

May 2022 Issue 146



CAMRA  
FOR  
REAL ALE

# InnSpire

THE MAGAZINE OF CHESTERFIELD AND  
DISTRICT CAMRA



Chesterfield District Pub of the Year 2022

## THE TUPTON TAP



INSIDE...

Town centre  
favourites

Durham galavant

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CAMRA discounts  
...and more!!!



**Chesterfield and District  
CAMRA**

**Chair** (Darren Siseman)

*chair@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*  
07790863432

**Secretary**

(Kat Morrow)

*secretary@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**Treasurer**

(Ian Lefley)

*treasurer@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**Membership Secretary**

(Steve Monaghan)

*membershipsecretary*  
*@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**Webmaster**

*webmaster*

*@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**Pub Preservation Officer**

*pubsofficer@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**WhatPub Coordinator**

(Val Ellis)

*whatpubcoordinator*  
*@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

**Cider & Perry**

(Kat Morrow)

*ciderandperry*  
*@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk*

Chesterfield and District CAMRA is a  
branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

*Campaign for Real Ale*  
230 Hatfield Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 4LW  
Telephone 01727 867201

*Fax 01727 867670*

*Email [camra@camra.org](mailto:camra@camra.org)*

*[www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk)*



**CAMPAIGN  
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branch.

## **A Word from the Chair**

*By the time you get to read this, we will have had an AGM. It may not seem long since the last one (October 2021) , but this is just the next step in getting back to 'normal' after coming through a few difficult years for everyone.*

*You may well be reading this at the Rail Ale Festival. Whilst this is not an official CAMRA festival, it is supported by the branch, and you will see many familiar faces there. We will be hoping to have a festival at our usual time of the year next year, details will be announced over the coming months.*

*So until then Happy Drinking!*

**Darren Siseman**  
**Branch Chair**



**Please send any letters, pub news or articles  
to Nick James, the editor, at:  
[innspireeditor@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk](mailto:innspireeditor@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk)**

## **The next CAMRA BRANCH MEETING**

**Thursday 9 June 8pm: Speedwell Inn  
(Staveley) (to be confirmed)**

**Everyone is welcome!**

## **Pubs giving CAMRA discount and other loyalty type arrangements**

**Below is a list of pubs offering discount to CAMRA members and other types of loyalty arrangements. If you know of any we've not included please email us:**

[locale@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk](mailto:locale@chesterfieldcamra.co.uk)

**All Saints Tap** (Chesterfield): 15% discount with CAMRA membership card.

**Brimming with Beer** (Brimington): 50p per pint discount on cask beer for CAMRA members every Wednesday.

**Burlington** (Chesterfield). 20p per pint discount with CAMRA membership card.

**Crafty Dog** (Brampton): 20p per pint discount for CAMRA members, plus a free pint when they sign up for a loyalty card.

**Derby Tup** (Whittington Moor): 20p per pint, 10p per half, discount for card carrying CAMRA members.

**Glassworks** (Whittington Moor): beer of the week at £2.50.

**Hasland Club** (Hasland) CAMRA members get the same discount on Cask Ale as Club members.

**Jaceys** (Whittington Moor): 10p per pint, 5p per half, with current CAMRA membership card.

**Joiners Arms** (Bakewell): 40p per pint discount with either CAMRA card or Hulleys X70 bus ticket from Chesterfield.

**Lockoford Inn** (Tapton). 10% discount with CAMRA membership card.

**Nags Head** (Newbold): £2.30 per pint on Tuesday night; 15p per pint discount for CAMRA members.

**Ours** (Cresswell): buy a half, get it made up to a pint for free on production of CAMRA membership card.

**Peacock** (Brampton): 20p per pint discount on cask ales on Tuesdays.

**Pig and Pump** (Chesterfield): 10p per pint, 5p per half, discount for CAMRA members.

**Rectory** (Chesterfield): 20p per pint, 10p per half, discount with CAMRA membership card.

**Rykneild Turnpike** (Clay Cross): £2 per pint on selected ales and Stowford Press cider, also selected gins with a free measure of the house tonic on Tuesdays.

