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Winter 2023-24 - Iss. 56

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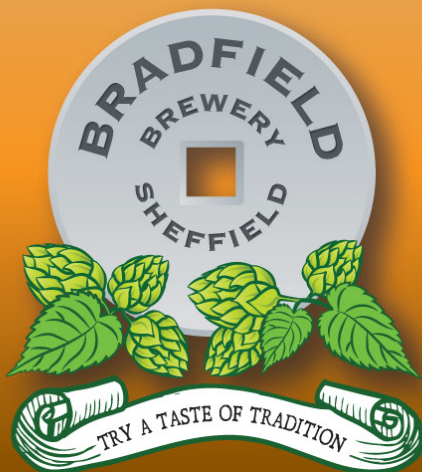
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Rotherham CAMRA

A note from the Chairman

There's lots to enjoy in Rotherham this winter at pubs and music venues. Join us at the next Mallard Beer Festival, and CAMRA's Great British Beer Festival in February 2024. Stay warm this winter and enjoy the season with a pint.

Steve Burns



stephenburns1@sky.com

A note from the Editor

Celebrate and enjoy real ale with this winter edition of *Inn Touch*. Keep up with the latest pub news from Paul Redfern and music scene from Mick Hill. Don't miss the Christmas quiz and our terrible Christmas cracker jokes. More to unwrap inside.

Sam Warburton



samwarburton.contentcreator@gmail.com

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Find out more!

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Graeme Manning



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Wed evenings: General Knowledge
Thurs evenings: Music Quiz



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Photos by Graeme Manning.





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Pub scene

What's happening with pubs in Rotherham



By Paul Redfern

The Homestead on Wickersley Road is now being run by Joe Walker, one time manager of the Charter Arms in its heyday. More emphasis has been placed on the real ale offering with two changing ales and a cider usually

available. Joe is encouraging customers to choose the real ales from a list, and they are available at a reduced rate on Tuesdays. The pub now has more of a community feel with weekly activities and food is, of course available.

Over in Rawmarsh, The Rawmarsh Tap micropub opened on October 18th in a former shop unit on Kilnhurst Road. In spite of the sign, no real ale is available at the time of opening. Some craft keg is offered, and it opens noon to 10.30pm daily. Also, in Rawmarsh, the recently reopened Earl Grey is planning to introduce

a changing real ale to the bar. Another microbar is planning to open in late November. The Yellow Broom is in a former shop unit on High Street, Bramley. The brainchild of three mates, it will be selling two cask beers and seven on keg. These will be sourced independently in general. There will be a range of other drinks available too. A licence application has been made for a further micropub, this time on Laudsale Road, East Herringthorpe.

It may soon all be happening in Dinnington. The only known sources of real ale there are Ye Olde Village Club, a members' club offering one changing cask beer and the Venus Restaurant.

A site on Laughton Road is currently being refurbished by two CAMRA members and is available for use as a micropub. The owners do not have the time to run it themselves, so are looking for someone keen to take on the project. If anyone fancies taking it on, please contact: debfielding@hotmail.com. Also, in Dinnington, the Squirrel looks as though it will be reopening as a pub, some three years after closure. The new owner plans to target it as a community and

family friendly pub. There is also talk of a microbrewery opening in the township. Attempts to find out more about this venture have so far drawn a blank. Any information welcome.

The Masons Arms at Thorpe Hesley has reopened under new tenants. It is believed to still be selling real ale and makes a little circuit with the Red Lion and the Horse & Tiger.

Over in Swinton, the Bank Coffee Bar in the former Station pub premises beside the station has now become the Bank Bar & Bistro. No real ale is served but it does have a range of drinks and food available. There is also a running board for live train departures.

Up the road, the frontage and outside area of the Rockingham Tap have been altered. It continues to sell a changing real ale from the nearby Gorilla Brewery. The application to convert the Kings Head, opposite into housing, was refused. As we went to press, we received the news that Sam Smith's Brewery are refurbishing the Royal Oak at Ulley, closed for the last four years, and plan to reopen it under new management before Christmas.



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Mallard Beer Festival Worksop

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1st - 5th Feb 2024



By Graeme Manning

Another great day at the popular Mallard (Halloween) beer festival Worksop. A great job as always. Here are a few photos from the day (see more on our Facebook).

