 16 – just read the descriptions, mark your choices on the map, and you're ready to go! Pubs marked * are listed in the 2004 Good Beer Guide.

The Tavern (1) has one L-shaped room with distinctive areas, including a lower level with a pool table. There are beams, lots of dark wood, and Artexed, terra cotta coloured walls. A large granite fireplace with a high wood surround has, on its mantelpiece, an unusual fixture like a dressing table back, with a mirror and some nice pots and plates. The one real ale served is a well-kept pint of Marston's Pedigree.

Probably the first Chinese Restaurant to be featured in these columns is *Ming's Court (2)*. It is here because it was once a pub, and does still have a bar with hand pulled Draught Bass (and trays of free prawn crackers!) There's a TV and an aquarium, and lots of Chinese prints. The huge menu has 208 items, ranging from simple mains from £4.20 to whole Aromatic Crispy Duck at £25.

The Imperial Vaults (3) has an imposing frontage with large etched windows. Inside are three rooms knocked into one, with some separate drinking areas. There is a jukebox and TV, a dartboard and lots of prints of horse racing, local street scenes and Laurel and Hardy. The beers are Draught Bass, M&B mild and a weekly rotating guest beer (Olde Trip when I dropped in).

The Old King's Head (4) has Mansfield Bitter, Marston's Pedigree and Wadworth's



6X, and on my visit the Pedigree was amongst the best pints of it I have had in some months! The main room is L-shaped with darts and an open fire, but the door labelled "lounge" actually leads to a restaurant, which was empty but for a large bull terrier when I looked in. Maybe Princess Anne is a patron?

The next four pubs are close together in and around the Market Place. *The Cross Keys* (5)*, had a beer festival in progress on my first visit! An early 19th century pub, it was once used to accommodate visiting theatre troupes and as a meeting place for Druids and Oddfellows. There is a separate bar and lounge, with a real fire in

beamed rooms knocked through into one. It has a quiet jukebox, and is very popular at weekends. Good Marston's Pedigree is sold along with a beer from Leadmill Brewery of Denby - "Spit or Swallow" when I called.

The Nag's Head (7) has two rooms joined by an



archway, with pseudo-beamed ceilings and walls and a partially separated darts and pool area. Marston's Pedigree is served, along with a guest beer – a fine pint of Caledonian Deuchars IPA on my visit.



The White Swan (8) is a rather rowdy locals' pub with one long room. You can enjoy

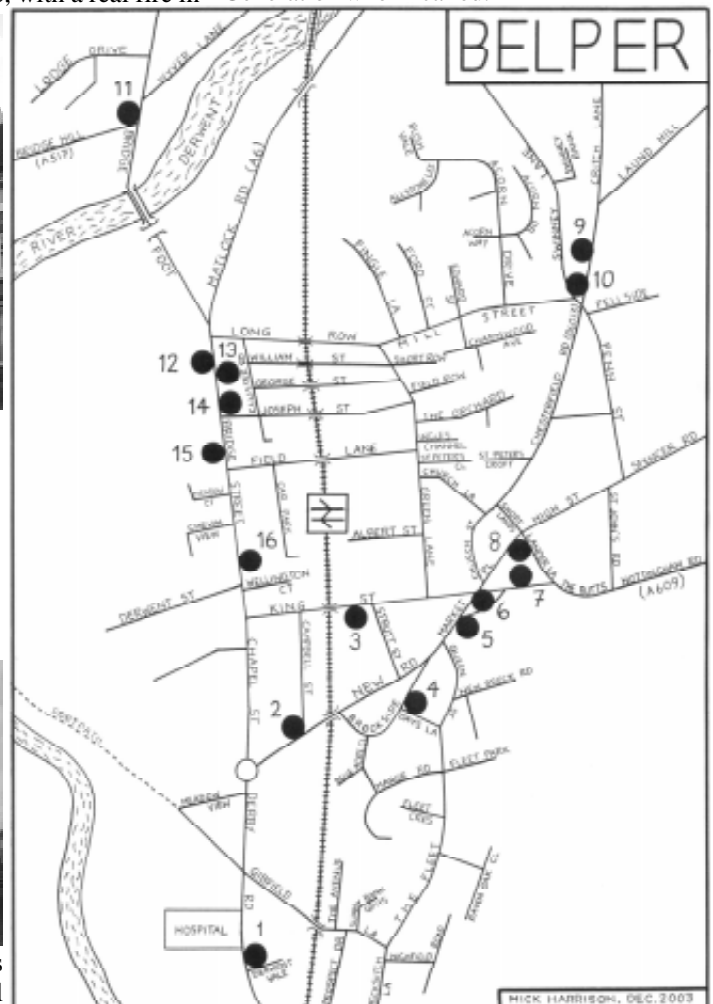
a game of pool or darts here, or watch TV. The beers are Burtonwood Top Hat, and two guests – Charles Wells Bombardier and Hook Norton Generation when I called.



the latter, and bar billiards and shove-ha'penny are played. It is a Bateman's tied house, and sells their XXXB, XB and Mild, Draught Bass and interesting guest beers. Snacks are always available.



The Black Swan (6) is another old pub with several



The next two pubs are a good walk uphill (unless you took the bus there) but well worth the effort. *The Queen's Head** (9), is a great pub with a good local atmosphere and an excellent range of ales.



Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Tetley Bitter are regulars, and

there is a constantly changing range of at least two guest beers, usually from microbreweries. There are three rooms with a central bar, and a patio affording panoramic views of the town and surrounding countryside. The red painted public bar has a TV, a real fire and old photographs of the town. Blues and folk often feature at weekends, and there are regular beer festivals.



Just below the Queens is *The Thorne Tree Inn** (10), a fine old stone built roadside establishment. A split-level pub, it has two distinct drinking areas around a central bar,

and an excellent atmosphere. Draught Bass is the only regular beer, complemented by an excellent range of guests, again usually from the micros.

Back downhill now, and a walk over the Derwent Bridge, through the historic cotton mill area, brings us to *The Talbot Hotel* (11) an imposing stone built house founded in 1660 but largely rebuilt in 1867. It is particularly attractive in



summer with outside tables in front and lots of colourful flower baskets. The interior has been knocked about, but is quite nicely done with some separate drinking areas. Excellent Adnam's Bitter and Marston's Pedigree are served, and there's a separate restaurant called Pancho Villa in a magnificent converted barn. As Pancho Villa was the rebel general of the Mexican Revolution who invaded US territory and led American soldiers on a wild goose chase all over the harsh Mexican countryside for months, I rather thought that this would be a Mexican restaurant – wouldn't you? But no, it's Italian! The menu sounds excellent, far superior to your average trattoria, and, having heard very good reports of it, I've promised myself a meal there sometime this summer. So why Pancho Villa? It seems that the most well known Italian eatery in town is called Don

Pancho and this is a sister restaurant and the owner wanted a connection in the names! I did meet him, by the way – a most jovial Italian with a keen sense of humour.

Back across the bridge, the remaining five pubs are all on Bridge Street. *The George and Dragon* (12)



has a beautiful frontage and a classically awful interior with black painted beams and modern stone block work and floor tiles which remind me of stone cladding! The large, L-shaped main room wraps around the bar, and expands at the back, where an excellent folk singer performed when I called in. There's a separate pool room at a lower level, and the beers are Tetley Bitter, Greene King Abbott and two guests – this time Vale Hadda and Burtonwood Hurrah Henley.

