

# Going for a Burton

Autumn 2025

Burton and South Derbyshire CAMRA Magazine

Pub Opening!

## The Long Hop Hits the Ground Running

Read the feature on page 26



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# Editors Ramblings

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of Going for a Burton.

The continual reduction of pubs analysed in the previous (Summer) edition has continued with **The Hanbury Arms** falling on the sword. A notice on the door saying "SORRY This Pub is now Closed FOREVER". A notice on the door of the shop opposite stating a deal has been agreed to purchase the property (formerly known as Hanbury Arms) for our new permanent Masjid with the headline "Eton Mosque Burton". This must be a 'bit' premature as there is a lengthy process including the council planning committee to go through. Although my alarm bells are ringing as only a couple of years ago **The Derby Inn** was in a similar position although it was for a private dwelling. However, the process was rather dubious with considerable work being carried out on the pub before the council planning meeting was held. However, the council capitulated and let the process carry on, which was quite surprising. I guess this will be spurring those on that want the Hanbury Arms to become a mosque as the planning committee in Burton Town Hall are a 'soft touch'. CAMRA will of course challenge this and hope to keep the Hanbury Arms as a pub. There are no other pubs in the vicinity and as this pub is on the route from the Railway Station to the Pirelli Stadium it is often heaving with football fans before and after home matches. I would have thought that this alone would give enough revenue every 2 weeks to keep financially solvent.

**The Barley Mow** in Stapenhill is still in limbo, a huge for sale sign is outside. Word has it that it is going to be a Care Home. How many old people are there in Stapenhill? There is a massive care home just across the road anyway! Ironically that too is a former pub, **The Punch Bowl** which was a huge pub and gardens. There must still be some hope for the Barley as there is no sold sign up.



Theo Hollier, Editor

If indeed the Barley Mow does go it will be a sad day, particularly as the Stapenhill bowls club is at the rear of the pub, which may also now be under threat. On the other hand, this may be the route to save both. Surely the council could not allow the bowls green to be sold which may then mean the whole project is under threat. Hopefully!

I have read recently that the government were considering introducing restrictions on advertising alcohol as part of their ten-year plan for the NHS. I have heard that advertising may be banned before 9pm. This would be quite novel, licensees would have to keep our magazine locked up in a safe or the cellar and then bring the mags out at 9. This would cause mayhem as restaurants would have the same rules. There must have been some truth in this as the Government went to the trouble to deny it!

In the next issue I will promise not to be the Prophet of Doom, I will find some good news. In fact, there is some now! **The Winery** that closed has now got new owners and a new name "**The Long Hop**". This is a cricketing term I am told, being more of football fan. Although the names of the two cricketers were known to me previously, Stuart Broad and Harry Gurney. I have already given it my seal of approval with a lunch and was delighted to see four hand pumps, one of which gave me an excellent pint of Bass. I thought The Winery only had three hand pumps and certainly no Bass.

## Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA Facebook

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# Stapenhill Pubs and Clubs Tour



By popular demand: The return of Swiggy the Swan  
Arriving by bus using the Diamond 21, 21e evenings, 2 & 22 alight at Main Street, at the centre of our village, by the Chinese. Following the bus as it departs, 50 yards on your left you will find **The Stapenhill Institute**, you may need to press the bell to enter. Here you will find an excellent pint of Bass and up to 3 varying guest ales. As far as I'm aware it was the only one to have a firkin of P2 at Christmas. There is snooker, cards, darts, dominoes and a beer garden. You might also get to watch a game of Bowls at the adjacent Stapenhill Bowls club (no bar). As we move into Autumn opening times please check with Whatpub for up to date information (that applies to all). On leaving the 'stute' turn left and across the road you will find **The New Inn** a Marston's house serving Pedigree and the occasional guest from the Carlsberg/Marston's stable. Pool, darts and card games here, plus a TV in both of the bars. There is an outdoor beer garden to the rear of the pub and an undercover

area adjacent to the pub with a large TV, mainly for sport but anything else interesting.

Our next public house is a 15 minute walk to **The Grove Inn**. Go straight up the hill on Holly Street with the pizza place on your right. At the top of the hill turn left to the junction with Woods Lane, passing the Co-op on your right. At the end of the road you come to the Grove Inn, also a Marston's house with Pedigree and two or three rotating guests from the Marston's range. There's lots of outdoor seating to make the best of the Autumn months. Pool, darts, cards, occasional quiz nights and entertainment in the lounge.

On leaving The Grove, return back, up Woods Lane to Spring Terrace Road junction, go down between the Post Office and Barbershop, keep bearing left until you arrive on Stapenhill Road, bear right and 100 yards on your right is



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**The Elms.** The new tenants, Craig and Loz have settled in from the move from **The Dog** in Lichfield Street. The decision, for family reasons was their two young children. Coming from the Town centre to a leafy suburb overlooking the River Trent is a good move, it has been a seamless transition. The Pub is still just as popular and the range of beers has been slightly changed, by keeping the old favourites, like Bass and enlarging the range. These guys know what they are doing and have fitted in well.