Rotherham CAMRA love this beer festival and attend four times a year. It's hosted at the Mallard pub at the station in Worksop, a

small, friendly pub. The pub is the site of the of the old refreshment facility at Worksop station, a restored Victorian Station.

The Pub is run by Wayne Cadman and is often helped out by members of North Notts CAMRA when the festivals are run. Both are very good friends of Rotherham CAMRA. During the festivals, they open the cellar which doubles the size of the event. The bars are upstairs and downstairs.

The next festival will be Feb 1st to the 5th 2024, open each day from 12.00pm. Come along with us. Rotherham CAMRA usually attend on Thursdays during the Mallard festivals.

Inn Touch





Rail Ale Festival and Chesterfield

First published on Micropub Adventures Blog



Text & photos by Scott Spencer.
Visit: [MicropubAdventures.co.uk](https://micropubadventures.co.uk)

A note from the Editor

In the last issue of *Inn Touch*, we included a Micropub Adventures blog post where Scott Spencer came to Rotherham - woohoo! Take a look at his blog (link above) to see more adventures



/ recommendations from Scott. If you can, buy him a pint on his next adventure. Here's an account of a trip to Rail Ale Festival and Chesterfield in 2022.

Rail Ale Festival

Trip over to Chesterfield today for the yearly Rail Ale Festival held at Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Hosting over 350 beers, live music, food stalls and train rides. Chesterfield

is home to the Crooked Spire. The lead tiles used to cover the spire's timbers (over 32 tonnes of lead tiles) created such a heavy weight that the timbers simply couldn't bear the strain, and twisted alarmingly.

On arriving at Chesterfield Train Station, a free bus runs to the festival.

After getting into the festival and buying beer tokens, time to explore the many bars around the venue (including brewery bars from Ossett, Salt, and Thornbridge amongst others). Lots of food stalls, live music with bands throughout the afternoon, and free train rides were also included. Great festival with lots to do!

Pig & Pump

Next to head back to Chesterfield with a very lively singalong on the free bus back, and walk up



into town. First call being the Pig & Pump (formerly known as the White Swan).

Great range of nine guest ales available here along with two Lilleys Ciders. Went with a beer from Tempest Brewery (Galashiels) named Golden Hour. A really delicious and smooth golden ale.

The Market Pub

Heading through the market next onto the Market Pub. Very busy pub as was nearly full inside when we entered.

Another good selection of real ales here with eight available along with two ciders and a fridge full of cans to choose from. Probably one of the last beers around from recently closed Kelham Island Brewery aswell.



Chesterfield Alehouse

A walk down to West Bars next to visit Chesterfield Alehouse, which has been open since 2013 in an old shop unit.

A great selection of both cask and keg beers here, and lots to choose from, including bottles of Belgian beers and local cider.

Junction

Last call of the day was to Junction, just a few minutes walk away from Chesterfield Alehouse.

Range of four cask ales available here, from Nottingham, Birmingham and Yorkshire. Went with 'Primape' from Blue Monkey Brewery in the end. Really great tasting bitter.

Next to the Junction is an old gateway, chains used to be drawn across the road to stop traffic to allow trains to cross from the Brewery Sidings to the Gas Works.





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Pint & Plectrum

Mick Hill's take on Rotherham's music scene



By Mick Hill

Another fantastic gig and a great night out for the Chantry Brewery lads; it was off to Sheffield City Hall to see two legendary bands from the 80s - The Christians and Level 42.

Having had the albums for years of both bands, it took more than 45 years to actually see them both live and we weren't disappointed. They were both amazing, playing their hits from their back catalogue.

On the local scene, a great young band called Raw Honey are doing very well and played a blinding set at Chantry Brewery Tap Bar, which had a great review in the local Advertiser. Well done to them! Also, an original band called Fable X had a great night at the Brewery, pulling a great crowd in.

Talking of original local bands, we have the fantastic Alvarez

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Kings playing the Brewery Tap in December which is almost sold out. Just goes to show what musical talent we have in Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

Another local band, The Reytons have announced they're playing Clifton Park in 2024 with an expected 20000 people attending, which should be an amazing event for the town of Rotherham. A few years ago, we did a festival in Clifton Park with one stage on the bandstand and another in the walled garden, which had some fantastic bands on including Goat Leaf, Haze, and Lesoir all the way from Holland who are set to play Chantry brewery Tap Parkgate Rotherham in 2024. There were

over two to three thousand people watching bands throughout that hot summer day. It wasn't T.Rex who was the last to perform in Clifton Park, it was Slamfest, and what a festival it was put together on a shoestring budget. Ha ha, rock n roll Rotherham!