**Smithy Pond** (Wingerworth): 10% discount with CAMRA membership card.

**Tap House** (Brampton): Three real ales reduced to £2 per pint every Tuesday.



## LOCAL BREWS...

The Chesterfield CAMRA website contains a list of local pubs selling beer from in and around Chesterfield, at:

<https://www.chesterfield.camra.org.uk>

(click on 'LocAle' in the list on the left)

Many pubs were sold but then, in 2017, as previously mentioned, 1,900 were snapped up from Punch. Again there were disposals and the estate currently stands at 2,500.

Star vigorously promote their retail agreement scheme, Just Add Talent. In 2020, it was fined £2m for breaches of the Pubs Code (which we'll cover in a later article)

### **Greene King**

In 1995, Greene King was a long-established family brewer with 900 pubs, nearly all in East Anglia and the South-East. It then embarked on a ferocious acquisition trail, swallowing up many breweries (the likes of Morlands, Belhaven, Morrells and Hardy & Hanson) and other pub companies. GK itself is now owned by a billionaire Hong Kong property developer. It has some 3,100 pubs, restaurants and hotels, of which 1,200 are tenanted or leased. Its strategy seems to be to move in the managed direction and the 'Pub Ready' retail agreements are pushed hard. Greene King was once renowned for not letting other people's beers in its pubs but now has a more enlightened attitude.

### **Marston's**

The company was known as Wolverhampton & Dudley until 2007 when it rebranded as Marston's, one of the many breweries it had taken over in recent years. At that time, 2,500 pubs were owned but the total is now down to 1,400. The tenanted estate, in particular, has been reduced through sales such as 200 to New River in 2013 and 137 to Admiral in 2019. In late 2020, the company took on the running of 156 Brains pubs in Wales. Also that year, Marston's merged its brewing operations with Carlsberg but this does not directly affect the pub business.

### **Mitchells and Butlers**

Formed originally out of the old Bass estate, M&B have 1,650 pubs and restaurants. The multitudinous brands include Ember Inns, Toby Carveries, Nicholsons and All Bar One – as can be seen, the emphasis is on food. Pubs are mostly managed though around 50 are on a lease arrangement.

## J D Wetherspoon

Since opening its first pub in 1979, 'Spoons has expanded to 925 pubs and 50 hotels, all managed. Plans for 18 new pubs are in the pipeline,

## Wellington

Owned by the billionaire Reuben Brothers, the company leases all its 850 pubs on a free of tie basis.

## Chesterfield and District CAMRA

### District Pub of the Year 2022

#### THE TUPTON TAP

Congratulations to Charlie Yapp and his team at the Tupton Tap, Winners of the Branch District Area award, pictured here receiving their certificate at the recent presentation. A well attended event and deservedly so !



## Pub Companies – Who They Are and What They Do

### The Current Pub Company Scene

*This is the second in a series of articles that provide the facts on pub company practices and operations, explaining in particular how their business models work and what this means for both licensees and, ultimately, us as customers.*

A pub company is simply a company that owns pubs and there are literally hundreds of them, many with only a handful or even just one pub. We'll concentrate here, though, on the bigger companies who, between them, own over half the country's pubs.

#### Stonegate

Founded in 2010 with the purchase of 333 pubs from Mitchells & Butlers, Stonegate grew quite slowly over the next ten years, making a series of acquisitions including brands like Slug & Lettuce, Walkabout and Be At One, until its pub numbers totalled 765. All the pubs were managed houses. A seismic change came in 2020 when Ei Group was bought for £1.27bn, making Stonegate the largest pub company in the UK with 1,270 managed pubs and, as a result of the Ei purchase, 3,200 leased and tenanted businesses.

Ei itself had been founded, as Enterprise Inns, in 1991, initially with 333 pubs from Bass. The company built up its estate, gaining 2,200 pubs in batches by buying them from other companies or taking them over. In 2002, 1,864 pubs were bought from Whitbread and in 2004, 4,054 from Unique. By this time, it owned nearly 10,000 pubs and was in the FTSE 100 list of top companies. However, it was loaded with debt and the 2008 financial crash required a good deal of retrenchment. Ei also started building up its managed estate, including pubs on retail agreements under the Craft Union brand (we'll look at this operating model in the next article). By the time of the sale, it was down to fewer than 4,000 pubs.