Leaving The Elms go right down to the Trent Bridge which will bring you back into town or perhaps a walk back through the parks area using the ferry bridge (applies both ways). Hopefully some of the other pubs and clubs in Stapenhill will join this group to increase their footfall and remain profitable in these tough times.

*Les Stretton, Chairman*



## THE ROEBUCK INN

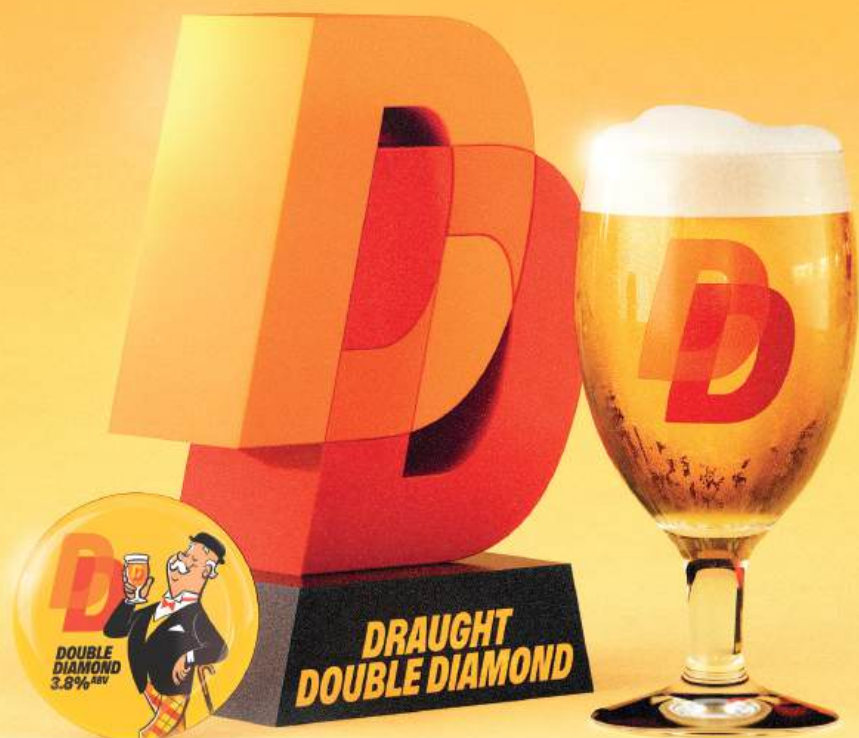
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# Burton Ale Trail 2025: A Beer-Soaked Bonanza!



The eighth occurrence of the semi-legendary Burton Ale Trail stormed into town this June and what a weekend it was. With more exclusive brews than ever before, record-breaking t-shirt sales and the trail app flying off the virtual shelves, Burton was positively buzzing.

“Absolute party vibes all weekend, it’s been a blast!” laughed Emma Cole from Burton Bridge. “It’s such a great showcase of what Burton can do and we were so grateful to have so many people come and check out the changes we’ve made to the pub.”

The vibe was so full-on that one pub actually ran out of beer and had to close early on Sunday. “It was crazy,” grinned organiser Ian Webster. “That’s never happened before!”

Spread across fourteen venues (after a last-minute dropout from Brews of the World), the event drew over one thousand drinkers. With the streets packed and pavements overflowing, Saturday’s peak crowds proved that when it comes to ale, Burton doesn’t mess about. Even when the rain came, umbrellas went up and pints stayed firmly in hand.

For Michelle Keen from **The Oak & Ivy**, the trail is about more than the numbers: “It’s a chance to showcase our pub and our beautiful beer garden. The trail brings new faces in, and we offer a warm welcome and a slice of local history.”

The 2025 trail welcomed two exciting new venues, **The Arches** and **Inn-Uendo’s** while **The Elms** made a triumphant return.

Craig Pearce from The Elms summed it up: “It was amazing to see so many new faces crossing the river to visit us. There’s a huge amount of effort that goes into the trail, but when your cellar’s empty by Monday, it’s all worth it.”

Over at Inn-Uendo’s, Richard Peace was blown away by their debut: “Our first ever Burton Ale Trail smashed all expectations. We launched our new IPA ‘Hoppy Ending’ and got through nine gallons in just 45 minutes! We even sold the first 20 pints for a quid one drinker cheekily asked for a half at 50p!”

**Continues on next page...**

## Burton Ale Trail 2025 continued...

The Best Beer on the BAT title went to Outwoods Brewing Co.'s "Warrior Spirit DDH" sold at The Arches, with Gates Burton Brewery's "Reservoir Gold" at **The Roebuck** a close second. Third place was split between Outwoods' own "BAT IPA with a Bite" and Muirhouse's explosive "Tick Tock Boom" served exclusively at **The Weighbridge Inn**.



