



Campaign
for
Real Ale

InnSpire

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT CAMRA



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE

2024 PUB OF THE YEAR:
ROSE & CROWN BRAMPTON
BREWERY & PUB INTERVIEWS
THE LATEST NEWS & FESTIVALS



Visit: www.chesterfield.camra.org.uk for more updates

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Campaign
for
Real Ale

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Hello, is it beer you're looking for...



After a Winter break and far too many Quality Streets, **InnSpire** is back. As always a big thank you to all our contributors and advertisers. And, thank you dear reader for joining us on our real ale odyssey. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine and visiting the pubs featured (**Tell them we sent you**). The beginning of the year can be a difficult time for the hospitality industry with the post Christmas blues and campaigns like Dry January. So, if you can, please support your locals. There are so many wonderful pubs, clubs, beer shops and breweries in Chesterfield, in our District and beyond. We really are spoilt for choice when it comes to great pubs. Our towns and villages would be much sadder places without them.
HAPPY BEER HUNTING - CHRIS FOX (EDITOR)

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PRICING AND ADVERT FORMATS...

Magazine format/size: A5 portrait (W: 148mm x H: 210mm)

PRICES

Full page: £100.00 / **Half Page:** £50.00 (We can help design your advert too)

Titanic Brewery Tour

Saturday 25th November 2023, Chesterfield CAMRA members boarded a warm coach on a cold day to visit **Titanic Brewery**. This trip was subsidised by money left to Chesterfield CAMRA by a gentleman who was a Chesterfield CAMRA member. Split into 2 groups when we arrived, first group went into the brewery for tour and drink whilst group 2 went on to the **Bulls Head** for a BBQ (yes it was outside), but a real fire to warm us inside to enjoy the food. Then change over and group 1 was taken to the pub and group 2 enjoyed the tour. Feedback on the coach on the way back was everyone had enjoyed it immensely. Thank you to the Titanic, Bulls Head for your excellent hospitality and Andrews of Tideswell for the transport.



InnSpire chats with STREET SPIRIT



INNSPIRE RECENTLY SPOKE TO MATT DARKEN FROM NEW CHESTERFIELD TOWN CENTRE SHOP, STREET SPIRIT...

After four wonderful years in Chesterfield's Market Hall, Ginspired, an independent spirits and beer specialist retailer closed its doors. The good news is this fantastic indie shop has relocated to a significantly larger premises at Vicar Lane Shopping Centre in Chesterfield (10 Steeplegate, next to the Vintage Tea Rooms).

Now called **Street Spirit**, the shop's range encompasses gin, whisky, rum, craft beer, real ale, cider and much more, including a number produced in and around Derbyshire. Our Editor a long time customer, picked up a selection of cans from Abbeydale Brewery and a 750ml stunning IPA from Resting Devil Brewery (Pytho, a 5.3% Mountain IPA).

Vicar Lane has become a wonderful destination for people seeking out the very best in independent shops and Street Spirit is sure to attract shoppers from Chesterfield and further afield. Street Spirit opened just before Christmas and saw a large increase in visitors, with owner Matt Darken saying it was their best Christmas trading ever. Moving into 2024 the shop is looking continue to offer the very best in adventurous alcohols and remarkable crafty beers.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO MOVE TO VICAR LANE?

A few simple reasons. I ran out of space in the Market Hall. I can't help myself in terms of buying new products. Hence why I've now got over 1000 different bottles :) The increased footfall and prominent high street location of Vicar Lane has helped immensely. Plus the other retailers are great and the management team extremely proactive.



STREET SPIRIT

GIN • RUM • WHISKY

WHAT HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN SO FAR?

The response has been fantastic. Lots of new customers, happy faces. It's been a brilliant move.

WILL YOU BE HOSTING ANY EVENTS IN THE SHOP?

Events? Yes, lots! I'm filling the calendar and we pretty much have a tasting event (free by the way!) almost every Saturday afternoon 1-4pm. We give out free samples to customers and chat about the drinks. So far we've had Whisky, Gin, Rum, Liqueurs.

AS THIS IS A CAMRA MAGAZINE, CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR REAL ALE AND CRAFT BEER RANGES?

We have a huge range of craft beer with 3 fridges full of the likes of Cloudwater, Deya, Abbeydale, Vault City and our bottled beer range includes Torrside, Brampton, Welbeck, Eyam, Peak Ales. We also have a great range of Belgian and German beers and gift packs as well as bottled Cider.

STREET SPIRIT IS OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY, 10AM TO 5PM.



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The Real Ale Corner Micropub

The Real Ale Corner (415 Chatsworth Rd, Chesterfield S40 3AD) is Derbyshire's oldest micropub. Established in 2009, it has always been a destination for lovers of craft and cask beer. With 3 cask beers, 4 keg beers, a range of ciders and over 120 different craft beers in bottles and cans for consumption on and off the premises, current owners Dan Smith and Laura Joy take pride in an ever-changing line-up of fantastic beers to cover all tastes and styles. Whether you like a pale, a bitter or a strong imperial stout, there really is something for everyone. Dan and Laura took over the micropub & craft beer shop last year and have refurbished the venue, introducing even more beers than before. Local beers feature strongly on cask and keg, with favourites from Eyam Brewery, Pentrich, Torrside, Welbeck Abbey, Triple Point and others making regular appearances. There's always a core range of local beers available in bottles and cans, too.

Alongside the local beers you'll find a diverse range of beers from further afield. Having moved to Chesterfield from Hertfordshire, Dan brings his knowledge of beers from there to the Real Ale Corner, with favourites from Tring Brewery and Mad Squirrel amongst those to feature. In fact, you'll find beers here that you won't find anywhere else in Derbyshire!

On top of the wide range of great beers available, it's a real community pub. The Real Ale Corner is a great place to drink and socialise - Laura was keen to talk about the friendly atmosphere in the pub, with people striking up a conversation almost immediately. "It's a really sociable little venue and a great way to get together in the local community". Building on that strong community are the regular events, with a fortnightly pub quiz, Meet The Brewer nights and other themed events throughout the year. Tickets for the events, as well as the entire range of bottles and cans, are available through their online shop, which can be found at www.realalecorner.com, where they offer local and nationwide delivery.

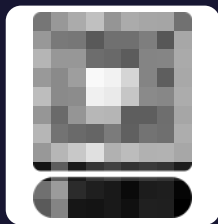
Their latest beers can be viewed on the Realalefinder App and on their Facebook page @therealalecornerchesterfield. Part of the famous Brampton Mile, the pub is on the top of Chatsworth Road, heading out from Chesterfield towards Chatsworth and the Peak District (The large Morrisons supermarket is just across the main road). That said, when the drinks are so good, you may end up staying there for quite some time!



