



Pints of View

The newsletter of Mansfield and Ashfield CAMRA



Spring 2024 PDF Edition



Socially Acceptable

It's an **eventful** life in CAMRA



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FÁILTE



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Campaign
for
Real Ale



Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of Pints of View

It's just over six months since I took on the position of Branch Chair at the AGM last July, and early in a new calendar year, it feels like a good time to reflect on the experience to date.

I've been a CAMRA member for decades, but have only become an active volunteer since I retired at the end of 2022. I've found it can be quite challenging – especially the initial learning curve getting to understand how everything works – but it's definitely also very rewarding.

I've met some great people, and the social aspects of CAMRA can be really fun too. I've already been to four beer festivals since the start of the year – as a visitor and/or a volunteer! That's me aside, serving at Hucknall recently. Hard work, on my feet for six busy hours straight, but a very enjoyable day.

Since last July, we've worked hard to improve our website (where we now publish minutes of our meetings in the Members' Area) and our communications (including through monthly emails to members and the reintroduction of a branch newsletter) and we've tried to make our branch meetings more visible and accessible by publicising details in advance (on the website, in our newsletters and on social media) and rotating the locations and venues used around our area.

We've also had content from our branch printed in Nottingham Drinker magazine, which you may have seen. We deliver them to as many real ale pubs in our area as we can - typically the same as our own newsletter - on behalf of Nottingham CAMRA.

We had a seasonal social around Mansfield town centre between Christmas and New Year, and have arranged monthly 'Final Friday at 5' socials from January to April so far – see separate article.

Whilst we aren't yet able to put on a full CAMRA-run beer festival, we're looking into a series of partnership beer festivals, with plans well underway for the first of these at The Brown Cow in mid-April. Again, see separate article, although not all details are ready to be shared yet.

We also intend to resume Pub of the Season (and subsequent Pub of the Year) awards within the branch, and were to have discussed this at our February branch meeting in Edwinstowe if it hadn't been cancelled due to bad weather.

We'll now discuss this at our March meeting and decide on the process we'll use. Options include having separate nominations for the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire parts of the branch (to then go forward to County-level competitions) and/or having separate Urban/Rural categories, allowing a wider range of factors to influence selections and levelling the playing field between pubs with greater and lesser footfall based purely on their locations.

Whatever process we take forward, for transparency and fairness, we want your participation – through beer scoring, and probably also in making any final selection(s) through a polling process to choose from a shortlist each time.

View From The Chair

I believe we've moved forward a lot in the past 6 months, but what do you think? We'd welcome your feedback – either in person at a branch meeting or social, or via email. Also, there's always more we'd like to be able to do, so we'd welcome your suggestions on where to focus our efforts.

Some of the ideas we've proposed at meetings are below – but we're happy to consider others.

- Survey trips to pubs/areas around the branch – car shares/minibus taxis to drop off/pick up
 - Collaboration on activities with neighbouring branches
 - Social trips outside the branch area – maybe one per quarter – perhaps on a weekend
 - Brewery visits and/or Beer Festival trips
- (Some of these would have a cost, with bookings and deposits etc., to ensure financial viability.)

Please email any feedback or suggestions to chair@mansfield.camra.org.uk

Could you get involved?

We've struggled to fill some essential positions on our committee since the branch re-formed, so to cover key responsibilities most of us have now taken on multiple roles. Personally, in addition to being Chair, I've also become the Clubs Coordinator (where I know there's a lot of work needed) and I'm Brewery Liaison Officer for one of the breweries based in our area too. I'm also involved in other tasks such as producing our branch communications, planning our socials and looking into how the branch can deliver beer festivals and other events – but not everyone has as much spare time as I do, so I'd also stress that we have roles within the branch that need enthusiasm rather than a significant time commitment, and some can be done in as little or as much time as you want to give.