## **Punch Taverns**

The first article included a brief history of Punch to illustrate the volatility around pubco development. In summary, it grew quickly to around 8,000 pubs, suffered under the crash, sold a lot of pubs including its managed division and was taken over in 2016. 1,900 pubs went to Heineken and 1,300 to Patron Capital, who retain the Punch brand. At takeover time, all pubs were leased or tenanted but it's also now pushing retail agreements (which it calls Management Partnerships). Some pubs were sold but in June 2021 it announced the purchase of Youngs' tenanted division, bringing the current total to 1,282.

## **Admiral Taverns**

Admiral was founded in 2003 by two families and grew quickly to 2,300 pubs by 2007. Many of these were 'bottom end' houses disposed of by other pub companies. The financial crash had the usual consequences for over-extended businesses and numbers were down to 1,700 by 2011 and continued to fall. By 2017 it was in the hands of Cerberus Capital Management who sold up to a joint venture by Magners cider-makers C&C Group and estate investor Proprium Capital Partners, by which time there were 845 pubs. The acquisition trail was hit in 2019 with 137 pubs coming from Marstons and 150 from Heineken. The big one arrived in July 2021 when Admiral bought 674 Hawthorn pubs from property firm New River taking the estate to over 1,500.

Admiral's pubs are all tenanted or leased and tend to be wet-led community operations. It has a relatively good reputation in the trade though there's certainly no aversion to flogging off pubs as 'development opportunities'.

## **Star Pubs & Bars**

In 1995, Scottish & Newcastle, one of the original 'Big Six' breweries, bought another of them, Courage, making the combined group Britain's biggest brewer. By 2011, the pub arm, then known as S&N Pub Co, had 1,500 tenanted pubs and 600 in management. Come 2008, Scottish Courage was gobbled up by international brewer Heineken and the pub business rebranded as Star Pubs & Bars.

## Delightful Durham

At the end of January four members of Chesterfield CAMRA travelled to Durham to sample the local hostleries. The journey didn't run smoothly. Four of the eight carriages had been left at Derby, including our reserved seats. We had to stand until Leeds when we were able to gain seats. On arrival at Durham station we had lost the paperwork with the planned visits and opening times. Fortunately they were found on the platform. We stopped at **The Waiting Room** for a drink and to discuss plans. Here we tried Firebrick Brewery's *Trade Star* (4.2%) amber ale and *Pagan Queen* (4.0%) blonde. We then initially walked the wrong way but eventually reached our hotel.

Our first visit was to **The Swan and Three Cygnets** on Elvet Bridge over the River Wear. This is a Sam Smiths Inn so we drank *Old Brewery Bitter* (4.0%). Then on to **The Victoria Inn**, a grade 2 listed Victorian Inn that has changed little since it was built in 1899. We did like the open coal fires and character décor. Durham Brewery *Dark Angel* (4.3%) and *Hey Mandarin* (3.9%) were tried here. Now on our way back we called in at **The City Hotel**. They only had national standard ales on so we quickly moved on to **The Half Moon Inn** next door. Here we drank *St Austell Tribute* (4.2%). Next we visited **The Dun Cow**, another grade 2 listed building and apparently the most haunted in Durham. Here we sat in the snug and drank *Castle Eden Amber Ale* (4.2%) and *Castle Eden Blonde* (3.9%). Disappointingly **The Shakespeare** was closed and **The Library** only had national standards. We were in need of food but the **Market Tavern** had closed its kitchen early and so we ended up at Wetherspoon's **Bishop's Mill** as our last port of call. Hydes Brewery *Lowry* (4.7%) and Maxim Brewery *Double Maxim* (4.7%) were drunk with our meals. Two of the group went back to **The Swan and Three Cygnets** and two returned to the hotel.

Day two and after a full breakfast at **Cafe Cenno** in the market hall we strolled around the city and visited the cathedral, crossing two of the bridges before heading to our first hostelry, **The Bridge Hotel**. *Lancaster Blonde* (4.0%), *Dark Star Hophead* (3.8%). We were glad to get out of the cold wind. Next we went to **The Kingslodge Inn**. It only

A



*Above: The Swan and Three Cygnets*  
*Below: The Shakespeare*



had national standard ales but we stayed and drank *Black Sheep* (3.8%). Then on to **The Head of Steam**. Durham Brewery *Meraki* (4.4%) mosaic ale, Magic Rock *De Mole Mexican Imperial Stout* (10%), Anarchy Brew *Coiled Spring* (5.2%) and Camerons *Strongarm Ruby Red* (4.0%).