The Lord Nelson (13)

is a beamed pub with three rooms. There's a tiny snug with old wooden settles, and a main room with a recently built stone block fireplace. These two rooms are rather a mishmash of styles, and could possibly have been done more sympathetically. Nevertheless,



there is a good atmosphere here. The poolroom has a jukebox, and there is a small outside drinking area with picnic tables. The beers are Marston's Pedigree and Courage Directors.



The Rifleman's Arms (14), serves good, cool Draught Bass and Marston's Pedigree. Three rooms have been partly joined into one but retain three areas, one with darts, one where draughts is played and one with a pool table. Dark wood is in evidence, and there is a small old fireplace in the darts room.

The Duke of Devonshire (15) has just been tastefully refurbished, and has added real beers to its range – Greene King IPA and Courage Directors and by the time you read this Bateman's XXXB and a guest should have been added too. A fine, stone built pub, it comprises one large room with four distinctive areas. The long, carpeted main bar has a warm, welcoming feel to it, with polished wooden tables with chairs and comfortably upholstered settles. At the far right end is a raised section with a pool table, and in between is a darts area. To the left is a small, non-smoking dining area; food is served from 11–7 on weekdays and Sunday Lunch is also available. Saturday night is "Rock" night (classic rather than heavy) with a DJ providing the music.

The Lion Hotel (16) has just one hand pull, but on my visit was serving the rather unusual



Worthington 1774. There is one large room surrounding the bar, with light wood, pastel colours and a pool table at the far end. The extensive bar meals menu represents excellent value for money. The small cobbled courtyard outside has tables and chairs at two levels. Don't forget, if you are getting the 23.35 bus, that it goes from outside the Trent Bus Garage in nearby King Street. If you fancy a curry in Derby, the Night Arrow service to Nottingham runs half hourly until 3.00 a.m. and only takes about 25 minutes at this time in the morning!

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Amsterdam – sex and drugs and cracking beers! - Part 1 of a Guide to the Dutch City

Introduction

Ah, Amsterdam. The very word conjures up images of canals, soft drugs, women posing in lurid red windows and... erm,... more soft drugs. A city of extremes – the extreme tackiness and exploitation of the red light district to the leafy suburbs of the Vondelpark, from the stoned young students of the Liedseplein to the more sedate way of the Jordaan. You don't leave Amsterdam without either loving it or hating it, although you may learn to change your opinion after a few visits, I certainly did. Despite Amsterdam's deserved reputation amongst young people of being a city of drugs and sex, it has a more interesting side to those of us who like our addictive substances taken from a glass – its beer cafes. Amsterdam has quite a few of the Benelux nation's top 10% beer cafes lurking in unexpected lanes and alongside canals in its sprawling high gabled suburbs, and a few in the touristy centre too. There are several books and websites that have taught me all I know about Amsterdam and I'd certainly recommend anyone visiting with the slightest interest in artisan Belgian or Dutch beers to acquire/visit all of them (see appendix for details).

About the City

One confusing matter in Holland is the name. The correct name for the country is the Netherlands, factually Holland is the name for the regions around Amsterdam, but as even the country's tourist authority seem to use the wrong name I'll persist with calling it Holland. Amsterdam is named after the river Amstel which flows into the IJestuary through the amazing network of canals that permeate the city centre. The network of waterways and the tall gabled townhouses that string themselves along them are one of the delights of this city. Some of the canalside gables are quite beautiful and lean at alarming angles, and the small humped bridges over which the trams snake are just as attractive. The whole ambience of canals and high townhouses makes Amsterdam a visually rewarding city to explore.

Given there are miles of canals, or Gracht, and to find your way around a map is very important as a lot of the streets look very similar especially at night. A tram map is also an essential document. A day rover ticket (Dagkaart) gives a day's unlimited tram/bus/metro fun (you can get multiple day tickets too) and the strippenkaart is a 15-piece strip of card that you punch 2 (or more, depending on how many zones your journey traverses) sections of in the machines when boarding a tram or bus; it is then valid for 1 hour.

A sizeable tram network is always a key component in the makeup of my gauge of a good city, therefore Amsterdam scores 8 on my arbitrary scale, Vienna and Prague score 9, and London scores 1. Amsterdam's trams fan out into the suburbs and provide a great way of seeing the city. Sit on the trams for an hour or two and use your senses and you'll pick up the vibe of the place more than sitting on top of a clapped out bus with some banal tour guide pointing out unheard of Z-list celebrities' houses would ever give you. Once you've done this in the morning (as drinking 8% beers all day isn't recommended) then use them to get to the city's excellent bars in the afternoon and you'll see what I'm on about.

Beer tourism

The unusual thing about most of Amsterdam's beer cafes is that it's quite difficult to find a decent range of Dutch artisan beer. Belgian beers, no problem, but very few cafes seem to bestow the same kudos upon their own beers. Having tasted a fair few, I'm inclined to agree with them on the most part, but some breweries such as Schelde and Schans are pretty good and hold their own with many Belgian beers. There are two exceptions to this "no Dutch beer" rule, one that only sells its own beer and one fantastic place that only sells Dutch beer. All will be revealed. Amsterdam has well over 1000 bars, but about 95% only sell pils and maybe a couple of other beers. 4% will sell about 10 beers, usually nothing that interesting, and the last 1% sell the good stuff. This may sound disheartening, but remember 1% of 1000 is 10, and there are, by my reckoning, about 15 bars worth visiting in the city (along with the others I've not got round to yet) so you won't go thirsty, I guarantee. Most bars serve beers in bottle and also on draught with the usual arrangement being several permanent draught beers and a varying number of Wisseltaps (literally, "changing" taps – guest beers to me and you). Get the books I list at the end and explore and you'll be rewarded with one of Europe's great drinking cities, one with a subversive edge that can change just one more bar crawl into something far more interesting and memorable – for many reasons.

To do the city justice, a couple of days are necessary, take your time, and you'll have a far greater understanding of what makes this city tick and remember the bars far better. And, more importantly, probably not fall into a canal and/or get mugged. I've been there 4 times now and I'm not afraid to admit that I hated the place the first time and couldn't wait to get back on the train out of there. My opinions have now swung as much as a Home Counties by-election swingometer and I'm now in love with it. The architecture, the great bars, the trams, the food, all combine to make Amsterdam an essential stop for the serious beer tourist.

Try and visit in winter when there are hotel rooms available. Better still, visit during the Bokfest week in November although this pulls in a lot of English (and American, Belgian, German etc) beer tourists and you may prefer to see the city au naturel. In summer the hordes of tourists there for the city's more famous attractions make getting a hotel room expensive and difficult and the whole experience a bit of a chore.

Before you go

Amsterdam has well over 200 hotels, but in summer they can all be full. Literally. A lot are very overpriced for what you get, which may not be a lot, but there are a few that are worth looking into. Invest in a rough guide and try to book as far in advance as you can. Try the Sint Nicolaas on Spui (www.hotelnicolaas.nl) which is 5 minutes from Centraal station, is clean, has a good breakfast and a superb cat, Rakker.