Our next AGM will be in July – the exact date TBC – so if you think you might be able to offer some of your time, please consider coming along and putting yourself forward to join us on the committee. Of course, we'd be happy to see you before then too, at a meeting or social – so do please come along and introduce yourself. You'll be very welcome...and you'll probably also enjoy yourself!

Would you like to support our activities?

Please get in touch if you are a pub company, publican, brewer, or similar business operating locally and would like to keep CAMRA updated on your activities and any changes, share press releases with us, or provide content for us to share with our members.

Also, if you would also like to support any of the activities we are organising, or if you would like to advertise in our newsletter or otherwise help defray some of the costs associated with producing it so that we can print more copies or enhance the format of the printed edition, please let us know. Since we don't currently have a specific contact, please email chair@mansfield.camra.org.uk.

Thank you.

Karl

**Advertise
your pub or
business in
Pints of View**

**Contact us for prices and
requirements.**

Final Friday @ 5

March's outing is a week early to avoid the bank holiday weekend.

March FF@5
23rd March, 5pm
South Normanton

The Villager
The School House
The Market Tavern
The Clock

Final Friday @ 5



Details of our April social are in the Branch Diary section below; later months will be added to our website Branch Diary page and social media.

Newsletters on the Website

The newsletter page of the website has been redesigned to give it a 'magazine-stand' look, making it easier to see what issue of Pints of View or any of our neighbouring branch's newsletters are available. The re-established North Notts Drinker can now be downloaded and all archived copies of Ale and Apple are also available to read.

Are you hearing from us?

Members must opt to receive emails from the branch for us to be able to contact them all, but around 200 members in our branch haven't yet done so. To opt in, go to the Members' Area on the national CAMRA website, click 'Edit Membership Details' then login, then against 'Marketing Preferences' make sure the slider against 'Branch' and 'I wish to be contacted' is green under 'Email.' (Note that for a joint membership, only the original email will receive communications.)

Good Beer Guide 2024

The 2024 edition of the Good Beer Guide is still available through the branch. Contact gbgsales@mansfield.camra.org.uk where they can be bought for £13, or why not come to one of our branch meetings and buy one for just £12.



Branch Role Vacancies

Two vacancies within the branch are Cider Representative and Young Members Contact. Do you think you could do one of these roles? Contact the branch or come along to one of our meetings.

Scoring Beer

The Beer Scoring page on the website now has a link to a poster promoting scoring real ale that can be downloaded and printed out. Scoring beer is essential in selecting entries for the Good Beer Guide or Pub of the Season/Year so why not help your local real ale pub get noticed. Don't know how to score? The page also has a step-by-step guide on how to do it.

Branch History

We are trying to document the history of the branch for our 'About Us' page of the website. If you have any knowledge of the branch throughout its 30 or so years please contact us.

Local breweries up for sale or closed

Along with the news of Moody Fox Brewing ceasing production (see the brewery news page), the new year hasn't been a good time for brewery news in neighbouring branches either. In North Notts, Maypole Brewery of Eakring has announced its intention to sell the brewery. RuRad reported that Matlock Brewing Company has closed due to retirement and the Old Sawley Brewing Company has ceased trading.

King's Clipstone Brewery has also announced its kit had been sold to a brewery in Aberystwyth.

The Regent, Kirkby

We understand new owners will be taking over the JD Wetherspoon pub which has been up for sale since last year, but we have no further details at the moment.

White Swan, Pleasley

The White Swan, Pleasley now have cask ale on the bar - the first was Hobgoblin Gold.

Horse and Groom, Linby

The Horse and Groom at Linby has reopened after a period of closure stretching back in the Autumn. On the bar is Castle Rock Harvest Pale, Titanic Plum Porter and Marston's Pedigree.

Stag & Pheasant, Mansfield

The Stag & Pheasant's Ale Champion recently reported that their real ale sales have more than doubled in recent months, to now selling over 1000 pints per week. They have 3 regular and 4 changing ales, many of which are from local brewers. Pop in and sample a few during their next Ale Festival - Wednesday 6th to Sunday 17th March

Pheasant Inn, Mansfield

A planning application has been submitted to change the former Pheasant Inn on Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield to a Class-E business - this could include shops, eateries or business premises.