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The Pickled Pear at The Old Post Office



A new micropub in Palterton, a village near Bolsover is set to officially open its doors in mid-February. **The Pickled Pear at The Old Post Office** (39 Main St, Palterton, Chesterfield S44 6UJ) will act as a new community hub for the village, which has been without a pub for a number of years. With strong local support, the micropub has a noise management scheme in place and will provide a friendly place for villagers to get together. Around 5,000 people call Palterton their home and the hope is the Pickled Pear will provide an intimate meeting place, to serve the growing community. The pub is on the end of a block of terraced houses, with a holiday let next door, which is run by the same owner. The property was originally built as the village's post office in the early 1900s before being converted into a residential property around 1960. However, it has been out of use for a number of years and the new business will bring a community use to the empty premises.

The new micropub will serve beer and spirits, non-alcoholic beverages, coffee and tea, pre-prepared pork pies and traditional snacks. Two rotating cask beers will be on offer, from local breweries like **Welbeck Abbey Brewery**. Owner and Palterton resident, Adam Taylor, said: "The bar will be small, but warm and welcoming. I want to give something back to the village in which I live. The idea is for very much to be a pub for local residents and we're running the pub to respect the surrounding area".

With a cosy and relaxed atmosphere, the Pickled Pear has lots of quirky decor, with beer barrel tables, monk bench seating and unique walls features, that catch the eye. A beautiful log burner fireplace fills the room with a warmth that is reflected in the greeting you receive. A combination of brick walls and wood panels, give a sense of style and tradition. As InnSpire went to print the exterior was set to be fitted out with signage, lights and a wooden facade.

Look out for a future feature in the next issue of InnSpire and we look forward to visiting the pub when it opens soon.





NEWS

in brief(s)



DEVIL'S DEPOT

Devil's Depot a Belgian bar and restaurant is set to in Chesterfield's town centre in the former tea rooms across from the bus/coach station (New Beetwell Street, Chesterfield S40 1QR). The new bar will have Duvel, Vedett, Belgian beers and a Belgian themed menu. Its name pays homage to Duvel, who have the Duvel Depot in Antwerp and of course Chesterfield's own Crooked Spire devilish folklore (See top photo).

BRAMPTON

The Spotted Frog (Chatsworth Road S40 2AH) which closed its door last year has now reopened with new management in place. Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Bradfield Brewery's Farmers Blonde were on cask when they reopened in January. Sticking with Chatsworth Road **The Mile At Brampton** opened late 2023 in the building that was formerly the The Dizzy Duck.

HOLMGATE Sad news came through, that the Batemans Mill Hotel at Holmgate, near Clay Cross had closed in January 2024. As always this was correct at the time of going to press and hopefully the pub reopens soon (Keep an eye on social media for updates).



CHESTERFIELD TOWN CENTRE

The Crown and Cushion (51 Low Pavement, Chesterfield S40 1PB) near the market has undergone a refurbishment.

Plans to convert the former **Royal Bank of Scotland** branch into a pub have been made public. The Grade II-listed historic building is located on the corner of Cavendish Street and Stephenson Place and dates back to 1907.

Finally, Triward Holdings, which owns the vacant **Martha's Vineyard** building on Corporation Street has applied for planning consent to reorganise the lower and ground floors to form two units selling food and drink, create a new orangery and upgrade the beer garden.



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RESTING DEVIL

40 Newbold Road, Chesterfield www.chesterfieldarms.co.uk



Brewery News

RESTING DEVIL

RESTING DEVIL is a micro brewery located in The Chesterfield Arms. All Resting Devil beers are named after a legend or folklore from around the world.



JOSH CLARKE, OWNER & BREWER AT THE RESTING DEVIL GAVE US HIS EARLY YEAR REPORT:

2023 was a busy year at Resting Devil and we move into 2024 hoping to build on that. Towards the end of last year we released two new beers, Tommyknocker in cask, a 5.5% Citra pale ale. This is going down really well with customer in the Chesterfield Arms and will be on at the Winding Wheel beer Festival in February. Pytho was also a new release for us in bottle, a 5.3% mountain IPA that proved very popular on the run up to Christmas through the pub and many local stockiests.

Two of our bottled beers (Ino & Baba Yaga) picked up bronze awards in the SIBA midlands bottle and can awards, this was the first time we have entered a SIBA competition and for both entries to pick up something is a great feeling for us.

The first quarter of this year is aimed at expansion, we brewed at capacity for the last 5 months of 2023 and came very close to running out of core range beers on a few occasions. To make sure this doesn't happen again, we will be installing another fermenter, increasing our production by 50%, hopefully allowing us to not only keep up with demand, but also expand our range of cask, bottle and keg.



Pub of the Year Rose & Crown



On Thursday the 11th January, **The Rose and Crown Brampton** (104 Old Road, Chesterfield S40 2QT) picked up the prestigious Chesterfield & District CAMRA Pub of the year 2024 award.

The presentation was made by Chesterfield CAMRA Chair Steve Monaghan, with many members in attendance. There was even free Pie and Peas to enjoy with the amazing selection of cask beer on offer.

Situated at the top end of the Brampton Mile, The Rose and Crown was the first pub acquired by Brampton Brewery in 2009. Run by Mat and his team, The Rose and Crown is committed to providing a friendly and progressive take on a time-honoured British pub experience. Serving hand pulled real ales from Brampton Brewery and across the country, The Rose And Crown are passionate about real ale. The pub also holds regular live music and real ale festivals (See our feature on page 21).

The committee would like to thank everyone who nominated and made the effort to judge. A positive note was more pubs were nominated in 2023 than in previous years. It must be said, that choosing a Pub of the Year (PotY) is an almost impossible job with the standards higher than ever. There is large number of fantastic pubs in Chesterfield and District that would be worthy winners. The judging guidelines take many factors into consideration including the QUALITY & CONDITION OF BEER, COMMUNITY FOCUS & ATMOSPHERE and SERVICE, WELCOME AND OFFERING. The assessment is done using the current CAMRA PotY judging forms, criteria and score weighting against the same National guidelines. I'm sure you will all raise a glass and congratulate this year's winner the Rose and Crown.

The District Pub of the Year and Club of the Year winners will be covered in a future issue of InnSpire.

As an additional bonus the Rose and Crown also picked up the award for Chesterfield & District CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2023 too.

THE FINALISTS FOR CHESTERFIELD & DISTRICT PUB OF THE YEAR 2024 WERE:

- Arkwright Arms (Chesterfield Road, Duckmanton, Chesterfield S44 5JG).
- Chesterfield Arms (Newbold Road, Chesterfield S41 7PH).
- The Neptune Beer Emporium (46 St Helen's Street, Chesterfield S41 7QD).
- Rose and Crown (104 Old Road, Chesterfield S40 2QT).
- The Glassworks (388 Sheffield Road, Chesterfield S41 8LF).
- Tramway Tavern (192 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 2AT).



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THE GLASS WORKS
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AUTUMN PUB OF THE SEASON 2023



It is with great excitement that we can announce **The Lamb Inn** has won the Chesterfield CAMRA Autumn Pub of the Season 2023. The award was presented to Robert Evans on Wednesday 25th October by Chesterfield CAMRA Chair, Steve Monaghan. Fellow branch members looked on and enjoyed the great selection of cask ales from Peak Ales.