To get to Amsterdam you're spoilt for choice by the budget airlines. Easyjet and BMIBaby fly from East Midlands to Schipol, 20 minutes from the Centraal Station by train. You can also go by Eurostar changing at Brussels, but the whole journey takes about 5 hours, costs more and is only recommended if you dislike planes or love train travel.

Holland uses Euros, so no problem there. There are cashpoints at Schipol airport but not that many in the city centre and as some undesirable types are prone to hang around them, get your money before you arrive. There's a cashpoint in the foyer at Centraal station if you get stuck. As for language, Holland is one of the prime examples of a nation with a gift for languages. Almost everyone will speak pretty well perfect English, and you can almost guarantee that everyone will speak at least the basics. However, learning a little bit of Nederlands is not only useful, it shows the locals that you're not one of the typical arrogant English strolling into town and expecting the world to bend over backwards to communicate with you. Try it, it's good.

Suggested Itinerary

This bar crawl begins at Centraal station, so get yourself there by about 13:00. If you haven't already got one, find the GVB shop situated over the tramlines towards the left hand side of the station and get a Dagkaart. The shop resembles a small wooden cottage, and dispenses maps, tickets and information with multi-lingual ease with which the Dutch are masters. This ticket will prove very useful later unless you like walking miles between bars and, believe me, you'll cover some ground on this tour! Locate the stop for tram 9 or 14 and take an eye-opening trip down the famous Damrak, past the sex museum, round in an arc over the Amstel river and past the Artis (Zoo). When the tram crosses a large canal (the Singelgracht) and turns left, alight at the Mauritskade stop and catch tram 10 in the same direction for 2 stops to Zeeburgerdijk. A far shorter journey can be done on bus 22 from Centraal station but the tram is far more fun (or so I imagine – I've never done the bus!). Cross the bridge over the canal, walking north from the tramstop, and after a few minutes you'll come to an unusual looking set of buildings on Cruquiusweg.

The buildings are in fact 2 bars, the Boulevard and the Station. They are the waiting room and station buildings respectively of the old Ost (east) station that was closed 70 years ago, and the old rail bridge can be seen just behind the Boulevard, the present mainline running north-south just over the road. However, as there are no loud diesels on NS, the beer will have to do and Boulevard is well up to the job. The bar has a modern, airy feel to it and the service is friendly and relaxed. There are some bottled beers available, but the beers on draught are the main reason for coming here with 4 or 5 being "guest" beers. The food is exceptional, and many locals come here for it but despite this, it is still mainly a beer café. From the excellent Broodtjes (sandwich rolls) to the



sublime steaks, be sure to eat as well as drink here as the next stop serves no food except for a pretty good Portiekaas (portion of cheese). To get to the Ij Brewery, you can either walk back to the tramstop and take tram 7 one stop westwards to Pontanusstraat or simply walk under the railway bridge opposite Boulevard. Either way, head for the big windmill that is visible to the west. The Ij brewery is situated in an old bath house under the (unused) windmill which is a local landmark. The bar is a simple affair with hundreds of bottles from all over the world lined up on shelves all round the room. The best bit, however, is that not much has been done to convert the place into a bar – the walls still have white tiles from its former use and even soap holders are still in evidence! The beers available are restricted to the Ij brewery's full range, with 4 on draught (usually Plzen, Zatte, Columbus and one more) and the rest in bottle. Ij beers tend to divide opinion, with some people loving them and some thinking they are absolute rubbish. To be fair, they do seem to have consistency problems and I reckon the beers are better in bottle than on draught. At their best they share a spicy, malty dryness but can also be floury, thin and frankly unpleasant. If you catch them right, they are good, well-brewed artisan beers but you may think otherwise! I've been twice and had totally different experiences, last time being pretty good – try the Vlo, if it's on.

To get back to the centre, you have various options – either bus 22 to Centraal station, or, for more fun, take tram 7 all the way round the Singelgracht and alight at Leidseplein to see just how tacky Amsterdam can be with its smoking cafes and multinational junk food shops before catching tram 1, 2 or 5 to Centraal station via the superbly narrow Leidsestraat and over numerous humpback bridges. They really should fit “crusty catchers” to the front of those trams.....

Alternately, for some cheap and interesting food, stay on tram 7 past Leidseplein. It crosses Singelgracht, then turns right then left. Alight here, on Jan Evertsenstraat, and visit the Turkish bakers and cake shops located here. Be sure to sample a Turkish Pizza, basically a thin topped pizza with salad, served rolled up. These must be one of Amsterdam's bargains.

Part 2 of Gazza Prescott's article will be in the next Drinker
The full article including travel advice is on the web site



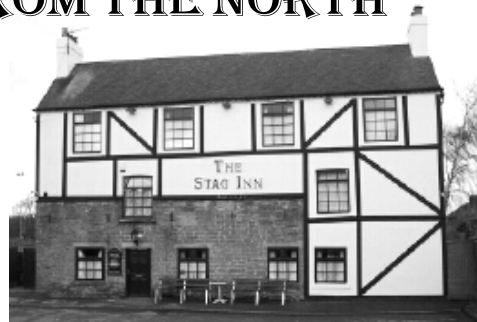
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TALES FROM THE NORTH

Pubs are awarded Cask Marque when they have proved to independent judges that the quality of their beers is not just up to standard but constantly well above that level. The tests are conducted when inspectors visits (unannounced) and a number of pubs in the Nottingham area now proudly display the award.



One of the latest recipients is the Stag at Kimberley, which won the award last November. This popular Kimberley pub sells Tetley Mild, Adnams Bitter, Boddingtons, Pedigree, Landlord and Guest ales. It is open 5-11 Monday to Friday and 1.30-11 Saturday and 12-10.30 Sunday. If you know of any news then please contact ND or e-mail me at andrew.ludlow@nottinghamcamra.org.

Bunkers Hill

36 - 38 Hockley



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Under new management (Same people as the Lion Inn, Basford)

Function room available for hire

Current and forthcoming ales include:

Batemans XB; Brains S.A.; Castle Rock
 Elsie Mo; Hopback Summer Lightening;
 Fullers London Pride; Oakham JHB;
 Osset Pale Gold; Robinsons best;
 Timothy Taylors Landlord

Open mic night on a weekly basis, all musicians welcome. Please phone for details

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Food Round Up

There's no proper food review this time but I thought that I'd mention some snippets from last year.

Firstly, the Fox and Crown. Its' wonderful pizzas are now limited to lunchtimes and Monday evenings. The good news is that the rest of the time, the pub is serving an adventurous full Thai menu of about 30 dishes. A visit was made before Christmas but as it was a social occasion and not research, no full notes were made. However, all the various eaters were very complimentary about their different meals, which were a variety of meat and fish. There was also plenty for vegetarians - I had a starter of sweetcorn fritters with a sweet chilli dip and my main course was a fried rice affair with pineapple. If you like Thai food, as I do, you'll certainly find it worth the visit. In addition, it's the only place in Nottingham where you'll be able to accompany your oriental meal with top class real ale!!

The Cock and Hoop has changed its menu a little - on a brief visit I partook of smoked haddock, poached egg and spinach on a toasted muffin with a mustard sauce. It was real comfort food on a cold night and very filling.