Widow Frost, Mansfield

Widow Frost, the former JD Wetherspoon pub on Leeming Street, Mansfield reopened on Friday 15th December. A Saturday afternoon visit saw a Nottingham Brewery trio on the bar: Robin Hood, Rock and EPA. The EPA was very good and a quick chat with the barman suggests there might be a constantly changing beer selection. Other changes to the pub include adding a pool table and piped or live music. Unfortunately, visits after Christmas have seen all pump clips turned around and no real ale available.

Pickled Pear, Palterton

Just outside of the branch, the new year saw the announcement of a new MicroPub in Palterton - it's first in many years. Named the Pickled Pear and housed in a former Post Office which was built in the early 1900's and then converted for residential use around 1960. Thanks to Chesterfield CAMRA for letting us use their photo - please visit their website for a larger feature ahead of the full opening. We look forward to visiting in the near future.



Christmas Social

Saturday 30th December saw the branch Christmas social in Mansfield and the first since it was reformed. Four pubs in and around the town centre were chosen, starting at the Railway Inn on Station Street. Not only is the pub near to the railway station (as you would imagine from the name) but the pub is also close to the bus station, making an ideal first stop however you arrive in town. The ex-Bateman's hostelry features a cosy, central bar with two smaller rooms if you fancy a quieter pint. Well-priced, home-cooked food is available. The pub has LocAle status, and on the bar during our visit were Welbeck White Stag, Woodforde's Albion, Dancing Duck Abduction and Full Mash Apparition; three of which are within the distance to qualify for the award.



Chairs of M&A, North Notts and Erewash Branches

From the Railway, a fairly short walk away from the town centre brings you to Prior's Well Brewery Tap, housed in the former Mansfield Brewery. The pub features a large modern and airy open interior with industrial fittings and lots of decorative lighting. The brewing equipment can be seen through a glass panel behind the bar. Prior's Well unsurprisingly holds LocAle accreditation and three of the six hand pulls featured their own beers: Priory Gold, Citra and Best. The remaining three were Theakston Old Peculiar, Ossett Nervous Turkey and Dancing Duck Christmas Quakers. After a long period of closure in 2022 and 2023, it was good to see the venue open again and busy as ever.

Our next stop, at the other end of Great Central Road, was the Brown Cow. The once Raw Brewery pub is now co-owned with Everards under their 'Project William' scheme. The large interior comprises two areas served from a central bar with another large room on a lower level to the left of the building. There is also a beer garden to the rear. Like Priors Well, it features a modern décor with plenty of exposed ironwork in the bar. The Brown Cow took 1st place in last years multi-branch Winter Ale Trail and the certificate is proudly displayed behind the bar. The line-up on the day was Neptune Brewery Galene, North Riding Riwaka, Welbeck Abbey Cocoa Noel, Anarchy Brew Co. Citra Star, Woodforde's Winter Reserve, Small World Long Moor Pale, Ashover Galaxy, Brunswick Last Orders and Everard's Tiger and Mirage.



Some of the group at Prior's Well

Returning to the town centre, our last call as a group was The Garrison on Leeming Street. This was the only Micropub on our trail, but what it may lack in size it makes up for in beer choice, featuring six ales alongside a selection of key keg. On the bar were Bristol Beer Factory Fortitude and Daydreamin', Thornbridge Makeney, Arbor ZZ Hop, Black Iris Rise & Shine and Shiny Five Star Man.