Said Robert Evans: *"We are pleased to see that The Lamb has been recognised, both Carlos and myself have been working together pushing The Lamb forward. Thank you to all of our customers who have supported us and continue to do so. Thank you."*

The Lamb Inn had a double reason to celebrate as they were proud to officially announce that they made it into the Good Beer Guide 2024. Robert added *"Thank you for your continued support. It really does mean a lot as we work hard behind the scenes to make sure that we are always serving good quality beer and providing a place for people to laugh and drink good beer. See you soon"*.



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Winding Wheel Winter Festival 2024



Chesterfield CAMRA once again returned to the Winding Wheel for their 2024 Winter Beer Festival. Set over two days, Friday the 26th and Saturday 27th January 2024, eager beer hunters were presented with a fantastic selection of real ales, cider and craft beers. Over 60 excellent cask beers were available, with producers from as far away as Scotland and Norfolk taking part, along with many breweries located within a 25 mile radius of the Winding Wheel giving the festival a local feel.

Chesterfield CAMRA hosted 3 categories for judging the East Midlands Champion Beer of Britain round. There was a group of Brewers, selection the Hospitality industry and Independent beer connoisseurs. The winner of each category now goes forward to the Champion Beer of Britain 2025. Despite moving a weekend forward into January due to circumstances beyond the Festival Committee's control, both days were well attended, with much wonderful feedback and praise posted onto social media. It was great to see faces new and old, coming together and enjoying the some of the best cask and craft beer from around the UK.

The beer of the festival was Torrside Brewing, Grubby Bastard (Winter Porter ABV 6%) and the runner up was Aldwark Artisan Ales, Frankenstein (Porter ABV 5.4%). The craft beer of the festival was Thornbridge Brewery, Salted Caramel Lucaria (Porter ABV 4.5%).

To celebrate the Winding Wheel being 100 years old this year, the upstairs Function Room had a selection of real ales from breweries over 100 years old and still brewing. The food vendors were Fat Pig BBQ and Cheese Factor. Festival T-shirts were kindly sponsored by Rail Ale and Resting Devil Brewery. The nominated charity was Edale Mountain Rescue. Said Festival Chair Rob Taylor: *"The Festival Committee would like to thank all our Sponsors and customers. Plus, a big thank you to the volunteers who make the festival possible. Lots of hard work goes into putting the festival on and we couldn't do each without the team of volunteers who give up their time to make it an amazing couple of days".*

PHOTOS - CREDIT: STU BRADBURY





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PUB INTERVIEW

THE RUTLAND

INNINSPIRE MAGAZINE RECENTLY CHATTED WITH DAWN ALVEY FROM THE RUTLAND (23 STEPHENSON PLACE, CHESTERFIELD S40 1XL)...

TELL US ABOUT YOUR OWN BACKGROUND?

I'm originally from Stroud in Gloucestershire. I moved to Chesterfield just over 11 years ago and fell in love with the place and the people. I found my brilliant husband, Martin, 10 years ago. It's our 8 year anniversary (technically 2nd as we got married on 29th February!) this year and I couldn't imagine anyone else I would have wanted to spend my life with.

WHAT DOES HOSPITALITY MEAN TO YOU?

I've worked in bars and restaurants my whole working life. To me it's the social aspect of it. You meet people you wouldn't have necessarily spoken to otherwise, you learn new things, have in depth discussions and help set the world right! Pubs mean a lot of things to different people but the people are the most important part to me.

HOW HAS THE INDUSTRY CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

The evolution of the industry is an interesting one, especially over the last 10/15 years. Price increases and the smoking ban have made fundamental changes to how we experience hospitality in the UK. When the smoking ban came in my Nan stopped going to bingo as her smoking friends did, it killed her social life. I think that's why café's are now so important, they are a hot spot for people to socialise in a warm and comfortable environment. Some bars, like Junction, have been able to adapt to this and have such a welcoming environment. Food can be a make or break for many places now which wasn't the case before. I may be wrong but I feel that all of hospitality have to work so much harder to keep guests coming in. Its harder work but can be so so rewarding.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE?

Our pub has such a rich history and some of that includes big boots to fill. There is such a nostalgia for the old days that sometimes that can out shine what is happening now. Unfortunately we've not been able to get the kitchen up and running yet but we're keeping our fingers crossed for a refurbishment soon where we can get the kitchen ready and food going. Personally I struggle with maintaining a balance between life and work. As those that know me are aware, I don't stop, I really struggle to stand still and relax, there's always something to do, something to clean, an order to chase or something to fix!

DO YOU THINK THE PERCEPTION OF WOMEN AND THE BEER INDUSTRY IS CHANGING?

Oh definitely. I feel that there's less discrimination. Less 'such a pretty face' kind of attitude. There are some amazing women working in this industry in Chesterfield and the respect they hold from people that work with and for them is obvious. One of the people I feel have paved the way for women in this town would be Jane at The Rose and Crown. Everyone speaks of her with respect and admiration. I have unfortunately experienced sexist managers and being touched inappropriately while working. It makes you feel less of a person, but it is a minority and I've experienced a lot of support from managers and co workers that challenge those that have done these things. There's less acceptance of this kind of behaviour now. My advice would be to just go for it! Enjoy it! This industry can be so much fun. Remember you have a voice and that you are important! If you are not happy with how you are being treated, get out. You will find somewhere that deserves you and appreciates you.

FUTURE OF PUBS IN BRITAIN?

We're seeing a lot of pubs closing which is so upsetting, it feels like we're losing parts of history. But we are also seeing more innovation, amazing menus, fantastic music nights and themed events! As long as people come out to support us we'll keep going and be able to create unforgettable days, and experiences, and keep communities together.

WHAT ARE YOUR OWN PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

I hope to keep building The Rutland up to be a place for everyone. Somewhere comfortable where you can relax and socialise and have a laugh. I also hope to get more sleep one day haha.

CHESTERFIELD HAS LOTS OF AMAZING PUBS, WHY DO YOU THINK THE AREA IS SO SUCCESSFUL?

There's a lot of heart in Chesterfield, and to be super cheesy, you can feel it beating. You can sense the passion that the managers and owners have for their pubs and that shows in the amount of returning and loyal customers they have.





I KNOW THAT THIS INDUSTRY REQUIRES 90% OF YOUR TIME BUT WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN YOU DO GET SOME SPARE TIME?

Have I mentioned sleep?! I love to crochet and loved learning with Emily down at Fred's Haberdashery and the lovely ladies that attend the crochet classes there. I'm still very much a novice but hope to build my skills up over the next year and start being able to wear my crafts!

DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE BUYING MORE REAL ALE?

I do! There's so many new and interesting ales coming out. There seems to be a surge of experimentation and that makes ale an exciting thing! We've loved having special ales made by the wonderful Rachel at Brampton Brewery and they've gone down an absolute storm with ale drinkers and non ale drinkers alike.

BEST SELLER/PERSONAL FAVOURITE?

Oh that has to be AyUp from Dancing Duck in Derby. Its a great session ale that people love. Personal favourite? I love stouts and porters myself, 2 that I have especially enjoyed over the past few months have been Plump Penguin Plum Porter from Little Critters which is sweet but not too sweet, I found it nicely balanced, and most recently we've had Ashover's Milk Stout on which is gorgeous and dangerous at 6%.