Finally, the Fat Cat is now fully up and running and serving the usual Fat Cat menu. I passed through and had their vegetable burger with very nice chips. According to the menu, they will make things for you which are not on the menu if they have the ingredients - useful for those with food intolerances, Atkinsites and the plain fussy !!

Well, happy new year to you all and happy eating for 2004.

Hucknall Beer Festival
Community Centre, Ogle Street
(just off Market Square)

Fri 20th - Sun 22nd February
Approx 40 beers plus cider and
Country wines. Open 4-11 on
Friday; 11-11 Saturday and 12-
3 on Sunday. Food available all
sessions and live music on
Saturday night.

CAMRA members get 50p
discount on admission price

It's a Winner

Melton Mowbray market was recently home to the local judging of the SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) beer competition. The regional winners go forward to the National Beer Competition to be held at the Scarisbrick Hotel in Southport from March 25th to 28th, 2004. Over 50 beers from local breweries were sampled by the judges and the overall winner, and winner of the bitter category, was Trammie Dodger from Castle Rock Brewery in Nottingham. Steve Westby, Nottingham Beer Festival organiser, was one of the judges and is seen here sampling the beer - his comments aren't recorded but it is thought it made a refreshing change from the

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lager he was last seen drinking, although he claimed that was to help out a local football club. Trammie Dodger was brewed for the Nottingham Beer Festival but has proved to be so popular that it will be a regular Castle Rock beer under the name of Harvest Pale, it is made with very pale malt and American hops. Look out for it in local pubs including the Tynemill estate.



The Vale Mansfield Road Daybrook

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



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A warm welcome from Sue and Séamus

Food available all day

Sunday Quiz

Open all day

All Change in Downtown Hockley by Richard Studeny

Bunkers Hill Inn, in Hockley, has new tenants, namely the ten-year old Chesterfield based Pub People Company, who now operate over 50 pubs in Yorkshire and the East & West Midlands. Locally the company run the Frog & Onion, Forest Fields; the Marquis of Lorne, Radford; and what some people regard as one of Nottingham's premier music venues, the Lion Inn, Basford.

Although the building is still owned by Punch Taverns, licensee Vanessa Frearson, ex-chef of the Lion Inn, promises big changes on the beer front. Live music will also be available on weekend nights along the same lines as the Lion Inn, although the bands that were currently booked in when the new tenants took over, will be making an admission charge, due to the way contracts were setup.

Vanessa told ND that music-wise she intends to make the place appeal to the devotees of the 'Blues scene'. After the current band bookings have ceased, hopefully 'Bunkers Blues' should kick-start itself – that's my terminology (if you use it Vanessa, you owe me a pint for thinking it up!) See listings in Richard's Real Ale Music Round Up. An 'open-mic' night is also planned for a weekday evening.

Beer-wise, Martin Hunter, cellar man at the Lion Inn for nearly three years will be ordering the beers and initially dividing his services between the Lion Inn, and Bunkers. A choice of seven regularly changing cask ales should soon be available, alongside the regular and renowned Oakham JHB.

Scrumpy lovers need not feel left out either – Old Rosie (7.3%) was currently on sale as ND went to print, and as with the Lion Inn, there will always be a real cider available.

Hot food shall soon be cooking too – as soon as the new kitchen has been installed – but traditional doorstep sandwiches should satisfy anyone's appetite in the immediate future.

Finally, and this is the best bit, there is a midnight licence Sundays to Thursdays, and 1 am closing on a Friday and Saturday nights – now that's what I call a late drink!



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Quiz nights every Monday

Don't Miss Our 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Weekend Beer Festival March 18-21

Church Street, Old Basford, Nottingham
Tel: 0115 942 2002

The Bell in the Market Square is having another beer festival following the success of one last autumn. Over thirty ales direct from the cask are promised. The festival is being held from 26th February to 1st March to coincide with National Pubs Week. Along with the increased range of beers at the Bell there should be a beer for everyone.

The Golden Fleece

FEBRUARY GIG GUIDE

- Sun 1: 40 Winks with Zacoster for support - not to be missed
- Sat 7: Basement - rock till you drop
- Sun 8: Winter Wilson - enjoy Sunday with the music
- Fri 13: Chimney Crazy music night - TBC see in house gig guide
- Sat 14: Blubaker - not to be missed
- Fri 20: Trickster - funky rock
- Sat 21: Treebeard - enjoy your beer while this band are around
- Fri 27: Shades of Blue - no reason to be blue with this band
- Sat 28: John's Not Mad - excellent night last time same again promised
- Sun 29: Fieldwork - the Folk is back

Do not forget Every Monday and Tuesday Open Mic with half hour slots available

MARCH GIG GUIDE

- Sat 6: Crisis - TBC see in house gig guide
- Sat 13: Deep Sound Channel - not to be missed
- Sun 14: Ali and the Cats - come and relax to our Sunday night music
- Sat 20: Inker - the lads are getting back together for another spectacular night
- Sat 27: Blues Basement - back again to chase those blues away

Other gigs still to be booked

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL THE PUB OR DROP IN AND PICK UP A GIG GUIDE

BEERS include Abbot, Old Speckled Hen, Broadside, Hambletons Nightmare, Mauldons White Adder, Wye Valley Butty Bach, Exmoor Hart, Elgoods Thin, Hook Norton Double Stout & plenty of others

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Cast



The bar to the Nottingham Playhouse has re-opened after an extensive refurbishment. Along with a complete change of look, is also a new name, it is now known as 'Cast'.

The interior has been given the sixties look in keeping with the exterior of the building, This was also a stipulation of the funding being granted as it is a Grade 2, star, listed building.

It has three distinct areas, these being, the bar, a restaurant and a deli.

The first thing you will notice on entering the bar is an apparent absence of any form of drink dispensers, These have all been hidden below the bar frontage.

Three cask ales will be available at all times, at the moment they have three Nottingham Brewery beers, but in future will be having a regular changing choice, although one Nottingham beer should be always available.



The restaurant area and the blue seats in front will be designated as no smoking, with smoking allowed in the orange seats and the area at the rear.

The deli will be open every day, Monday to Saturday 8am to 7pm, and Sunday 9am to 5pm. As well as the take away, an eat-

in facility will also be available. It will stock Continental bottled beers alongside the wines and coffees.

New tables and chairs will be put outside for the summer and waitress service will be available.

ND QUIZ - No 7 - JUST FOR FUN

Quiz number 7 from Gordon, answers to the quiz are on page 19.

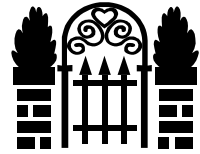
- 1) Which city is served by Leonardo Da Vinci airport?
- 2) Who was Notts County's leading league goal scorer for the season 2002-3?
- 3) Which artiste had a top ten hit in 1992 with 'You're all that matters to me'?
- 4) What do the initials 'DH' stand for in the name D H Lawrence?
- 5) Who is the patron saint of motorists?
- 6) In which year was the state of Israel proclaimed?
- 7) On which Nottingham city centre street is the Turf Tavern situated?
- 8) By what name is Barbara Deeks better known?
- 9) What part of the body is affected by Hepatitis?
- 10) Name one of the two players who scored penalty goals for Mansfield Town in season 2002-3.
- 11) Who hosts Channel 5's nightly quiz show '19 Keys'?
- 12) In which year was Terry Waite kidnapped in Beirut?
- 13) Which chemical element has the symbol Pt?
- 14) Name the founder of Virgin Records.
- 15) In the Bible who were the first two children of 'Adam and Eve'?