The next on our list was the **William Hedley**. This is now called **The Three Bridges**, but again only had national standard ales so onward to **The Fighting Cocks**. We had lunch here along with Pennine Brewing *Millie George* (4.0%). We arrived at **The Holy Gale** micropub just before 15.00, their opening time, but they opened early as they saw us waiting outside. S43 *Toffee Penny Imperial Stout* (9.0%), Allendale Brew *Pennine Pale* (4.0%). A little further up the road was **Ye Old Elm Tree**. S43 *Reappear*, a pear and brandy porter (4.2%), *Tyneside Blonde* (3.9%), Maxim *Swedish Blonde* (4.2%) and *Seacider* (6.2%) were tried. We then arrived at **The Shakespeare** which was open. Hobgoblin *Ruby* (4.5%), St Austell *Tribute* and Timothy Taylor *Landlord* (4.3%) were drunk. At this point one of the group returned to the hotel and three returned to **The Victoria Inn**. The Durham ales as the day before were drunk.

The next morning after another full breakfast at **Cafe Cenzo** we headed home.

Durham is a friendly and welcoming pocket-sized university city that is well worth a visit. We were made welcome wherever we went and whosoever we spoke to. In **The Victoria** one patron offered us home-cooked herb and spicy homemade sausages and there was friendly banter from others. In the **The Swan and Three Cygnets** other patrons joined in with our conversation. All those behind the bars were happy to chat with us and made us welcome.

However, be warned wherever you walk there is a hill and be aware of traffic in the narrow streets.

*Barbara Shillaker*



*Above: The Holy Grail*  
*Below: The Shakespeare*





## Rail Ale Gets Ready to Party



The hugely popular Rail Ale Beer & Music Festival is back in its traditional May slot and has an even bigger line up of music and beers than ever before. Taking place at Barrow Hill Roundhouse on 19-21 May 2022, tickets are selling fast as fans get ready for the most atmospheric festival of the year.

**Opening times: 12 noon to 6pm on Thursday; 12 noon to 11pm on Friday and Saturday. Advance ticket prices: Thursday £7; Friday and Saturday £11. Tickets are available from [www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com) and local outlets\*.**

On Thursday night Rail Ale welcomes the one and only Martin Kemp and his Ultimate Back to the 80s DJ set. Doors will open at 6.30pm for this special Rail Ale Party Night like no other – the ultimate DJ's set celebrating pop music's greatest ever decade, and spinning the decks will be a member of one of the biggest bands of them all – so get those dancing shoes ready and prepare to enjoy a night of pure 'Gold'!

Martin will be supported by the hugely popular soul, funk and blues band *Highway Child*, who are a must-have fixture on the Rail Ale calendar. Boasting a classic rhythm section and a four-piece brass ensemble, the band's sound is as big and as polished as the songs they play. Martin Kemp will be at the Roundhouse for one night only and tickets are on sale now from SeeTickets priced at £19.50.

The music doesn't stop there. Three days of fantastic entertainment have been lined up including headliners *Jungle Lion*, a 10-piece SKA and reggae covers band, on Friday night, while *The Everly Pregnant Brothers*, Sheffield's most famous export after Henderson's Relish, will bring the Festival to an entertaining close on Saturday night. There will be something for everyone throughout the three days of the Festival with fantastic live music in the marquee and on the main stage, from jazz and brass through acoustic, funk and soul to rock and roll, and a few other surprises along the way.

There's so much going on at Rail Ale 2022 that this year – for the first time – festival goers can buy a three-day Rail Ale Weekend Pass for the bargain price of £35.00, inclusive of entry to Rail Ale Party Night with Martin Kemp.

To quench the thirst there will be **over 400 real ales** from around the country including many brewed in Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, a great range of ciders, the ever popular Rail Ale Gin Palace and a sprinkling of sparkle with the Prosecco & Wine bar. The Street Food Court will be on hand to provide a tasty range of food to suit every appetite from pork pies to pizza and hog roast to noodles – and cake, lots of cake!

Putting the “Rail” into Rail Ale, the Festival’s ever popular Rail Ale Train will be in operation from Roundhouse Halt up the Springwell Branch on Friday and Saturday afternoon. The shuttle bus service between Chesterfield railway station and the town centre and the Roundhouse will also be running on all three days of the Festival.

To keep up to date with all the latest news on Rail Ale 2022 please visit the Festival’s dedicated website: **[www.railalefestival.com](http://www.railalefestival.com)**.