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THE RISE OF THE MINI BEER FESTIVAL

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN A GREAT BEER FESTIVAL?

(The birth of a baby, watching the sunset on a far-away beach, falling in love. No, I'm going with beer and the joy of discovering a new super stout or brilliant bitter at one of the many great festivals, that are put on, up and down the Country. He said with his tongue very much in his cheek).

We've covered the Winter Winding Wheel Beer Festival, organised by Chesterfield CAMRA earlier in the magazine (Pop over to page 14 if you missed it). So, in this article we're going to be looking at the rise of the mini beer festivals hosted by pubs themselves. It goes without saying that when it comes to wonderful cask and craft beers, these days we are spoilt for choice. In many of our fine drinking establishments, gone are the days of a solitary, lonely hand-pump, with a wide range of exciting and enticing ales on offer. We should always applaud and indeed support our locals, that bring great cask and craft beers to the masses.

This article was inspired by visiting the new Chesterfield CAMRA Pub of the Year, the **Rose & Crown at Brampton** (104 Old Road, Chesterfield S40 2QT). Every year in late November they hold their Birthday Beer Fest. Running over three days, there is live music (Brew Droop, The Groovy Cats & Nudus Acoustic this year) and pop-up food stalls (Jim's Smash Burgers who definitely smashed it). Plus, beer, lots and lots of lovely beer. Befitting of the winners of Pub of the Year, you can find around 10 cask beers on sale all year round. As the pub is owned by Brampton Brewery you are guaranteed to find a number of their ales like Brampton Golden Bud (Bitter ABV 3.80%) and Brampton Best (Bitter ABV 4.2%). New ales that I discovered on the day were Brampton's seasonal Winter Bock (Barleywine ABV 6.00%) and Mount Washington (New England Hazy Pale Ale ABV 4.5%).



They also have a large number of guest cask and keg beers from local favourites like Ossett Brewery, Buxton Brewery and Thornbridge Brewery. One only has to glance at the ever changing beer board, to see why the pub is so popular with real ale connoisseurs.

The Birthday Beer Fest added lots of new exciting ales to the line-up. Beers sampled on the weekend included Wensleydale Brewery's Future's So Bright (Pale Ale ABV 4.0% - A boundary pushing shady pale ale, made using a trail hop alongside a traditional English hop to give full fruit flavours) and Vocation Brewery's Naughty & Nice (Chocolate Orange Stout ABV 5.5% - Roasted barley and crystal malts create a rich and indulgent stout, paired with milk chocolate and balanced with zesty orange for an intensely smooth finish). Festival ales were poured in a separate area from the main bar, straight from the barrel. It's was a rocking line-up of beers, that hit all the high notes!

It's not just the Rose & Crown that runs it's own festivals. **The Mallard** just across the border in Worksop (Station Approach, Carlton Road, Worksop S80 7AG) runs it's own beer festival too. A lovely touch is they produce a mini beer programme with tasting notes and boxes to tick the ales off. There's even a little section on the back page where you can add your own notes. Recent Breweries that have took centre stage at their beer festivals include Brew Social (Sheffield), Aldwark Artisan Ales (Matlock) and Resting Devil (Chesterfield). It's great that your just as likely to find beers from one of the smaller independent micro-breweries alongside ales from the bigger names in the industry.



Pubs are innovating and looking at new ways to stand out from the crown and attract new thirsty customers. Channelling their inner Darth Vader, the **Tom Said Micropub** (1 Well Street, Ripley DE5 3AR) hosted a Dark Side Stout & Porter Festival in December 2023. With some heavy hitting and unusual stouts like Broadtown Brewery's Barnabus (Russian Imperial Stout ABV 10.4%) and Crich Brew Co's Flying Colours (Bonfire Toffee Stout ABV 6.0%), the force was strong in this great micropub.

Wikipedia tells me that the Bergkirchweih was the first ever beer festival. (And, we all know that everything on the Internet is true. Please let me know, if this is a load of old Codswallop). The Bergkirchweih has taken place since 21st April 1755 in Erlangen, Germany (Making it 55 years older than the Oktoberfest held in Munich). Just imagine how many pints have been downed over the years. Wiki also says the origin of the word 'Festival' can be traced to the Latin word 'Festa' meaning 'a religious holiday'. So, I'm sure we can all raise a glass to the Small Gods of Real Ale. Because it must be said that festivals bring people together. Be it local CAMRA run festivals like the one at Winding Wheel, quirky events like Rail Ale (See our centre spread - pages 19 -20), to smaller "pop-ups" in pubs like we've covered here. Quite simply beer Festivals are great fun and a fantastic way to discover new ales. As always, happy beer hunting and have a pint or two for me!

Chris Fox



Matlock LIMITED STOP X17

V/A Chesterfield

TOOT
TOOT



The bus is an obvious way to visit pubs just outside one's walking horizon, and having used the X17, I had the idea to write up tours of pubs along its route. If similarly indulged again, this may be the first of several such reports.

The X17 bus is called the Stagecoach Gold 17 and described as an "Express" as it has limited stops and uses the Dronfield bypass and briefly the M1. It goes between Wirksworth, Cromford, Matlock Bath, Matlock, Chesterfield, Sheffield and Barnsley. Other operators, buses and trains cover parts of this route. While some in our group benefit from a "mature student bus pass", trips may be done using the Derbyshire Wayfarer (£8/day) or multiple use of the £2 single bus fare cap (now extended to end of 2024).

LAST DRINKING SKOOL GETS ON THE BUS - WIRKSWORTH & MATLOCK BATH

It takes nearly an hour for the X17 from Chesterfield coach/bus station to reach Wirksworth, and there are views all the way from the top deck. It's not too busy on an overcast Wednesday afternoon in November. There were lines of cheering schoolchildren in Matlock Bath so we summoned a royal wave in return. They were actually waiting for the Derbyshire stretch of BBC Radio 2's Vernon Kay's charity run but we weren't to know that.

We've been to Wirksworth before, and know that the Royal Oak doesn't open before 5 on weekdays and the Apollo Bar at the heritage rail station isn't open when no trains are running. Alighting at the Market Place stop, our first pub of call was **The Feather Star** where we were welcomed by lions outside the door and saloon-doored toilets inside. Jo was serving in the long bar room, once part of The Red Lion Hotel (See photos below), was occupied by several early afternoon drinkers and an affable group of walkers from Matlock. We drank and chatted over shared kale crisps and roasted chestnuts, while a huge pot cooked on the wood stove. This pub is much decorated with hanging fabrics and cushions. Well-behaved dogs lay under tables, and we were surrounded by vinyl LPs, instruments, artwork and memorabilia.





TOP PHOTOS: THE FEATHER STAR - WIRKSWORTH

We sampled four of the five casks and especially enjoyed the Stancill Sinter stout and Carnival Never A Frown bitter. Worth a longer stay, but we were on a mission. They were expecting a busy night due to the LA band playing a gig later.