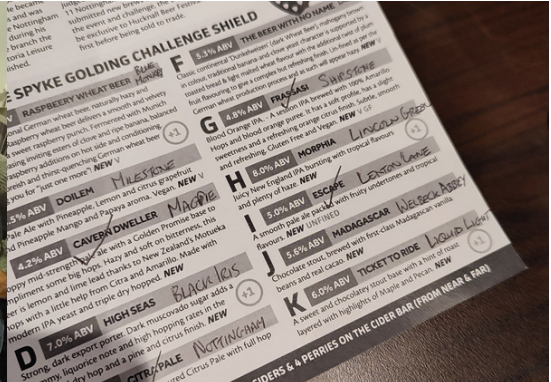
Not only did we see a good turnout from within the branch, members from neighbouring branches were also in attendance which was great to see. Thanks to those that came along. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all with great beer on offer from the pubs we visited. We're always planning the next outing and hope to see you there.

Hucknall Beer Festival 2024

There's always something comforting about the timing of Hucknall Beer Festival. Maybe it feels like a reward for surviving the never-ending month of January. Maybe it's because it breaks up the otherwise bleak month of February. Whatever it is, it feels just right. Over the course of the weekend, committee and branch members travelled down to the John Godber Centre to sample the hundred or so beers and ciders that were on offer. Many local breweries were featured as well as some further afield that you might not see so often, such as Crossbay Brewing Co of Morecombe and Wantsum Brewery, Kent. Thursday evening and Friday saw voting for the 'Spyske Golding Trophy' take place. This year, eleven breweries entered a new beer - never sold before on trade - with only tasting notes and the ABV available to view. The winner, judged by public vote and announced on Saturday lunchtime, was Lenton Lane with their Escape Pale Ale - described as 'smooth and packed with fruity undertones and tropical flavours'. All of the competition beers that were tried proved to be very popular and we all agreed the winner was excellent - congratulations to Lenton Lane! Both Friday and Saturday sessions were incredibly busy, which was great to see and proves the demand for real ale and cider is as strong as ever. Thanks to everyone involved in putting on the festival and making it free to all - I hope it encouraged inquisitive drinkers to come along and give real ale and cider a try. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we look forward to returning next year. The event also raises money for charity, so that's certainly something to drink to!



Branch members enjoying the beer



The breweries are revealed



Some of the 80 odd beers available



Committee members, old and new

Final Friday @ 5



Final Friday @ 5

The last Friday of January saw the introduction of our regular social - Final Friday @ 5. Sutton was chosen for the first outing where the Picture House and FireRock were visited. We chose Kirkby for February, starting at the Dandy Cock, then moving on to the Dog House and finally The Regent. Both evenings saw a good attendance and great beer was enjoyed along the way. March takes us to South Normanton where we plan to visit four pubs - starting at The Villager before moving on to The School House, The Clock and The Market Tavern.



Ales at the Dandy Cock

Keep an eye on our regular lines of communication to see where our socials are taking us next and come along and say Hi - we'd love to see you.

We're also looking at adding some bus route information to future socials to help make it easier to plan your trip, should you wish to come along.

Aither Brewery at The Red Lion

On Monday 26th February, the Red Lion at Ripley hosted Scott from Aither Brewery of Mansfield Woodhouse as part of their regular meet-the-brewer nights. Scott talked about his brewing history, including his time at Batemans and how Aither Brewery came to be. He explained the brewing process, passing round ingredients used for us all to see, smell and taste. We also got the opportunity to ask him any questions we had, including how the brewery tap is coming along - more on that next issue. On the bar were three of his beers: Equinox - a very drinkable 3.8% session pale, Artemis, a 4.0% amber ale, and Sirius, a 4.2% pale. Attendees agreed all three beers were exceptional and look forward to trying the rest of the range. Thanks to Scott for coming along, Andrew Brett for organising the evening and the Red Lion for hosting. We'll advise of any similar forthcoming events via our usual channels.



Scott and his beers



Scott explains the brewing process

Forthcoming Amber Valley and Newark visits to our area

Amber Valley are visiting the branch on the 9th of March for their 'Social Pub Walk', starting in the Brown Cow around 1pm.