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- see posters in pubs ...from CASTLE ROCK

DOESN'T TIME FLY when you're enjoying yourself? By February, our "1-Over-The-8" Loyalty Card will have been running for a year, offering serious savings to regular customers, whatever their choice of drink, food or trendy Castle Rock clothing!

The scheme always features real ales - including Castle Rock of course - plus other alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. A food discount promotion has also proved very popular; and the "Castle Rock Army" just grows and grows as eager collectors save completed cards for T-shirts, polo shirts, vest-tops, fleeces, rugby shirts...etc...etc!

So here's a big thanks for your continued support - and keep saving because we've no plans to discontinue the scheme...AND look out for special offers in Pubs Week!

GLOB-ALE COOLING!

Beers brewed to support the Wildlife Trusts...

Feb: SWIFT (3.8%)

Lager malt & a blend of English hops

Mar: SMALL COPPER (4.1%)

Copper-coloured with a touch of caramel in the brewing copper

Apr: CLOUDED YELLOW (4.2%)

Pale, naturally cloudy, brewed with malted wheat

'The Natural Selection'

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

10th - Stratford Haven - Newby Wyke Beer Festival with live music from Pesky Alligators

12th - Forest Tavern - Kirsty McGee Band, doors open at 8pm

21st-28th - Lincolnshire Poacher - Champion Beers Festival

29th - Forest Tavern - Dick Gaughan, 8pm

MARCH

9th - Stratford Haven - Beer Festival with music from Saga

21st-28th - Vat & Fiddle - Birthday Bash with live music and beer festival

21st - Victoria, Beeston - Live music from Roy de Wired, 8.30pm.

Broadway Café Bar - see in-house leaflet for details of cinema showings



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

SUPPORT NATIONAL PUBS WEEK: 21-28 FEBRUARY



www.tynemill.co.uk

Is it Cold? No it's Mild

You may have only just got over Christmas and the New Year but before you can say "snow at Easter again" it will be May. As usual May is Mild Month and Nottingham CAMRA will be running its Mild trail. Full details, including the trail supplement, will be in the next Drinker, available at the end of March. Hardys and Hansons have again agreed to sponsor the event so who knows at the end of May you could have a new addition to your wardrobe, the limited edition Mild Trail T-shirt.

Beer in Bingham

The Bingham Rugby Club is holding its second Beer Festival at the end of March. The event will be held in the Pavilion on Brendon Grove within the village on Friday the 26th March and Saturday 27th March. The festival is open from 6 till 11 on the Friday and from noon until 11 on the Saturday. Alan from the Horse and Plough in Bingham is providing around twenty beers. The location is easy to find, alight from the TrentBarton Rushcliffe Line bus at the first stop in the village, the last bus back is at 10.40. For more information contact Barry on 01949 875128.

City Brew

Hardys & Hansons announced year end sales up 9% and profits increased by 13% although these were boosted by the sale of land near the brewery. H & H is looking to increase the size of its pub estate from the current 253. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries increased profits slightly at 1.5% although turnover dropped by 3.5%. The company is looking to expand the number of community based pubs in the Nottingham. Punch Taverns has bought out Pubmaster for £1.2bn. Punch now has approximately 7,500 pubs. Punch have announced an increase in profits of 22 per cent, up to £113m on a turnover of £429m. Punch has also sold 252 pubs to a joint venture involving London & Edinburgh Inns. Fuller, Smith & Turner have announced that there expansion plans, to double the pub estate to 500, have made little progress although group turnover and profits increased by 4%. Scottish Courage is suffering troubles in its beer distribution system. Sales have fallen by 6% and profits by 13%. Spirit is looking to sell off the Premier Lodge chain it bought as part of the acquisitions bought from Scottish and Newcastle. David Bruce, the founder of the Firkin pub chain, is raising £10m through the enterprise investment scheme to develop a chain of unbranded pubs.

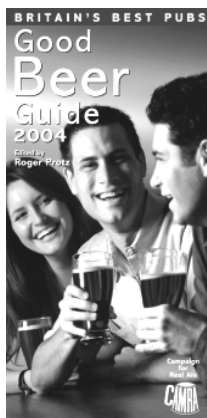
Interbrew, the Belgian brewer, has signed a deal with Malaysia's Lion Group to buy a 50 per cent stake in the latter's Chinese brewing operations. Heineken, the Dutch brewer, has announced a deal with its long standing partner Fraser & Neave to produce Heineken for the Chinese market. Scottish and Newcastle are in talks with Chongqing Breweries, China's seventh biggest brewer, to take a 20% stake. China is expected to become the largest beer market.



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The Bell and The Beers

Good news for drinkers who like to sample different beers. The selection of beers available at the Bell in the Market Square has increased recently. Persuasion from Brian Rigby, licensee of the Bell, has seen the addition of beers from regionals and micros alongside the regular Hardys and Hansons beers. A Nottingham beer has been available for some time but now beers from Burton Bridge, Brunswick, Oakham, Castle Rock, Adnams, Springhead and Church End, to name a few, are to appear. Whilst many city centre pubs are happy to stick to a few national brews it is nice to see one of Nottingham's oldest pubs offering such a varied selection of beers. Look out for the Beer Festival at the end of February.



Good Beer Guide 2004

BEER NOTES FROM THE VALE

Hello, fellow Vale stalwarts. A Happy New Year to you all. Where to start.....? As usual, December & January aren't the busiest of months but we have been finding things to do. We had our usual Christmas celebration at the Wheatsheaf, Cropwell Bishop, with one of Les' Cantonese meals, and very good it was too. This was accompanied very nicely by some bottles of Brewster VPA courtesy of Sara, and Mansfield Cask & Riding available at the bar.

Having survived Christmas & New Year intact (just) we, amongst several others, were asked if we would like to judge some beers presented by the areas brewers at the East Midlands SIBA Festival, this year held at Melton Mowbray Cattle Market, which we did! Judging took place on Friday 9th Jan. 58 cask beers and 7 bottled beers were put forward and judging was taken very seriously indeed by all that took part. The overall winner was Trummy Dodger from Castle Rock. I hope that Sara & Sean from Brewsters Brewery had a good weekend because they put in a huge amount of work into the local SIBA events, which is much appreciated by all who attend.

The following week, Tuesday 13th Jan saw us at the Rose & Crown, Hose, presenting the Vale of Belvoir Pub of the Year award to Brian & Janet Morley. The couple have been at the pub nearly 5 years and have gained loyal local custom in this time. The beer range is from the Greene King Stable with a guest mild, at the moment Belvoir Brewery's Star Mild, and a guest bitter, which on Tuesday was from the Cottage Brewery. As usual the beer was in consistently good form, as befits this pub, a regular in the GBG. As is traditional with VoB, our AGM 2004 in March will be held at the Rose & Crown. Anybody wishing to be more involved with branch goings on is most welcome to join us, just remember to bring your membership card for voting purposes.