While waiting for X17, the 110 arrived and we embarked to be greeted in the local vernacular by the friendliest bus driver in the western hemisphere, and alighted at a bus stop outside The **Fishpond free-house**, opposite the Grand Pavilion of Matlock Bath. Three casks were on the blackboard among kegs and many ciders, coded for GF and VG and strength, and we opted for Shiny Affinity pale ale and Little Match toffee porter. Plenty of food was being served along with drinks to the families and couples on tables in the large and open bar.

We then strolled along as Parade (South) became Parade (North) to enter the small front bar of the **Rose Cottage**, with its log burner and dumb waiter. We stopped for Greene King Abbot and St Austell Tribute ales as we plotted our late afternoon. We had the Old Bank Note café/bar and The Midland on our list but while we knew the former doesn't open weekday afternoons, we also found darkness and a closed door at the latter. We decided to catch the next X17 homeward bound and resume our research of the X17's southern flight path another day, perhaps aiming for stopping also at Cromford and Matlock. **The passengers today were Psmith and Ginger Baker.**

THE FISHPOND & ROSE COTTAGE



Ginger Baker



Brewery Interview

Thornbridge Brewery



INNSPIRE RECENTLY SPOKE TO ALICE MURPHY FROM THORNBRIDGE BREWERY (BAKEWELL)

(Special thanks to Rachel Green from Brampton Brewery for setting up this interview).

HOW DID YOU START A CAREER IN BREWING?

I got a bar job as soon as I turned 18 and continued bar work while I was at Uni, but it wasn't until I started working at a proper "local" that my passion for pubs & beer really took off. After several years of pulling pints & running cellars, I decided I wanted to go straight to the source & began to pursue a career in brewing.

WHAT DOES YOUR DAY-TO-DAY JOB ENTAIL?

Depending on our schedule, I might be brewing or packaging. If I'm brewing, it's a case of getting mashed in as early as possible, weighing out hops & cracking on with odd jobs as the brew does its thing. A day of packaging starts with analysis – making sure the beer is as it should be – gravity, bitterness, colour & dissolved oxygen are all checked (amongst other things). From there, the beer is racked into casks, the tank goes on clean ready to be filled with more beer, then there's milling to do and casks to clean for the rest of the week.

ARE PEOPLE SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE A FEMALE BREWER?

Back when I was working in pubs, people frequently refused to accept that I was the manager on duty. I guess a 21-year-old art student wasn't what they were expecting! As a brewer, people within the industry never seem phased when they find out what I do. I think customers are more likely to be surprised – people have assumed I'm bartending in steel toe-capped wellies on more than one occasion.

DO YOU THINK THE PERCEPTION OF WOMEN AND THE BEER INDUSTRY IS CHANGING?

I hope so! It feels like people are less likely to underestimate the capabilities of women in the industry now, whereas when I was 18, cellaring was exclusively a male job & I genuinely once heard a manager say he hired women "to stand behind the bar & look pretty". Fortunately attitudes like this are becoming less & less common and for the most part, people are pretty supportive!





WHAT OBSTACLES OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAVE YOU FACED?

Getting a foot in the door was the biggest obstacle I faced – I was about ready to give up before Thornbridge gave me a chance. I'd faced so much skepticism when telling people what I wanted to do & had so many applications rejected that it felt like it was never going to happen. Even after getting the job, it took a while until I felt confident at work, but that came with some time & encouragement. Oh, and finding workwear that fits properly can be difficult in an industry dominated by men!

WHAT WOULD YOUR ADVICE BE TO OTHER WOMEN LOOKING TO GET INTO THE INDUSTRY?

My most important piece of advice is really simple – perseverance. It might take a while but just stick with it, be willing to put the graft in & you'll get there eventually. It sounds cliché, but it's true. And confidence goes a long way – make sure your voice gets heard, take chances & ask questions. I asked for advice from anyone & everyone that I knew within the industry – their support & encouragement was a godsend.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN THE INDUSTRY?

I'd just like it to be normalized for women to be in pub management or be hands on in production, and for them to be judged by their knowledge & skill, the same as the men in the industry. Seeing more women succeeding & thriving in the industry paves the way for younger generations to feel more welcome & more confident.

CHESTERFIELD AND THE SURROUNDING AREA HAS LOTS OF AMAZING PUBS/BREWERIES, WHY DO YOU THINK THE AREA IS SO SUCCESSFUL?

I'm a firm believer that having a thriving "scene" benefits everyone. A cluster of really good pubs draws people to the area as a whole. And from my experience, businesses tend to support one another too, rather than competing. This, plus support from local regulars really helps foster a community spirit that's really special.

FAVOURITE REAL ALE/CRAFT BEER? These days I'm happiest with a pint of bitter or a really well crafted lager – no frills! I'm also loving the resurgence of milds at the moment – the Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby remains a firm favourite of mine.



MICROPUB ADVENTURES

Ilkeston, Heanor, Ripley and Langley Mill



SCOTT SPENCER FROM MICROPUB ADVENTURES REPORTS:

If you enjoy reading please consider "buying me a pint", this will help to cover my hosting and image hosting and help to ensure further trips can go ahead! (Scan the QR code to right to go direct to my blog).

Another day out with a Northern £10 Newspaper offer ticket. Started at Ilkeston visiting The Burnt Pig, Gladstonian, Craft One and Stanton Cask, before heading up to the Marlpool Ale House from Marlpool Brewery, up to Heanor for Crafty Tap, Angry Bee, Redemption Ale House and Hop Wright Inn. The bus up again to The Tip Inn at Loscoe and Tom Said and Ripley's Little Alehouse in Ripley. Final call of the day was to the reopening of The Bunny Hop in Langley Mill.

THE BURNT PIG (53 Market St, Ilkeston DE7 5R) After getting off the train at Ilkeston Railway Station (trains from Leeds to Nottingham stop here), a steady 25 minutes walk up to the top of town (this is slightly uphill). "The Burnt Pig" is my first calling point of the day. This opened in May 2015 but is under different ownership to when it opened. A very popular micropub which opens at 11am on a Saturday so a great place to start. Split over three rooms with a log burner in the middle room as well. A great range of beers on the bar, both cask and keg. I started with "Piggy in the Meadow" from Kettering based Potbelly Brewery. A tasty pale ale made with Meadows Honey. I went onto "Sidekick" from Alfreton based Alter Ego Brewing Co. A great session IPA, really easy drinking and hoppy. A fridge packed full of cheese, pork pies, sausage rolls and more made locally can be found here as well. Lots to choose from.

THE BURNT PIG



GLADSTONIAN (80A South St, Ilkeston DE7 5QJ) A short walk around the corner brings me to “Gladstonian”, a small Microbar which has been open a number of years. This used to be a bridal shop and has been taken back to brick and is really nicely done out inside. A really warm welcome from the couple running the bar. A choice of 2 real ales and a cider on hand pulls. Went with a very local beer from RDM Brewing Co based in Ilkeston and was started in 2022. “Citra Pale Ale”, a really light easy drinking pale ale. Nice to see a beer really local.