*\*Local Ticket Outlets:*

***Chesterfield:*** Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Chesterfield Tourist Information Centre, Arkwright Arms, The Chesterfield Arms, The Tupton Tap, The Real Ale Corner / ***Sheffield:*** The Fat Cat / ***Derby:*** The Alexandra Hotel

### **About Barrow Hill Roundhouse**

The last surviving railway roundhouse in the UK with an operational turntable. Built in 1870, it was threatened with demolition in 1991 when the site was closed by British Rail. It was saved by a group of dedicated volunteers who have transformed it into a premier railway and events venue.

In March 2016 the Roundhouse was awarded £1.2 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its “Moving Forward” Project. The overall aim of the project was to broaden the Roundhouse audience to include families, a range of learners, the local community and corporate use. This was done through essential conservation repairs, a sympathetic extension that has created a visible and accessible entrance, upgrading facilities for educational visits and corporate use, improving access to the site and collections, and bringing the site to life with new interpretation. The Roundhouse reopened in September 2017, and now attracts over 25,000 visitors annually. Further details of forthcoming events can be found at **[www.barrowhill.org](http://www.barrowhill.org)**.

As well as the turntable and unique sheer legs (lifting gear), it has a changing display of steam and diesel locomotives and other rolling stock, a collection of artefacts and memorabilia, and an operational signal box and short running line. It is an Accredited Museum under Arts Council England’s UK Museum Accreditation Scheme. The Roundhouse site is also home to the Deltic Preservation Society.

In 2018, as part of Network Rail’s preparations for the re-signalling of Derby station, the Roundhouse benefitted from £1 million of investment in track and facilities improvements, enabling East Midland Trains to use the site as a depot for its Sheffield to London services whilst Derby station was closed in 2018.

The site is connected to the national railway network and this has encouraged several commercial rail companies to base their activities at Barrow Hill, generating over 60 jobs and making a valuable contribution to the local economy.

*Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society Limited, Campbell Drive, Barrow Hill,  
Chesterfield, S43 2PR*

## Chesterfield Town Centre Pub Scene Post-pandemic A CAMRA Member's Personal Viewpoint

There's no doubt about it, Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed by Government because of it, dealt all hospitality a vicious blow that we are all still trying to recover from. Pubs in particular are limping into a "new normality" that still hasn't defined itself yet.

This little piece is my personal appraisal of Town Centre pubs to show that there are green shoots of optimism to be found in Chesterfield's Real Ale scene. I want to share them with you. I've found great beers popping up, some in unusual places and within walking distance of the Crooked Spire. I might try and visit some other great pubs in our area when I get my free bus pass. If you are a visitor or if you are a local I hope you find it useful.

Little bits of gossip are added by Lady Whistledown.

So, with the Crooked Spire as my starting point, here's my view of some of the best beers and where to find them:

**The Rectory** – (I believe used to be known as The Crooked Spire) has 8 hand pulled beers from microbrewers, many of them classed as local ale ('LocAle'), but all great quality and they operate a loyalty card scheme; great keg selection; an extensive food menu with some unique dishes. They are running comedy nights about once a month that are brilliant. A pub trying their very best to deliver on all levels without compromise. Well done!

*LW: Inside the pub there is a mock confessional box. It is rumoured that the pub has had to remove the curtain which secluded the box because of amorous drinkers getting up to cheeky business in there!*

**The Pig and Pump** – Still manages to carry 12 hand-pumped cask conditioned ales! Again, many of them 'LocAle'; some good kegs and a good cider menu. Hats off to them. With an excellent food menu and live music on Fridays here is a pub which tries its best and manages to deliver on all fronts.

*LW: The staff love dogs and are quick with the treat jar. They've even been known to come out with a plate of beef for them.*

New pub next, **Alberts** - What a lovely place. Small(ish) and quirky. Loads of character. Great food. Many craft keg beers here. Great continental beer menu (the draft *Duvel* is to die for!)

*LW: The staff are learning their roles and the pub is finding its 'pace'. I can see this being one of Chesterfield's busiest pubs soon.*

**Einsteins** – Owned and run by the same people as Alberts this place is bigger with a more extensive beer menu. I love it. Not only do they have great Belgian and Continental keg beers they have hand pulled traditional cask ale too from local brewers. Love the *Leffe Blonde* here. Great pizzas.