VALE PUBS The Nevile Arms at Kinoulton

We have been focusing on free houses in the Vale and we are fortunate in retaining so many. It is perhaps time for us to look at a type of pub which not that many years ago was far and away the most common - the brewery tied house. In the past the overwhelming majority of pubs in the Vale belonged to Home Brewery. Two exceptions were the Nevile Arms at Kinoulton and the Red Lion at Bottesford, both excellent pubs owned by Hardy's and Hansons.

Hardy's and Hansons are by far the biggest brewers in the East Midlands, in fact accounting for over half the beer produced. They have, unlike the nationals and most pubcos, a good idea of how pubs should be run.

For 14 years, until recently, the Nevile Arms was run by John and Christina Brooks and was an excellent



example of a traditional country pub, serving visitors and the local community alike. John unfortunately had to retire through ill health last August.

New licensees are Trevor and Wendy Hammersley, ably assisted by son Dale, who has previous experience in a Stapleford club. They have swapped over the bar and the dining area to allow more tables for eating. Apparently this is a return to how things were until a few years ago. On a recent visit we were pleased to see that there were plenty of customers on a dull winter Thursday lunchtime. Many of them were enjoying the pub's good

On the subject of Pubs of the Year, our 2003 winner, the Marquis of Granby at Granby, has made it through to the final 4 of CAMRA's National Pub of the Year. The final results will be made known during National Pubs Week 21st-28th Feb.

Over the next 4 weeks we are holding 3 survey trips getting out to the far reaches of the Vale. If anybody would like to join us there are nearly always places available but booking is essential. All VoB trips depart from and finish at the Horse & Plough, Bingham, so if you fancy getting out to some different pubs without having to have a designated driver give us a call (see diary dates for details).

As mentioned, National Pubs Week is nearly upon us. Last year Chairman Mart and Treasurer Pete trawled the Vale handing out beer mats (10,000 to be exact) and flyers and posters to all the pubs they could get to (which is quite a few, really), but to be honest, and we have given our opinion to St Allbran, it's a little bit pointless having a beer mat in your local pub, so this year we are telling everybody in the Vale, through the Drinker, to go to the pub (same message, less mileage!). As usual though, Mart & Pete will be endeavoring to get to as many pubs as is humanly possible - as if anyone could stop them... As a branch, we are celebrating National Pubs week by going (by invitation) to Newark and taking them on at a selection of pub games. Please contact us for full details-see diary dates for contact details.

On 26/27th March Bingham Rugby Club is holding their 2nd beer festival at the Pavillion, Brendon Grove, Bingham, sponsored by award winning pub the Horse & Plough and Hammond Harwood in Bingham. 15-20 beers will be available and food is also served. See Local Beer Festivals for details.

Well, that's about all the news and stuff - here are some more bad jokes from our branch gagsters (well, that's their opinion).

Gillys Gag

Four blondes walk into a bar - you'd think at least one of them would have seen it!

Pete's Joke

What's the difference between premium lager and horse piss? About £2.50 a pint.

The Marquis of Granby at Granby has become one of four finalists in CAMRA's National Pub of the Year competition. The winner will be announced during National Pubs Week. The other pubs are in Hampshire, Lancashire and Kent.

value meals designed for the more modest appetite. This is an idea we have long supported as many potential customers are put off from paying for large portions knowing that they are going to leave a large part of it. It leaves room for a pudding as well! Also, the pub menu is available on a takeaway basis - a useful service to the local community. Although we are a beer group, the food side is often important, particularly in rural pubs as it helps the pub make a profit and stay open. People who buy food often buy beer so that turnover is kept up and even beer drinkers have been known to get peckish...

We had an excellent pint of Kimberley Bitter on our last visit and followed this with a couple of Classics - a belting good beer although unfortunately now only sold as the breweries November beer.

Thinking ahead to warmer and lighter days, the pub has a pleasant beer garden.

The new proprietors are planning some further improvements; one of these being better disabled access. It is early days for them yet, but it all looks promising and deserves support.





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On CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pubs

The Fat Cat has reopened on its former site. The bar is part of the new complex built on Chapel Bar, the former ABC cinema site. The décor has changed and is now very modern and even incorporates a glass panel in the walkway upstairs. The selection of drinks is in line with many city centre establishments, but does include two hand pulled beers, Pedigree and Theakstons, not as wide a choice as the original Fat Cat.

The Horse & Groom, Basford will be holding a St Georges Day Beer Festival between 23-25 April, 2004. Around 15 beers will be on offer during the weekend event.

Castle Rock Brewery has produced a beer to help launch Robert Rankin's latest book. Many of his books feature the Flying Swan in Brentford, based on the Bricklayers Arms, and the favourite tipple of the regulars, a beer called Large. Castle Rock's version is a 4.4% beer and will be available at the Alexandra in Derby, the Derby Beer Festival and the Phoenix Festival in Leicester. For the launch of the book the Alex had a temporary name change to the Flying Swan.

According to a recent survey by upmystreet.com Nottingham has more pubs per head of population than three quarters of the country. Nottingham came 91st out of 408 areas in England, Scotland and Wales with 288 pubs. The highest local area is Amber Valley at 26th position, explaining why Spyke Golding found so many pubs in Belper (Page8).

Hardys & Hansons has marked winning the Evening Post Company of the Year 2003 by presenting managers, tenants and business associates with a Celebration Ale gift box.

The Lion on Clumber Street, which has been closed for some time, has reopened as an amusement arcade and tanning centre. This is the loss of the third pub on the street, the others being the Corner Pin and the Crystal Palace.

The Man of Trent at Clifton now has two cask beers, Pedigree and Timothy Taylor Landlord. Both the Barley Mow in Basford and the Duke of Newcastle in Whit Moor are no longer trading as pubs.

Councils in Nottinghamshire are preparing for the new licensing laws. The first meeting of the Licensing Chairs Group took place in Mansfield during January.

The Crown at Cavendish Bridge has been sold to Burtonwood Brewery.

Heritage Pub Company has partnered with Beer Seller to introduce a 'Cask Ale Programme' for their tenanted pubs around the UK. More than 70 Heritage pubs have signed up to the programme and will benefit from a bespoke choice of beers provided by Beer Seller.

The Society of Independent Brewers and the Unique Pub Company have signed a deal that will allow lessees to order beers direct from Society members, whilst giving Society members access into a market of 4000 pubs.

SNIPPETS

Hardys and Hansons seasonal beer for February is Peak Perfection whilst Peddler's Pride will be available during March.

The Lion, Basford is featuring a 'Meet the Brewer' night once a month starting with Shirley Reynolds, Head Brewer from Springhead, Sutton on Trent on Wednesday 4th February, 8 pm start.

The Orange Tree on Shakespeare Street, formerly Russell's, has two handpumps, serving Pedigree and Nottingham Legend during a visit in January.

Richard & Vicky Spencer are the new licensees of The Royal Oak, Car Colston. They intend increasing the number of real ales from two to four and carrying out a cellar refurbishment. The two were previously running a GBG listed pub in Hertfordshire. Nottingham CAMRA wishes them all the best in their new venture.

Castle Rock's seasonal beer in support of the Wildlife Trust for February is called swift, a 3.83% beer made from lager malt and English hops. March's brew is called Small Copper, a 4.1% copper coloured brew with a touch of caramel.

Local CAMRA member John Westlake has won the Budweiser Budvar Travel Bursary in this year's British Guild of Writers Awards. His articles frequently appear in What's Brewing, CAMRA's national newspaper.