THE CRAFTY ONE (65 South St, Ilkeston DE7 5QQ) Over the road and a slight walk back on myself brings me to my third call in Ilkeston to “The Crafty One”, a craft bar which serves both cask and keg beers, alongside a large can and bottle selection. This opened in December 2016. A great looking bar with an industrial feel inside and the shop shelving made from scaffolding poles. A great selection of 8 keg beers, alongside 2 cask ales and a number of ciders. I went with a local beer on keg, “Sweet and Sour Chicken”, a sour beer from Ilkeston based Urban Chicken Ale and Langley Mill based Bang the Elephant Brewing Co. A lovely refreshing and tart pineapple sour.

Let It Be-Gin (87 Bath St, Ilkeston DE7 8AP) Walk down to the opposite end of town next, if you're into Gins and other spirits you'll pass “Let It Be-Gin”, a great independent shop selling a variety of gin, rum and other spirits. Really worth dropping into.

STANTON CASK (162 Bath St, Ilkeston DE7 8FH) Further down the road at the end of the main high street is my next calling point of the day “Stanton Cask”. This was formerly known as the Ilson Tap, and reopened in June 2023 as “Stanton Cask”. Housed in a great Victorian building on a corner. Really stands out and looked to be very popular inside. A selection of 4 cask beers on the bar, 3 being local breweries with 1 from further afield. I went with “Campbell's” from local Ilkeston based Red Dog Ales. A delicious Red Ale, a style you don't see around too often so always try to go for one when I see one.

MARPOOL ALE HOUSE (5 Breach Rd, Heanor DE75 7NJ) A short jump on bus 33 or 34 from over the other side of the roundabout takes me up to my next calling point “Marlpool Ale House”. Somewhere that could well be described as a cosy and friendly bar where you can chat to both friends and strangers. This certainly rings true with this place. You get the feeling that you've been a regular for years. This is one of the smallest pubs in Derbyshire and was formerly a butchers shop. The brewery “Marlpool Brewing Co” is based outside at the rear of the pub. The bar is an old Methodist Chapel pulpit which looks really fantastic in the small pub, alongside shelves packed full of brewing and beer memorabilia. A choice of 6 cask ales on the bar today, with 2 of them being from the on site brewery. Had to go with one of their own beers – “Scratty Ratty”, a really easy drinking and session pale ale, packed full of flavour. A really nice pint.

THE CRAFTY TAP (33 Market Pl, Heanor DE75 7EG) Back on the bus again with either 33 or 34 heading towards Heanor, only a very short journey getting off at the Market Place. My first call is to “The Crafty Tap”, a recent addition to Heanor's beer scene having only opened in August this year, in a former shop unit. A great modern and minimal feel pub with a long table through the middle of the pub, wall seating and some comfy chairs next to the window. Great talking to a couple of the regulars in here as well. A brilliant selection of beers available here, 2 cask ales alongside 6 keg beers.

THE ANGRY BEE (1 Godfrey St, Heanor DE75 7NS) A short walk around the corner brings me to my next call in Heanor "The Angry Bee". This opened in August 2016 and has two rooms which are connected by a connecting passage. Seating outside here at the front as well (for the better weather rather than the drizzle today). A really cosy look inside with comfy seats and wooden tables. A selection of 4 cask ales on the bar here today including two of the beers from Heanor based Leadmill Brewery. I went with one of their beers "Blue Morpho", a delicious pale ale with a tropical hint.

THE REDEMPTION ALEHOUSE (3 Ray St, Heanor DE75 7GE) Another walk around the corner brings me to "The Redemption Alehouse". A popular micropub set over 2 floors. A very bustling pub when I walked in. Great to see the temperature controlled cool room behind the bar, really adds to the feel of the pub. A really cosy feel to this place. A great choice of 8 cask ales ranging in styles so something for everyone, alongside a selection of keg beers. I went with another beer from local Heanor based Leadmill Brewery. "American Girl", a strong IPA at 5.6%, packed full of flavour.

Hop Wright Inn (8 Ray St, Heanor DE75 7GE) over the road for my last call in Heanor, which is to "Hop Wright Inn". This was formerly known as The Crooked Cask but changed ownership and name in early 2023. It has seen several former uses including being a Building Society which explains the safe that is opposite the bar. A really bright and friendly pub. As well as another room behind the main bar room, it also has a great beer garden to the rear of the pub which has a log burner installed. A selection of 4 cask ales on the bar today. My choice was "Parish Special Bitter" from The Parish Brewery, which are based in a 400 year old converted stable block in Burrough on the Hill in rural East Leicestershire. A really delicious traditional bitter.

The Tip Inn (60A High St, Loscoe, Heanor DE75 7LF) A short ride on the H1 bus from Heanor Market Place to Grandfield Street, and a very short walk to my next calling point in Loscoe, "The Tip Inn". It was taken over in January 2020 by Alter Ego Brewery. A large micropub with two rooms, alongside a beer garden at the rear. Really warm welcome in here and looked a popular pub. A lovely seating area outside at the front of the pub as well. A selection of 5 cask ales and 6 keg beers to choose from so lots of choice, as well as fridges to the side of the pub with cans and bottles to drink in or takeaway. Went with a beer from Alfreton based Alter Ego Brewery. "Mr Brown", a great tasting traditional English Bitter.



TOM SAID MICROPUB (1 Well St, Ripley DE5 3AR) Jumped on the Rainbow 1 bus from over the road from The Tip Inn to take me into nearby Ripley. My first call of two here was to "Tom Said", located in the former Ripley Dry Cleaners shop. A really popular venue housed in one main room. Love the cricket bats on the front of the bar as well. A range of both cask and keg beers, with choices of cans and bottles also. 5 keg and 2 cask beers on today. I went with a sour beer from Sunderland based Vaux Brewery. "Raspberry Bramble", a tart and fruity smoothie sour, packed full of flavour and very refreshing.

Ripley's Little Alehouse (42-44 Oxford St, Ripley DE5 3AP) Located a short walk away is "Ripley's Little Alehouse" formerly known as the Bear and Monkey. A industrial themed quirky micropub, with some comfy seating around the small pub. 3 real ales on the bar today. I went with "Blood Moon" from Derby Brewing Company, a New Zealand hopped Red Ale, really tasty with lots of flavour. Love this style of beer!

The Bunny Hop (NG16 4ED) I got the Rainbow 1 bus all the way through to my final calling point in Langley Mill. "The Bunny Hop". This originally opened in July 2016 but had recently closed in October and was its reopening night tonight under original ownership. A very busy opening night at that. A very welcoming bar in a 1940s/1950s style with an upstairs and a beer garden to the rear. 3 cask beers on the bar today, one from Nottingham based Castle Rock Brewery and the other 2 being from Fuggle Bunny Brewery who are based in Sheffield.

The original version of this article can be found on micropubadventures.co.uk

Scott Spencer

THE GREAT CAMPBELL STREET, BELPER

St George's Day Beer Festival

18th April 2-10pm

20th April 12-11pm

19th April 12-11pm

21st April 12-9pm



Over 40 Beers plus Ciders, Gins and Wines

Live Music, Morris Dancers and Food Stalls

ONE FESTIVAL
TWO VENUES

Arkwright's Bar, Campbell St Brewery.