Newark CAMRA Wanderers are also visiting Mansfield on 13th April, arriving around midday and visiting Railway Inn, Prior's Well, Brown Cow, Stag & Pheasant and Garrison.

We plan to meet up with both groups and welcome anyone else who would like to come along. We'll update our social media to keep everyone informed of where we are on each day.

Beer Scoring

Do you score your beers? It's important – and here's why...

All CAMRA members can score beers they drink in any pub in any branch on a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 means no real ale available and 5 represents a rarely-achieved level of excellence, recording scores to CAMRA's National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) through GoodBeerGuide.org.uk or WhatPub.com – both of which use members' CAMRA login details. If people use any other app (such as Untappd) to score beers, be aware that's a personal record only and scores do NOT update CAMRA's NBSS data.

Each branch can access recorded scores in NBSS for all venues in their area at any time, and use them as factors in selecting their Pub of the Season (PotS) and Pub of the Year (PotY) as well as their candidates and reserves for potential inclusion in the Good Beer Guide (GBG) each year.

In our branch, we use all beer scoring data since the previous year's analysis and a combination of several factors to get a balanced view. Our criteria are that a pub needs at least a set number of scores, from a set minimum number of different scorers, and an average beer score of 3 or above in the current period, so that overall, beers in that pub have had an average rating of good or better.

If there are enough pubs with scores meeting the set criteria, the process is largely automated as a tool provided by CAMRA HQ does the analysis and flags which ones qualify, so it's then a simple task of ranking them to determine GBG candidates and reserves to fill the branch allocation. If insufficient pubs meet all three criteria automatically, discussion and voting within the committee will decide the remainder – with beer quality through available scores remaining a key factor.

For Mansfield & Ashfield CAMRA branch in the current review period, the position was as below:

*Includes scores of '0' – no real ale available	No. of scorers	No. of scores	No. of Pubs
Mansfield & Ashfield Scorers only	19	919	69
Total NBSS scores from all members/all branches	70	1084	86
Percentage from Mansfield & Ashfield Scorers	27.14%	84.78%	80.23%

Those 1084 scores represent a slight increase on the number of scores last year, but the concern is that only 19 (of our roughly 650) branch members contributed, which equates to only about 3% of our membership being actively engaged in scoring beers – and of those, 4 people only scored once!

We need to understand why members aren't currently scoring their beers and try to get more people to score beers from now on, so this piece is to draw attention to the issue. Are members unaware of or lacking confidence in using the scoring system, is it a technology issue around the use of devices, apps and/or websites, or is it simply apathy?

We're willing to help – in fact, we already record scores for some members who aren't comfortable using technology and prefer to just hand over paper records of their scores to be input – and we can also try to advise and educate people in our newsletters, via our social media channels or by email, or even demonstrate how to submit scores at branch meetings and our monthly social events, so there are options we can try.

Pubs can help too – by downloading, printing and displaying the poster on the next page, encouraging CAMRA members to score their beers from the 'Beer Scoring and GBG Nominations' page on our website, where you'll also find other useful information including links to helpful videos on beer scoring.

If you have suggestions on how best to encourage branch members to promote and do beer scoring, or if you'd like more information or have any questions, email me at chair@mansfield.camra.org.uk

CAMRA member?

Please score your beer in this pub

Scoring your beer helps to

- monitor beer quality in pubs
- identify pubs for the *Good Beer Guide*

- 0** No cask beer available.
- 1 Poor.** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2 Average.** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
- 3 Good.** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

- 4 Very Good.** Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- 5 Perfect.** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Score your beer today at
WhatPub.com or use the
Good Beer Guide
web app by visiting
goodbeerguide.org.uk



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Real Ale





Ginger Giraffe Micro Pub and Gin Bar, Underwood

Welcome to a new regular feature highlighting a dog-friendly pub, in or around our branch, with a good walk from the door and great beer at the end. The branch has an abundance of scenic countryside with Sherwood Forest and the Dukeries to name just some of the highlights. Nothing beats a nice pint (or two) at the end of a good walk, so lace up your boots and enjoy what our branch has offer.