The Bridge Inn at Cotmanhay now has its real ales on hand pump instead of electric, and includes Hardys and Hansons Mild.

Long Eaton has a new pub/licensed premises, aimed at the over 25s, it is called the Factory and can be found on Clifford Street just round the corner from the Wetherspoons "Twitchell", on Howitt street.

At the moment it only serves real ale at the weekends, but hopefully if things go well, then who knows?

Erewash Valley Branch are planning an 8th anniversary bash, hopefully to be held on Saturday 8th May.

The venue is still to be confirmed, however details will appear in the Drinker.



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It makes me so Flipping Angry!

I was given a bottle of a beer called "Rhatas" along with three other bottles in a box for Christmas. The beer was distinctly off and I chucked it down the sink (despite being best before 02/2004), but that is not what I am whingeing on about this time.

The bottle is clearly labelled "Whitby's Black Dog Brewery" with the address of St Hilda's Business Centre, Whitby. The blurb goes on to say "the logo and name for the Black Dog Brewery were inspired by Bram Stoker who, having spent time in Whitby on holiday, went on to write the most famous horror story of all time, Dracula. The locations in the book are based in and around Whitby and the Black Dog brewery is situated in an old work house on the east cliff near the abbey and the famous 199 steps. We brew a variety of ales at Black Dog where our combination of traditional brewing methods and modern customer orientated management ensure superb quality and consistency"

All well and good, but the Black Dog Brewery stopped brewing in 2000 and the beers are now brewed elsewhere, in all probability at Hambleton Brewery at Holme On Swale. So beer is being marketed on the strength of where it is brewed even though it has actually come from somewhere completely different!

This situation is not as unusual as you may think. Ruddles County for example is not brewed in the quaint Rutland village of Langham but is actually brewed by Greene King in Suffolk. In fact the old Ruddles brewery was long ago bulldozed to the ground and "Ruddles County" is now brewed to a different recipe and much lower strength to the beer you may fondly remember on sale in the Trip in the seventies and early eighties. Similarly, Old Speckled Hen is no longer brewed by Morland in Oxfordshire but is now also brewed by Greene King. Even much (but not all) of the beer sold as Theakstons has been nowhere near the quaint Yorkshire town of Masham, but comes out of the Tyne Brewery in Newcastle. Nearer home "Home Bitter" is brewed by Everards in Leicester and you will have your own opinion about how similar this may be to the beer that used to be produced in Daybrook..

But it is not just the big boys that are at it. If you ever see any beers labelled "Lichfield" they do not originate from a microbrewery in the

town of that name. The Lichfield brewery was closed in 1998 and in recent times they have actually been brewed by Tower or Highgate breweries. The pump clips however give no indication of this fact. Similarly "Lloyds Country Beers" have not been brewed at the John Thompson Inn in Derbyshire since March 2002 after which they have come from breweries like Leadmill, Tower and possibly Featherstone. As for "Steaming Billy" beers, there never has been such a brewery and the brews mainly now originate from Grainstore in Oakham and beers labelled "BMG Brewing" are brewed by Tower.

The worry is that if we do nothing to discourage beers from non-existent breweries this idea could grow. More and more breweries would think "sod this for a game of soldiers, this brewing lark is hard work, I will jack it in and just buy cheap beer in from somewhere else and flog it as my own". Take it to its logical conclusion and you end up with just three or four breweries brewing all the cask ale in the UK and the former brewers operating as wholesalers and rebadging it to call it whatever they liked. It does not seem fair on genuine microbreweries who work hard to promote their products and build a reputation, when other companies can come along and flog brews that give the impression that they are from real craft breweries when they are nothing of the sort. Not that I am claiming that any of these companies is intentionally setting out to mislead drinkers but there is little doubt that most people are not aware of what is happening in many cases. If it was mandatory to show the true brewery of origin on all pump clips drinkers would be able to decide for themselves whether they wanted to drink it or not.

CLAYTON MOTT & SON SOLICITORS

Enjoy REAL ALE

For advice and
representation on any
licensing application

Contact: JOHN KENT
Tel 0115 941 7422
19 Milton Street
Nottingham

Also: Conveyancing,
Traffic, Employment,
Family, Wills & Probate

The Lion Inn

44 Mosley Street, Basford



0115 970 3506

CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2004! A happy new year to all our customers

**10 cask-ales always on sale
including local microbrewery guests**

Selection of cask milds and guest ciders

Regular Brewers featured include:

Batemens; Bass; Castle Rock; Elgoods;

Everards; Hook Norton; Hopback;

Kelham Island, Mallard; Nottingham;

Oakham; Old Mill; Pheonix and Titanic

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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 1am

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 11.30pm)

Bunkers Hill Inn, Hockley - Sunday to Thursday until Midnight, Friday & Saturday until 1am.

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 1am.

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.

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

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

Tap and Tumbler, Wollaton Street - 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.

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

The Fox and Crown in Old Basford is holding a St Patrick's day beer festival, although interestingly it runs from Thursday 18th March until Sunday 21st March. There is always a good selection of unusual beers alongside the Alcazar beers.

Rays Round continued from Back Page

Now for somewhere that has reopened after an extensive refurbishment. It is the old Playhouse bar, which is now known as Cast. It has now been turned in a bar, restaurant and deli. (See the piece elsewhere in this publication) It is very minimalist on the décor, in keeping with the sixties ideal, they have three beers on, all Nottingham brewery, at the moment, and all at £2.40 a pint.

Finally, don't forget that The Globe on London Road has a 30p discount, from Sunday to Wednesday, for CAMRA members, 40p during February, who says it doesn't pay to join CAMRA. Thanks Pete, Keep up the good work. Also Tynemill are still running their "One over the eight" promotion, see their pubs for the details.

Until next time, happy drinking.

Cheers, Ray.

QUIZ NO 7 ANSWERS

The answers to quiz number 7 on page 14

- 1) Rome
- 2) Cain and Abel
- 3) Mark Stallard
- 4) Curtis Sisters
- 5) David Herbert
- 6) St Christopher
- 7) 1948
- 8) Upper Parliament Street
- 9) Barbara Windsor
- 10) The liver
- 11) Wayne Corden (5) or Liam Laurence (2)
- 12) Richard Bacon
- 13) 1987
- 14) Platinum
- 15) Richard Branson
- 16) Cain and Abel

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 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 61) will be published on Thursday 25th March 2004 and will be available for collection from the Branch meeting at the Lion, Basford. The copy deadline is Thursday 11th March 2004.

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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

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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.