Venue 1: Arkwright's Real Ale Bar - 6 Campbell Street, Belper DE56 1UP

Venue 2: Campbell Street Brewing Company - Campbell Street, Belper DE56 1AP

The Great British Pub Crawl



If you like beer, which you probably do if you're reading InnSpire magazine, then you may follow **"The Great British Pub Crawl"** on their various social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube). Dale & Holly Harvey are a Nottingham based couple attempting to visit every single pub, bar, micropub, social club and anywhere else they serve beer across this great country. Concerned about the decline of these traditional gathering places, Dale and Holly decided to take action. Armed with a passion for good times and a love for their community, they embarked on a quest to support pubs across the UK, one pint at a time. On the 11th September 2023 they visited the infamous Brampton Mile, taking part in the Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour. Here's a few highlights from their visit, edited to fit in InnSpire (*Apologies to the pubs we had to cut - This was in main due to some closures due to the floods around the time of this article - The full post can be read on their Facebook page - Links at the end of the article*).

Something a little different for our Saturday this week as we signed up to let someone else do the route of the day for once and took part in the absolutely fantastic 'Brampton Mile Pub Tour' run by the wonderful Shaun!

The video of the entire tour, including a proper look around each and every one of these fantastic pubs on the mile is now up and can be viewed over on our YouTube at youtube.com/@TheGreatBritishPubCrawl

So lets talk about the actual tour and what it is... this is a (locally) famous organised pub tour that has been around for many many years and currently (when everything is open) stands at 18 pubs but used to contain as many as 25 before closures took it's toll. The tour guide is Shaun and for the mere £8 that he charges for the tour, it's a total steal! Shaun is a quite remarkable human being, one of the loveliest and most humble human beings you could hope to find and not only is he a fountain of knowledge about the area and the pubs both past and present but he is also engaging and fantastic at bringing a group together as one unit for the day! The little group that we had yesterday on the tour (which was just a winter one off, as the tours usual dates run through the summer) was brilliant, a friendly little group that helped add to a really wonderful day so big thanks to Shaun and to Trevor (a loyal follower of the page) for getting together such a lovely group of people and allowing us to tag along.



CHESTERFIELD GREAT HISTORIC PUB TOUR

The Brampton Mile was often referred to locally as a 'right of passage' for young men finding their feet with the local drinking scene and I'm sure that many a man has fallen by the wayside when attempting to make it into town after a pint in each of these...

The start point of the crawl these days (after the pub at the original start point closed down many years ago) is '**The Star Inn**' which was built in 1860 and has really nice feel to it. Modernised to keep up with the times but without compromising the integrity or feel of the pub, you can chill out in a corner of the pub and watch the football or have a drink in their fantastic beer garden (weather allowing of course.) The landlord was a thoroughly nice chap and this is a great little introduction to the tour and place to start.

The third stop on the tour will take you down a side street... another hugely long walk of around 150 yards where you will find '**The Victoria**' which is just beautiful! Recently taken over by new people, Buster the landlord is engaging and welcoming from the get go... and quite an imposing figure at a whopping 6ft 5 at the least! The beautiful stained glass windows of this one are a really lovely feature and this is another pub split into two sides, with a pool table and two darts boards on one and a quieter lounge side on the other. The famous darts player John Lowe is a Chesterfield native (and still lives/drinks in the area) and he and the late, great Eric Bristow once played a game of darts together in the pub some years back... We absolutely loved this place and wish Buster and family every success in their new venture!

After another incredibly short walk we arrived at our fourth stop of the day... '**The Britannia**' which was built in 1831 (you can tell that I've had an ACTUAL proper tour guide on this day can't you as I'm spitting out facts all over the place haha) this was originally built on a huge space that also included a bowling green... a bowling green that is still there to this day although the lease has long since been transferred over to the local bowls club, meaning it is protected should the pub ever be sold off! This is another gorgeous old pub that is dog friendly and had the sweetest little Dachshund in whilst we were there! They also dabble in a bit of food at the pub and I have to say that their Chip Butty/Chip Cob looked highly impressive and was big enough to feed Holly for about 3 weeks!

Our sixth stop of the tour took us to '**The Real Ale Corner**' which I am reliably informed was only the second ever micro pub in the UK... does anyone know what/where the oldest one is? Apparently it's somewhere in Norfolk but any info would be greatly appreciated... So, this one was established in 2009 and it is everything you could want from a micropub... there's a brilliant beer I ended up with, another little beauty from Vault City Brewing.

Our seventh stop was '**The Tap House**' another mid 19th Century ale house that has a wealth of real ales on the bar and a really friendly welcome. There's a small yard area to the back and a nice laid back feel inside with a decent mixture of people using the pub which was the final one along the route that wasn't affected by the recent horrific flooding in Chesterfield.

Down to the 'mid point' of the tour next and to an area on the mile that is known as '**The Brampton Triangle**' (after the Bermuda Triangle) because it is at this point that many a man or husband has 'gone missing' from the tour... or maybe just fallen by the wayside after their 7th pint of the day! Haha.

The 'Triangle' consists of... as you would expect, three pubs... **The Midpoint Bar** (which was sadly closed when we visited due then floods), '**The Anchor**' and '**The Barrel Inn**' (and there is also a very good Chip Shop right in the middle of these where you can get some much needed sustenance to aid in the continuation of your journey) These three were in an area that was hugely affected by the flooding. The Anchor most of all and have done really well to get back open following some extensive damage and could really use some local support to get back on their feet I'm sure.



The third pub of the triangle is **'The Barrel Inn'** which dates back to 1832 and also sports a beautiful stained glass window... that sadly can only be viewed from the inside of the pub and is no longer visible from the out... they offer the full sports package on their screens and they also have a great stone fireplace in one of the back alcove spaces that looks very impressive

After a quick stop off at the chippy our next pub was the **'Tramway Tavern'** which takes its name from the old Chesterfield tram system and is covered in beautiful red tiles on the outside. This is another super pub and a drinkers paradise with plenty of choice on their bar from beers to ciders and beyond. The staff were super friendly and the pub is full of rustic charm and some gorgeous original features (photo top left). Down along to the **Brampton Brewery** next and to the attached pub/tap house known as **'The Bierhuis'** (photo top right) where we ran into Steve and the guys from Chesterfield CAMRA and were lucky enough to be able to have a chat! This is a great little place and they have a true piece of Chesterfield drinking history on display in there... the original pub sign from outside of 'The Terminus' which was the pub that used to be the start of the Brampton Mile pub crawl! This is a huge site that the brewery now occupies and used to be a former swimming baths many years back and they have certainly made great use of it with this wonderful tap room!

Onto **'The Brampton Social Club'** which was formerly known as The Alma Inn and rebranded just last year (photo bottom right). Fun fact about this one... it is actually owned by the chap who created the iconic alcopop brand... 'VK' (I am partial to the odd bottle of pure flavoured sugar myself to be honest haha) This is a vibrant and bustling pub with good staff and some really friendly doormen that was absolutely packed by the time we got down there at 6pm!