*LW: Don't be put off by the school canteen furniture, the food portions are large, the burgers tall.*

**The Burlington** - Maybe you're not expecting this one but a finer pint of Abbeydale *Moonshine* you will not find AND they have a beer loyalty card scheme, also three flavoured ciders. Good cheap and cheerful scran too and last orders for food 9pm.

*LW: Really lovely attentive staff in this establishment. Gives me the impression that they really care about this very large pub, which I find refreshing.*

**The Royal Oak** (Shambles) Has temporary staff in there doing a great job until a buyer for it can be found. Real ales are available.

*LW: Rumour is the asking price has been lowered again! We're all proud of this, our oldest pub. I suggest the National Trust or Chesterfield Borough council should buy it.*

**The Spread Eagle** – Loads of people haven't discovered this pub yet. Shame on you! It's down on Low Pavement between the Bus Station and the Cop Shop. Excellent beers, usually *Jaipur* and *Littlemoor Citra* and other changing ones. Superb kitchen.

*LW: Sampling all beers on offer is recommended and If you should find yourself too drunk to find (or drive!) your car in their private car park they have beds upstairs that you can rent by the night.*

**The Spa Lane** and **The Portland** – Loads of people (is detest too strong?) let's say dislike *Wetherspoons*. Well, if you could just lower your nose a few inches and look at their drinks menu, they offer

incredible value for money. I particularly like the brandies they sell. Not as many locally brewed ales as they used to sell but still plenty and top quality.

*LW: Recently they were selling Thornbridge Jaipur at £2.45 a pint; what with your CAMRA voucher that's £1.95!! And they DON'T buy out-of-date beer. Brewers don't have out-of-date beer.*

**The Market Tavern** – A superb example of a pub getting it right! Excellent beers, excellent food, excellent service. Many beers from local brewers and great craft keg. Combine that with themed nights and live music. Terrific.

*LW: Many discerning drinkers complain that the price of the drinks in The Market is too high. Au contraire. The pub is always busy proving the prices are spot on! (Take cash though.)*

**The Hidden Knight** – The rebirth of The Welbeck and recently reopened. I had a really good bitter from Hardy Hanson (*Old Trip*) and a pale from Green King. The Welbeck had a reputation for good value food and that is still the case.

*LW: Only place I know of in Chesterfield where two halves cost 20p more than a full pint. I hope they are allowed to get some microbrewed beers in at some time.*

**The Barley Mow** – I think this pub is also a little undiscovered too for Real Ale. They always have Bradfield *Blonde* and Timothy Taylors' *Landlord* on and always in excellent condition. Really good food (excellent Sunday lunch) and excellent staff.

*Lady Whistledown: Young gentlemen seem particularly supportive and appreciative of the usually female staff who work very hard. Well done chaps.*

And finally for this article and just about within reach for my creaky old knees:

**Chesterfield Alehouse** – Many discerning drinkers STILL don't know of this place's existence (it's down from The Portland and opposite the Post Office parcel collection office) even though it's been open for more than ten years is it? It's brilliant. Please find it. They threw away the mould when this delightful beer shop was created. Steady yourself for a climb up a few steps to the bar and find six cask ales covering the range. Then check out the incredible array of craft keg beers on offer. Very rare brews often. They also boast the most extensive range of real ciders in Chesterfield.

LW: Famous for its "grab a granddad" nights this little bar has a reputation for attracting curmudgeonly, opinionated gentlemen with a smile on their faces. Great banter in this pub. It can get busy, and there's a very useful room upstairs for customers use or free hire.

Enjoy.

*Chesterfield CAMRA Member*



## Pub Name Games in the Peak District

*Peak District writer and CAMRA member Andrew McCloy explores the origin of some notable local pub names*

Given that it's the most common pub name in Britain, the fact that there are nine pubs in the Peak District called **The Red Lion** is probably no surprise. They can be found in places like Bakewell, Matlock Green, Stone Edge, Birchover and Litton, with the name symbolising the badges of both John o'Gaunt, 14th-century Duke of Lancaster, as well as the later James I. However, local pub names also reflect the rural nature of the area, so there are a number of **Wheatsheafs**, a couple of **Barley Mows** (the name given to a rick of barley from which ale used to be brewed) and several **Ploughs**, such as at Two Dales. However, the most popular is **The Bulls Head**, in villages including Ashford in the Water, Castleton, Foolow, Monyash and Youlgrave, with the last two sporting fine decorative sculpted heads above their doorways.