Keep supporting live music. Venues need you, so check out local gigs around Rotherham.





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Christmas Crackers

Really bad jokes you'll wish you hadn't read

Illustration above by Rebecca Warburton

What do snowmen eat for Christmas?

Ice cookies

What do you call a child who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing, it was on the house

Who is never hungry at Christmas?

The turkey - he's always stuffed

Which of Santa's friends is the most chilled?

Jack Frost

What was Santa's favourite subject in school?

Chemis-tree

What's as big as a Christmas tree but lighter than a feather?

A shadow

How do you get Christmas trees ready for a night out?

They get spruced up

Who delivers Christmas presents to sharks?

Santa Jaws

Which one of Santa's elves has the best dance moves?

Dancer

What athlete is warmest in winter?

A long jumper

Why can't penguins fly?

Because they're not tall enough to be pilots

How do Christmas trees get their emails?

They log-on

Why doesn't Santa go to the hospital?

He has private elf care

What would you give your dog for Christmas?

A mobile bone

What does one Christmas tree say to another?

Lighten up

Why is a foot a good Christmas present?

Because it makes a good stocking filler

What do snowmen call their offspring?

Chill-dren

How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

He was hooked on trees his whole life



Caption this!

Illustrated by Beck Warburton





Pub Quiz

Pst! Answers at the back of this magazine.

20 Christmas Questions

1. Which country would you be in if you were served Christmas damper, in a wreath or star shape, served with butter, jam, honey or golden syrup?
2. Which northern European country serves Æbleskiver, a traditional spherical pancake sprinkled with powdered sugar and served with raspberry or strawberry jam?
3. Christstollen is a traditional bread with bits of candied fruits, raisins, walnuts and almonds and spices from which country?
4. Which takeaway food is so popular in Japan at Christmas that it often has to be ordered weeks in advance?
a) Pizza b) Big Mac c) KFC
5. Allahabadi cake a traditional rum fruit cake is popular with Christians from which country?
6. Popular in the UK, this Christmas drink is made from apple cider, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg is known as what?
7. Richard Attenborough plays Kris Kringle in which 1994 Christmas movie?



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8. Which country likes to start the festive season with a warming glass of Bombardino, a mixture of brandy and advocaat?
9. Bounceberry is another name for which berry often made into a sauce to serve with turkey?
10. Port, a favourite Christmas drink, can sometimes form a crust which takes its name from the wing of which insect?
11. Traditionally what do you stud onions with in a bread sauce?
12. The cinnamon bread known as Kanellängd comes from which country?
13. A Christmas Couronne is a rich sweet bread and a speciality of Lyon. What does Couronne mean in English?
14. Babka, is a sweet braided bread or cake filled with a variety of sweet fillings such as chocolate, popular with which ethnoreligious group?
15. The Bellini cocktail was invented at Harry's Bar in which city?
16. What is a Buche de Noel better known as in the UK?
17. Which 1993 Christmas film follows the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloweentown's pumpkin king?
18. Which Christmas film begins with David (played by Hugh Grant) commenting that whenever he feels gloomy about the world, he thinks about the arrivals terminal at Heathrow Airport?
19. Bill Murray plays successful TV executive Frank Cross in which modern take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?
20. Joe Pesci stars as 'Harry' and Daniel Stern is 'Marv' in which 1990 Christmas comedy caper produced by John Hughes?

Useful contacts

Travel information: travelsouthyorkshire.com

Rotherham Trading standards: rotherham.gov.uk/trading-standards

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Quiz answers

20 Christmas Questions

1. Australia
2. Denmark
3. Germany
4. c) KFC
5. India

6. Wassail
7. Miracle on 34th Street
8. Italy
9. Cranberry
10. Bee (Beeswing)

11. Cloves
12. Sweden
13. Crown
14. Jewish
15. Venice

16. Yule log
17. The Nightmare
Before Christmas
18. Love Actually
19. Scrooged
20. Home Alone

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Email Sam at
Sam Warburton.
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Photo credit: Daniel Thompson

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