So that bought us to the final stop on 'The Mile' which is now known as **'The Junction'** and is a great way to finish off a pretty special day out. The door lads were top notch and the pub was another that was thriving with customers. It's dog friendly and there was a beautiful Golden Retriever out on a Saturday night in their back garden that has plenty of those epic heat lamps to make sure it can still keep full during the cold winter months. A smartly decked out establishment that certainly has a party time vibe to it!





THE TAP HOUSE

So, what did we think of the tour over all...? **WE LOVED IT...** Shaun is an incredibly tour guide who keeps you interested and engaged right the way through and it's something we would recommend to anyone to go and do... because at just £8... it is an absolute bargain! Full of great old pubs with wonderful history and stories, these tours are also a chance to meet new people and make new friends in your group as the day goes on! 10/10 for sure... and you know what makes this even more impressive for Shaun to do what he does? Shaun is almost fully blind... so he isn't reading from a script or double checking his notes as he goes... this is just a man, with a wealth of knowledge showing his passion for the local area and its truly historic pubs! The Brampton Mile tour is a **MUST...** and you can get more info about the tours and how to book yourselves onto one over at **Chesterfield Great Historic Pub Tour** on Facebook. Please give the page a like and make sure you don't miss out on this gem! Also... don't forget you can also have a look at the tour for yourself over on our YouTube!

DAY 596 - PUBS VISITED (ALL ON THE BRAMPTON MILE)

2211 - The Star Inn

2213 - The Victoria Brampton

2215 - The Rose and Crown Brampton

2217 - The Tap House

2219 - The Barrel Inn

2221 - The Brampton Bierhuis

2223 - GAS Bar & Bites

2212 - Peacock Inn Chesterfield

2214 - The Britannia Inn, Brampton

2216 - The Real Ale Corner Chesterfield

2218 - The Anchor Brampton

2220 - Tramway Tavern, Brampton

2222 - The Brampton Social Club

2224 - Junction Bar

DAY 596 PUBS COMPLETED - RUNNING TOTAL OF PUBS VISITED : 2224

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AREA FOCUS... Shirland, Clay Cross & Tupton

CHESTERFIELD CAMRA'S CHAIR, STEVE MONAGHAN EXPLORES SHIRLAND, CLAY CROSS & TUPTON...

The villages of Shirland and Tupton coupled with the town of Clay Cross run from Alfreton to Chesterfield along the Old Roman Rykneld Road. More recently known as Derby Road or the A61. As a main route it had Coaching Inns for horse drawn Coaches. There has been a resurgence of the pubs either side of this road. Let me introduce you to them...

HAY HOTEL, SHIRLAND This small L-shaped micro pub has been thoughtfully renovated. The wooden bar was recycled from another pub. Pool table at one end and in the Winter a roaring fire at the other side. Sports TV throughout and free buffet on Sundays. This is a hidden gem. The four cask ale selection includes beer featured on Locale, meaning they are within 25 miles of Chesterfield. Breweries such as Dancing Duck and Thornbridge are on offer. I tried the Ay Up refreshing Pale Ale. Javid, the landlord, rescued the former hotel in 2017, opening in December of that year. The staff and customers are friendly, a small car park adjacent and off street parking.

Just 5 minutes walk up the road is...

THE RED LION, SHIRLAND In 2022 the traditional pub was taken on by new publicans. There is a large car park at the rear, a small beer garden and recently they held a community fete. Along with good pub grub they offer Locale ales including Dancing Duck. I sampled Abduction, a good strong Pale Ale.

GREYHOUND AT HIGHAM This is a large Marston's family pub serving meals all day. A tippie of Pedigree, a well known beer, sufficed. The beer garden and patio on a Summers day are a delight. Bring the children to enjoy the play area.

Much further to the outskirts of Clay Cross we find...

THE GEORGE, CLAY CROSS Formerly The George and Dragon and recently rebranded as The George – Gastro pub by local entrepreneur Craig. Cask Ale includes Locale Peak Ales. Chatsworth Gold is a go to choice. Accomodations is available, regular live music and a small outdoor terrace.

Taking a slight detour we encounter...

THE THREE HORSESHOES, MARKET STREET, CLAY CROSS This was Craig's first pub venture. The bar offers excellent food and customer service. Cask offerings include Locale Peak Ales and Thornbridge along with Timothy Taylor Landlord and Abbeydale Moonshine. I partook in a Moonshine in the outdoor seating area.

Slightly downhill into Clay Cross lies... **RYKNELD TURNPYKE, JOHN STREET, CLAY CROSS** This former Brewpub, run by Glyn, offers three National Cask Ales in interestingly decorated surroundings. In particular two large Chandeliers. Nice chunky wooden tables, pew style benches and a recently added pool table from one end. At the other circular classic pub tables and a direct view of the bar and paraphernalia adorning it. TV and jukebox are available. A recently held fund-raiser funded the nearby defibrillator. For many Jaipur is a common choice (See bottom photo). On this occasion I nestled a pint of award winning Kelham Island Pale Rider whilst racking the balls and breaking off. **NB. Turnpyke was the gate on the road at which you paid a toll (tax).**

Now back to the A61 (Bus 51 from Clay Cross terminus) to... **TUPTON TAP, OLD TUPTON** Six Cask Ales, including very Locale Ashover Brewery. A very spacious beer garden and car parking form a pleasant space for outdoor events such as a beer festival. Wednesdays is quiz night. Small areas in the pub create an intimate feel. Another locale brewery Welbeck Abbey provided my choice Harley a subtle fragrant light pale ale.

Once again down hill to...

THE NEW INN, QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD, NEW TUPTON

Another new management team, Dave and Dean, have put Cask Ale as one of their priorities for the pub. Now serves three including Locale Drone Valley Brewery. 400 Tropicale, a punchy pale ale, and new to me, had to be sampled. One side of the pub has a pool table, a dartboard and a Sports TV. The other is more quiet. Something for everyone. Lots of variety in snacks and spirits. Quiz nights Thursday and Sunday. Food to be available soon.

A thoroughly entertaining ale trail along the Old Roman Road.

Steve Monaghan



Obituary of Ian Street



Mick Portman shared with InnSpire the Obituary of Ian Street who died on the 8th September 2023. Older members of Chesterfield CAMRA will remember Ian and his wife Fran as regular helpers at Beer Festivals as well as keen participants in 'Wednesday Wobbles' around the branch area, rating outlying pubs for inclusion in the Good Beer Guide and (more importantly) to try some good beer. Ian and Fran went on many of Jane and Ian Lefley's trips to Belgium, and later on Howard Borrell's weekends in Belgium. Ian was an electrician at Markham Pit and was active in the NUM strike in 1984. Following the closure of all local collieries Ian became a technology technician (and an active member of Derbyshire County Unison). He and Fran enjoyed cruising in their narrowboat (and, of course, sampling local beers). Despite his misgivings over the absence of any sort of Socialism in New Labour, Ian kept up his membership of the Labour Party. Ian's after funeral do at Chesterfield Labour Club was well attended, and many of those attending had excellent Bradfield Farmers' Blonde at very modest prices.

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