Length - 5.2 mi (8.5 km) or 3.5 mi (5.6 km)

Terrain - A short section of roadway with pavement, single track lanes and undulating, well-made bridle paths.

In this issue, we're out at the western fringes of the branch, walking from the Ginger Giraffe Micro Pub at Underwood, along country lanes, before following an undulating bridle path around the fringes of Morning Spring Wood. With the continuing unsettled weather, a walk along good tracks beats sliding around in mud, though I cant guarantee your dog will stay clean! The walk can be shortened by parking at the south end of Felley Mill Lane North which cuts out the road and lane parts of the walk. It's then a short drive back to the Ginger Giraffe afterwards.



Route

From the Ginger Giraffe, head southwest along the A608 for 250 yards until you come to the junction with Felley Mill Lane South before turning east along the lane (1). Continue until the end where the lane meets Felley Mill Lane North then turn right and head South (2). Upon passing the barrier, continue for approx. 200yds, then at the open area (3), turn left and head northeast. Continue along this track heading for the tree line in the distance. Once at the top, you might want to rest a moment on the bench and enjoy the view back towards Underwood (4). Continuing along the track, pass America Farm before crossing the M1. After another 400 yards, turn right at the junction (5) and head along Kennel Lane. The lane twists and turns, passing houses and through a steel gate before straightening out and continuing south with the M1 parallel to your right. After 0.9 miles the path arrives at a junction (6). Take the right path and then right again continuing under the M1 and heading west. Follow this path for 1 mile which will bring you back to point 3. From here, retrace your steps along both Felley Mill Lane North and South back to the A608 before turning right at point 1 back to the Ginger Giraffe.

Trail and Ale strolls with Duggie

The Ginger Giraffe Micro Pub & Gin Bar, to give it its full name, is situated just off the busy A608/B600 junction, around a mile and a half from Junction 27 of the M1. You might have seen the large giraffe in the garden as you've passed but not noticed the pub behind. It's not the place you would expect a micropub to be, being less like the kind we've come to expect on the high street and more like the frontage for a microbrewery, tucked away out of sight, perhaps.

Housed in an old factory unit, the bar is large for a micropub and extends into a second room complete with a pool table. The space is light and uncluttered, featuring comfortable leather seating and lots of exposed wood. The giraffe isn't the only oddity - look out for the life-size statue of Elvis Presley and the Scalextric set on the ceiling!

It was nice to see a warm welcome on arrival from both the landlord and clients enjoying a lunchtime pint. The conversation went from pubs to football to dogs and dog walks - Duggie's favourite subject!

On the bar are three hand pulls which on my visit comprised Castle Rock Elsie Mo, Titanic Plum Porter and an IPA named after the pub. I like a Plum Porter and the Elsie Mo was tempting but I thought I'd try the IPA and it was very welcome after the walk. I did ask the landlord but he couldn't recall where it was brewed. To accompany the ale is a range of spirits, attractively shelved behind the bar to show off the large choice available. It is a micropub *and* gin bar after all!

The pub hosts regular live music which is advertised on its Facebook page and screens live football making it a great venue, whether you're in the mood for music, sport or just a comfy pint.

I certainly look forward to returning with Duggie for another pint in the future - hopefully with less mud along the way!

Kirsten

**14-15 Alfreton Rd,
Underwood,
Nottingham.
NG16 5GB**

Opening Hours

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 12-9pm
Wednesday - 12-9pm
Thursday - 12-9pm
Friday - 12-Late
Saturday - 12-Late
Sunday - 12-Late



RAIL ALE 2024

Tickets on sale NOW

MAY

16TH 17TH 18TH

The advertisement features a purple background. On the left, there is a black steam train, a glass of beer, and a microphone. On the right, there is a large black circle with the text 'Tickets on sale NOW' and three white cards with the dates '16TH', '17TH', and '18TH' on them. The word 'MAY' is written in large white letters at the top right.