Animals in pub names can also have heraldic references, including **The White Lion** (Edward IV) and **White Hart** (Richard II). The latter tends to hark back to 1393 when, during King Richard's reign, pubs were first ordered to display a sign so that they could be identified by the official ale taster - and perhaps not surprisingly many chose to feature the white stag from his coat of arms.

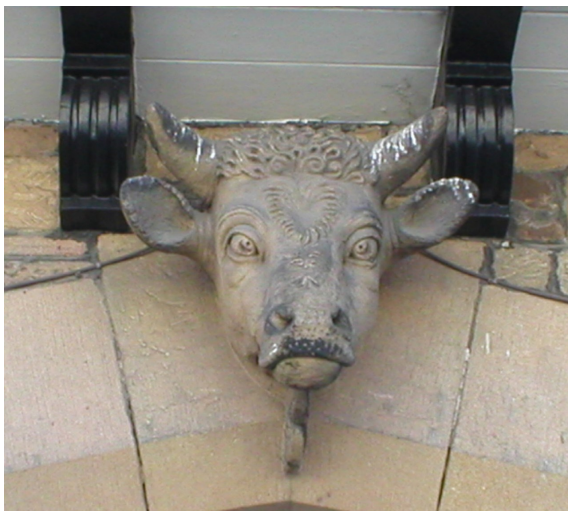
Allegiance to the throne is evident in many pub names, and although a few denote specific monarchs or minor royals (such as **Queen Anne** and **Duke of York**) most hedge their bets with names like **The Crown**, **Kings Head** or **Kings Arms**. **The Queens Arms** can be found today in Bakewell and Taddington, and in more recent times became something of a joke among former commercial travellers. When asked where they had stayed in a certain town, if they lived there and in fact had stayed at home

they used to reply: "In **The Queen's Arms**".

It's said that in years gone by regulars of pubs called **The Kings Head** tended to be supporters of Parliament (because the King's head is what they wanted), while **Royal Oak** pubs were often run by Royalists, since the name remembers the dramatic escape of Charles II after defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651 and his hiding place in an old oak tree. Whether there's any truth in that is uncertain, but **The Royal Oak** remains a common pub name in the UK and there are **Royal Oaks** in the Peak District at Chapel-en-le-Frith, Hayfield, Hurdlow, Millthorpe and Old Brampton, amongst others.

As well as monarchs of the day, famous figures from British history are remembered by Peak District pub names, including **The Duke of Wellington** (Matlock) and **Nelson Arms** (Middleton by Wirksworth); while at the other end of the spectrum **The Soldier Dick** at Furness Vale, near New Mills, recalls an injured soldier returning from a distant battle who was taken in and cared for by the pub.

*The carved stone relief above the Bulls Head at Youlgrave*





## Odd and unusual pub names

Inevitably there are some Peak District pubs whose names are singularly unusual or require explanation.

**The Grouse and Claret** at Rowsley is the name of an imitation fly used by fly fishermen on local rivers like the Wye. **The Flying Childers** at nearby Stanton in Peak is named in honour of a champion racehorse from the 1720s/30s,

owned by the 4th Duke of Devonshire and said to be the first thoroughbred racehorse in England.



**The Miners Standard** at Winstar is a throwback to the time the White Peak was a busy lead mining area and comparatively small villages like Winstar boasted as many as 20 pubs and alehouses in which miners slaked their thirst. The so-called standard dish was used by miners to measure out their lead ore; and as well as various **Miners Arms** at Brassington, Carsington, Eyam and Milltown there were also once several local pubs called **Pig of Lead**.

Although presently closed, **The Quiet Woman** at Earl Sterndale, near Hartington, bears the picture of a decapitated woman with the motto: 'Soft words turneth away wrath.' There are several stories about its origin, including one about a landlord who took drastic action to stop his wife nagging him; but the late pub historian Eric Delderfield believes the name may have originated with the beheading of Anne Boleyn in 1536 (and there are other pubs of a similar name elsewhere).