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Signature

Date

I/We enclose the membership subscription for:

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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

Trips and Socials

February

Tue 10: **Awsworth & Cossall**, free minibus trip from Cast (formerly the Playhouse Bar) - 7pm

Sat 21 - Sat 28: **National Pub Week** See page 2 for details of events

March

Mon 8: **Lambley**, Free minibus trip from Cast (formerly the Playhouse Bar) - 7pm

April

Wed 21: **Bleasby & Burton Joyce**, free mini bus 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

February

Thur 26: **Rose of England**, Mansfield Road near Victoria Centre, AGM, ND Top Up available

March

Thur 25: **Lion**, Mosley Street, Basford. Guest speaker from Cask Marque. 80, 81 & 82 Buses from Parliament Street. Nottingham Drinker available

April

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

Committee Meetings

February

Thur 12: **Bell**, Market Square

March

Thur 11: **Golden Fleece**, Mansfield Road

April

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

Regional Meeting

March

Sat 6: **Globe**, London Road, Nottingham, noon

All details on www.nottinghamcamra.org

Newark

Branch Meetings start at 8pm

February

Thur 5: **Castle & Falcon**, Newark 8.30 start

March

Thur 4: **Vine Hotel**, Newark TBC Call Phil Ayling for more details on 01636 687013 or web site: www.newarkcamra.org



PLEASE PASS
ND ON

Local Beer Festivals

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

Thur 29 Jan - Sat 31: CAMRA National Winter Ale Festival, Burton on Trent, Town Hall, King Edward Place, 5 mins Rail Station, 100 beers, cider, perry & country wines, entertainment Fri/Sat evenings, food. Open 7-11 Thur, 12-4 & 6.30-11 Fri, 11.30-11 Sat

Fri 30 Jan - Sun 1 Feb: Ashfield Beer Festival, Festival Hall, Hodgkinson Road, Kirkby in Ashfield, 5 mins to Rail Station, 50 beers, cider, perry & fruit wines, entertainment Fri/Sat evenings, food. Open 11-6 & 6-11 Fri, 11-6 & 7-11 Sat, 12-2 Sun

Fri 30 Jan: Boat Club Beer Festival, Nottingham Boat Club, Trent Bridge. 20 beers. Open 5-12

Wed 4 Feb - Sat 7: Derby Winter Beer Festival, Assembly Rooms, 80+ beers, ciders, bottled beers, live music Thur - Sat. Open 6-11 Wed, 11-3 & 6-11 Thur, 11-11 Fri & Sat.

Fri 6 Feb - Sat 7: Chesterfield Beer Festival, The Winding Wheel, Holywell Street (5 mins from rail station) Tickets in advance from 01246 345334, 75 beers. Open 5-11 Fri, 11-3 & 6.30-11 Sat

Fri 20 Feb - Sun 22: Hucknall Beer Festival, Community Centre, Ogle Street (just off Market Square). 40 beers, ciders & wines, live music Sat evening, food available. Open 4-11 Fri, 11-11 Sat, 12-3 Sun.

Thur 26 Feb - Mon 1 Mar: Bell Leap Year Ale Festival, Market Square, Nottingham. Approx 30 beers, food available. Open all day.

Thur 4 Mar - Sat 6: Loughborough Beer Festival, Polish Club, True Lovers Walk off William Street, 55 beers, ciders, bottle conditioned beers & wines, live music Fri & Sat evening, food available. Open 5-11 Thur, 12-11 Fri, 11-11 Sat.

Thur 18 Mar - Sun 2: Fox and Crown St Patrick's Day Festival, Church Street, Old Basford, food available. Open all day.

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.

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

Fri 28 May - Sun 30: Newark Beer Festival, Riverside Park, (2 mins Castle station), 140 beers. Open 11-10 Fri & Sat, 12-10 Sun.

Erewash

February

Wed 4: **Dew Drop Inn**, Station Road, Ilkeston. Branch Meeting and AGM - 8.30pm

Thur 26: **Long Eaton** - Pub/Survey crawl for National Pubs week. Start at Tappers Harker, Main Street at 7.30pm, calling at Victoria Inn, Main St (~8.30pm), then Twitchell, Howitt St, Tiger Inn, Tamworth Rd, New Inn, Tamworth Rd & hole in the Wall, Regent St (~10.30pm)

March

Wed 3: **Navigation**, Risley Lane, Breaston. Branch Meeting - 8.30pm

April

Wed 7: **Country Park Tavern**, Old Coppice Side, Marlpool. Branch Meeting - 8.30pm Contact John Parkes on 0115 849 1354 for further details.

Mansfield

BM = Branch Meeting at 8.30pm

February

Tue 3: **Dew Drop Inn**, Ilkeston, BM Call Brian Haydon for more details on 01623 453148 or web site: www.mansfieldcamra.org.uk



Greetings all, I hope you survived Christmas and New Year, with the minimal of weight gain and waistline increase!

I'll start off this year with a few observations on New Years Eve.

It seems regrettable to me that so many hostelrys are 'out of bounds' on this particular evening, unless you are prepared to pay or are invited to their "private" parties.

My thanks go to the Trip and the Canalhouse for allowing people to walk in for a drink (or two!), without being asked to part with money, just to cross the threshold. This, unlike the Royal Children, where, when my companion, and I approached the door, the "bouncers" asked us for £1 each, nothing remarkable in that I hear you say, but the bizarre thing was, that when we refused to pay and started to walk away, they said 'oh, never mind, go in anyway' needless to say we didn't bother! But then came the good news, we went down to the Fellows, Morton & Clayton. Not only free entry, but three of their beers, namely Mallard Duck 'n' Dive 3.7%, Caledonian Deuchars IPA 3.8% and Nottingham Bullion 4.7% had been reduced to £1.60 a pint for the evening (and they didn't shut until one o'clock in the morning)

Belvoir

February

Sat 7: **Survey Trip** around Vale pubs Leaves Horse & Plough, Bingham (Booking essential)

Tues 10: **Anchor**, Plungar, Branch meeting, 8.30pm

Sat 21: **Survey Trip** around Vale pubs Leaves Horse & Plough, Bingham (Booking essential)

March

Tue 9: **Rose & Crown**, Hose. AGM 8.30 Bring Membership cards to vote

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

Marvellous, and thanks very much to all the staff for an excellent evening.

I'd also like to thank the Globe for still being open, (and allowing us in at that time) to get a bit of respite from the rain!

There have been a few changes at various pubs since the last edition. The Red Lion at Canning Circus has had a change of licensees, but very little else has changed, apart from a drop in the number of patrons. Why I'm not sure, they won't bite, you know. Three regular ales 'Red Lion' bitter 3.6% £1.85

Marstons Pedigree 4.5% £2.04 and "new" Boddingtons 4.1% £1.95 (who are the brewery trying to kid!)

and two guest ales, Greene King IPA 3.6% £2.04 and Adnams bitter 3.7% £2.08, although when I visited, I took advantage of the regular Monday price reduction, and was drinking it at £1.60. Yes, you've read that right, every Monday, one guest beer is reduced to £1.60, just go in and ask for the "Monday beer".

It's also value night on a Tuesday, when you buy a pint, you can get a meal for 99p. You can't go wrong!

Another pub that has very recently undergone a change of management, is Bunkers Hill. This has been taken over by the Pub People Company, (you know them, they are the nice people (pun intended) who run the Lion at Basford, and we all know what that's like) On my visit they had Oakham JHB 3.8% £1.90, Woodfordes Wherry 3.8% £1.90, Batemans XB 3.7% £1.90, Brains SA 4.2% £2, Tim Taylors Landlord 4.3% £2.10 & Fullers London Pride 4.1% £2.10. The first thing I noticed on entering the pub was the price decrease! But seriously, they are making the effort, now all they need is you, the drinker, to 'make the effort'.

So get on down there and see the new landlady, Vanessa, I'm sure she'll be pleased to see you.

Continued on Page 19