Adopt-A-Pub (or Club) to help us to help you

Have you used CAMRA's Good Beer Guide web app or WhatPub.com to find nearby real ale pubs, only to discover that the information you'd relied on from them wasn't accurate?

All the information (on over 50,000 venues, including over 30,000 serving real ale) that underpins those tools is maintained by volunteers in individual CAMRA branches – and that's not an easy task when you have hundreds of venues across a large area, with a small number of volunteers trying to visit as many pubs as they can in their spare time to review and update branch pub records.

This is where we really need your help, as we know that as a consequence of our branch being dormant until fairly recently, we have a lot of catching up to do updating our records. Anyone can help us to do this – public and publicans – you don't even need to be a CAMRA member.

WhatPub.com should have a record for all pubs and clubs in the branch area – and the easiest way to advise of changes to the details for an existing entry is to scroll down to the 'Fill in the feedback form' link at the bottom of the venue's entry and add your updated information. It will recognise you if you're a logged-in CAMRA member, but if not, you'll need to add a valid email address to submit your proposed change. The change isn't immediate – your submission goes to the relevant branch committee member for them to review and update, which is done as soon as possible after receipt.

If there isn't a WhatPub entry – for example if a new venue opens up – then please send an email to pubs@mansfield.camra.org.uk or clubs@mansfield.camra.org.uk as applicable and we'll contact the venue to get the information needed to create and add their WhatPub entry.

For Mansfield & Ashfield branch, we're particularly keen to hear as soon as possible about new premises opening and whether they serve real ales – and about any pub closures, and we will always try to include those in 'Pub News' in our branch newsletter and elsewhere.

For existing premises – if there's a pub, club or even several sets of premises in an area that you use regularly, could you perhaps volunteer to 'Adopt' them and act as their local contact, passing on any updates and changes to us through the channels described above? If so, we'd love to hear from you.



All change at the Bull & Butcher, Selston

Lorraine and Martin Pearson took over management of the Bull & Butcher on 22nd February.

They've previously run 3 pubs in the Nottingham area (The Nags Head at East Leake and The Keyworth Tavern, both to the south, and the Waggon and Horses in Redhill to the north) so they bring with them many years of experience in hospitality and with cask ales.

Three Pheasantry ales were on the bar when I visited – Best, Pale and Excitra – but they will be varying the line-up with a mix of breweries and beers at any one time going forward. In the cellar were three from Dancing Duck (Ay Up, Dark Drake and Abduction) and three from Blue Monkey (BG Sips Pale Ale, Infinity IPA and Guerilla Stout) with Thornbridge Jaipur also on the way, so they already look like getting LocAle accreditation soon! They also plan to have a real cider on within a week or so.

All 3 of their previous pubs served at least 3 changing ales, and that will be the case at Bull & Butcher too – and they plan to promote it. Not only is there already a collector's card offering a free pint for every eight stamps earned from cask ale, but also 15p off a pint for card carrying members.





Beermats Brewery

Following the mothballing of Gregg's Brewery at the Dambusters Inn, Scampton, Beermats is brewing 'Dambusters Ale' as a regular beer for the pub, from its original recipe.



Two Matts Brewing

Two Matts Brewing have recently announced they have trialled canning their beers. We'll bring you news of when full production goes ahead and where you can purchase them.



Moody Fox Brewery

Dan Moody of Moody Fox Brewery has contacted us to say that the brewery has now ceased trading after a year of sporadic brewing. The Garrison is unaffected by the closure.



Black Market Brewery launched a new beer back in February named Anarchy - a 5.1% double dry-hopped IPA. We hope it'll be on the bar when we visit for our branch meeting in April.