**The Druid Inn** at Birchover loosely refers to mystic goings-on among the rocks and moors nearby; **The Knockerdown Inn** at Carsington is believed to be named after a lead mining practice of knocking out ore from the roof of the shaft; and you can still see a few carp swimming around in a small pool opposite **The Fishpond** at Matlock Bath. Further up the Derwent valley, **The Scotsmans Pack** at Hathersage recalls the packmen or travelling drapers who used to visit the area in the 1500s after walking on foot from Scotland to sell their tweeds and woollens. Other unusual names of pubs that have closed quite recently include **The Jovial Dutchman** at Crich, **The Wanted Inn** at Sparrowpit and **The Flouch Inn** near Langsett.

In the 1980s there was a (thankfully) short-lived craze to re-name pubs with a Tolkien theme, so that **The Bulls Head** at Monyash became **The Hobbit** for a while and **The Royal Oak** at Eyam was briefly **The Prancing Pony**. (The latter went down particularly badly with the locals, who promptly nicknamed the pub the 'Bonking Donkey'.)

At Wigley, on the eastern edge of the Peak District, **The Fox and Goose** traces its history back to 1392 when Richard II is said to have presented the building to the monks of Beauchief Abbey. The pub's name is derived from an ancient Viking board game (Fox and Geese)



involving much cunning and guile and which apparently the monks used to play at the time. Today a specially adapted modern version of this game can be played at the pub – over a pint or two, or course!

*From Andrew McCloy's recent book **Peak District Pubs: A pint-sized history** (Gritstone Publishing, £11.99), available locally or from [www.gritstonecoop.co.uk](http://www.gritstonecoop.co.uk).*

*Photos accompanying the article are all by Andrew McCloy.*

*[Above: Winster; Below left: Birchover; Below right: Earl Sterndale]*



## What makes a pub a Good Beer Guide pub?

### How we select pubs for the CAMRA Good Beer Guide, and how you can help get your favourite pubs in it.

I'm sure like most members, I often get asked by landlords in particular and punters in general about how we as a branch select pubs in our area for listing in the Good Beer Guide, and what we must have been drinking at the time.

The truth is, we rely on feedback from CAMRA members via the *WhatPub* website, and whilst this is not the only means used for selecting the establishments, it's the primary driver in producing the shortlist.

Whilst we had enough information from the *WhatPub* system to produce the list for consideration this year, rather shockingly only 28% percent of our own branch left the required feedback! Which is a problem we would like to address before the selection process next year.

I personally, must hold my hand up to this and so, in the spirit of good intentions, I will be leaving feedback this year, not on every visit, but enough to participate in the selection process.

And landlords, if you would like to have your establishment considered for this most illustrious of publications, please encourage visiting CAMRA members to rate their beer on *WhatPub*, but please no blackmail or other coercion!

So, here's how to do it (you can do this on your phone during your visit, or when you get back home):

Visit ***WhatPub.com*** using your internet device.

Select member login, using your CAMRA member ID and password. If you don't have a password, contact HQ and get one set up (details in last *InnSpire*).

Search for the pub you visited, and select 'Submit Beer Scores'.

Give details of what you were drinking, and rate it out of 5 (5 being the maximum), confirm the date, and that's it!

Thank you!

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Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk/joinup](http://www.camra.org.uk/joinup), or call **01727 798440**. \* All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW.

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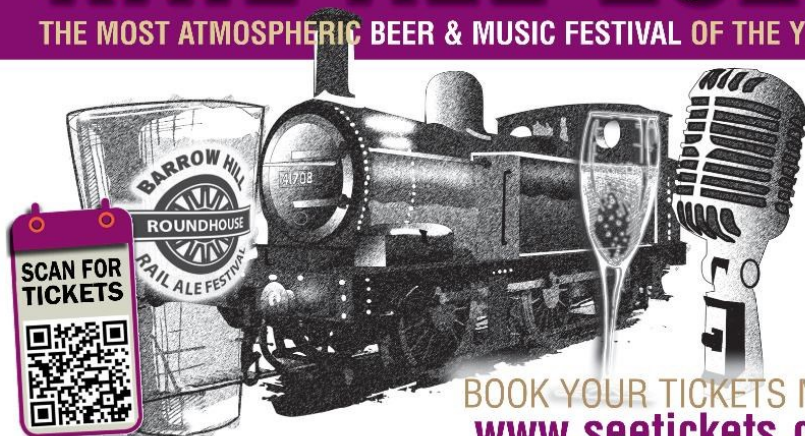
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