FireRock Brewing Co

The text for FireRock Brewing Co. for inclusion in the next Good Beer Guide has been updated to read: Now in it's 6th year, FireRock Brewing Co. is an independent Craft beer nano-brewery, bar and bottle shop creating small-batch modern beers with everything from hazy pales and classic bitters to pastry sours and imperial stouts. The 1bbl brew kit is housed inside the taproom bar with beers produced regularly in cask, keg and can. Real ales from other local breweries are regularly available. A good range of (often rare) spirits are also available. Regular live music is hosted on the stage, alongside occasional tap takeovers/meet-the-brewers, quizzes and charity events.



The Brown Cow will be hosting a Beer Festival on Friday 19th to Sunday 21st of April. Expect to see 20 real ales initially, with reserves to be added over the course of the event, plus 4 real ciders.

The beer list will also be available and kept updated on Untappd throughout the event. The usual selection of other draught beers, wines and spirits will also still be available, including three craft beers, 4 ciders (including fruit-flavoured) plus around 20 craft-distilled gins and rums.

Street food vendors will be on site throughout, and there'll be live entertainment each evening.

Look out for more details via the websites and social media for our branch and for the pub.

We'll have CAMRA volunteers at every session, so we hope to see you there!

7th - 9th March

17:30-23:00

West Bridgford Hockey Club
276 Loughborough Road
NG2 7FA

(Entrance to the right of the police station)

Everyone welcome
No entrance fee
No club membership
required!

18+


**WEST
BRIDGFORD
BEER
FESTIVAL**



Beer Festival Diary

Loughborough Beer Festival

Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th March 2024
The Polish Club, Loughborough

Rotherham Real Ale and Music Festival

Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th March 2024
Magna Science Centre, Rotherham

West Bridgford Beer Festival

Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th March 2024
West Bridgford Hockey Club

Wetherspoon Beer Festival

Wednesday 6th - Sunday 17th March 2024
Nationwide

Garrison Craft Beer Festival

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March 2024
Garrison, Mansfield

Black Iris Spring Bash

Friday 29th - Sunday 31st March 2024
Black Iris Brewery

Brown Cow Beer Festival

Wednesday 19th - Sunday 21st April 2024
Brown Cow, Mansfield

Mallard St. George's Beer Festival

Thursday 25th - Monday 29th April 2024
Station approach, Worksop

Pavilion Beer Festival

Thursday 2nd May - Monday 6th May 2024
Pavilion, Mansfield

Rail Ale

Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th May 2024
Barrow Hill, Chesterfield

Newark Beer Festival 2024

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th May 2024
Castle Grounds, Newark

Lincoln 41st Beer Festival

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th May
The Drill, Lincoln

Branch Diary

Branch Socials

FF@5 - South Normanton
Friday 22nd March, 5pm
Start at The Villager

FF@5 - Mansfield
Friday 26th April, 5pm
Start at Stella Taps

May TBC - See website or socials.

Branch Meetings

Monday 11th March 2024, 8pm
Greyhound, Mansfield Woodhouse

Thursday 4th April 2024, 8pm
Black Market Venue, Warsop

Thursday 9th May 2024, 8pm
Red Lion, Underwood

Brewery Liaison Officers

Aither Brewery

Dick Dawson

Beermats Brewing Company

Allister Ferguson (Newark Branch)

Black Market Brewery

Royce Holmes

Fireless Brewing Co

Richard Coleman

Priors Well Brewery

Dick Dawson

Reckless Dweeb Brew Co

Andy Sales (Nottingham Branch)

The Scruffy Dog

Royce Holmes

Two Matts Brewing

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Real ale is just the start...

Our story is your story.
So join us in supporting
everything from pubs and
drinkers rights, to licensees
and breweries, uniting us
in the story we all love.

To thank you for being a hero
in our story, you receive great
membership benefits, such as
£30 of beer vouchers, quarterly
BEER magazine, access to the
online news platform **What's
Brewing**, partner **benefits and
discounts...** just a few perks
of joining us.

Join the CAMRA story
camra.org.uk/join



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Real stories, real people, **real ale**