"Firstly I would like to thank everyone who voted and visited during the BAT," says Colin from Outwoods Brewery. "Such a unique and amazing experience for my first year, lots of work and stress preparing for it but it was worth it to produce beers which were loved. Crazy to think me and Gary made an excellent beer, I'm still kinda surprised by how well it turned out. The Warrior Spirit has always been a special beer to me and for the newest version to win means a great deal

to me personally. And this is just the start!" In total, more than 20 exclusive or limited-edition beers graced the trail. Other highlights included Burton Bridge's "Stairway to Superdelic," Tower Brewery's regal "Ale to the King," the return of Muirhouse's much-loved "Magnum Mild," 3P's powerful "Crusher," and Outwoods' runaway hit "Crazy Train" which tied in perfectly with this year's wild and wonderful theme: Ozzy Osbourne.

The best-selling t-shirt? A twisted masterpiece featuring Marvin the Bat perched on a throne, with the now late and legendary Ozzy's bitten-off head in hand, a wicked nod to one of the most famous tales surrounding the Brummie icon. Organiser Ian Webster even donned full Ozzy regalia on Saturday to raise funds for the ICU at Queen's Hospital, which cared for his mum earlier this year. The response was incredible £750 raised both on the day and online.

"It was a hugely successful weekend that really showed off the best of Burton," said Nicki Stour of **The Devonshire Arms**. "The variety, the atmosphere, the people, it brought beer lovers from as far afield as Ayrshire and Hampshire. Every venue pulled their weight and did the town proud."

The Burton Ale Trail will return 4th to 7th June 2026 and if this year was anything to go by, you'll want to mark those dates on your calendar now.

*Ian Webster*



# Promote your business or event in the next issue of Going for a Burton



Our Branch magazine, Going for a Burton is free. Those of us who write articles for inclusion are doing it for free and those of us who distribute the magazine to pubs and clubs are doing it for free. We drive our cars to almost the borders of Rugeley in the west, almost to Sudbury in the north, to Breedon-on-the-Hill in the east and almost to Clifton Campville in the south. Why? Because we believe in the real ale cause - promoting pubs, breweries and local businesses - and enjoy doing it.

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Advertising revenue covers the cost of design and printing the magazine. We help local businesses to increase awareness of their services across our distribution area and reach more potential customers. If you would like to promote your business or event in Going for a Burton, we would be pleased to hear from you. See details on page 31.

We appreciate the support of all of our sponsors and hope that our readers will do the same by visiting them.

# Burton Folk Club's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Burton Folk Club is the latest incarnation of a club with a tradition stretching back to the mid-1960s. During that time, many famous and little-known acts have performed to audiences of various sizes at a multitude of venues. Many were unknowns who moved on to great success, but far more were just humble troubadours who believed in keeping traditional music alive – for them the song was always greater than the singer. The original club was formed in January 1966 as **The Barley Mow** Folk Club at the eponymous pub in Stapenhill, by Burton born folk singer Dave Bull. Dave booked some great acts including Nottingham's hilarious Dave Turner and guitar maestro John Renbourn. A few years later Dave was invited by John to support him on tour and they became lifelong friends. After a year or two the Club was taken over by the late Roy Mason who, despite not being a musician, had a keen ear for acts that made it a tremendous success for best part of 30 years. During Roy's time, the Club moved several times, including two spells at **The Punch Bowl** (now demolished), the Meadowside Leisure Centre, **The Bridge Bridge Inn** and **The Star and Garter**, changing its name to The Burton Folk Club after leaving the Barley. He booked many acts that went on to great success such as Tony

Capstick, Jasper Carrot and the Ripley Wayfarers.

In December 1995, Roy announced his retirement and Burton Folk Club subsequently closed. After a few weeks, a number of Club regulars including Carol and John Worker, as well as Lin and Kevin Goodfellow, met and decided to try to keep the club running. Soon afterwards, the Brewtown Folk Club was born, based at the now defunct Star and Garter. The Club had spells at **The Beacon** and **The Albion** hotels, before returning to The Star and Garter until Christmas 2007, re-opening in January 2008 a short distance away at the newly refurbished **Old Cottage Tavern** in Byrkley Street. Many fine acts appeared over these years including Lucy Ward, Martin Carthy and Vin Garbutt.

In 2017 Brewtown Folk Club once again became Burton Folk Club, run by a small committee, reopening in September at a new venue, the Beacon Hotel before moving to the Albion Taphouse in May 2018. The first act to perform were a then virtually unknown Granny's Attic who returned many times, the most recent being to perform their own special 15th Anniversary Concert at Burton Brewhouse. Along with many new acts such as Ninebarrow and Reg Meuross, many

old favourites came back, some of whom will be performing in the Club's Autumn 2025 Season. This will be the build-up to some Special Events next year, all of the acts being 'Folk Royalty' much loved by regulars. The full itinerary is:

19<sup>th</sup> Sept – Mick Ryan & Paul Downes  
03<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Dan Walsh  
17<sup>th</sup> Oct – Ninebarrow\*  
31<sup>st</sup> Oct – Pete Coe  
14<sup>th</sup> Nov – The Wilson Family  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov – Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer  
19<sup>th</sup> Dec – The Wilderness Yet

\*At Burton Brewhouse - tickets £17 from:  
[www.brewhouse.co.uk/events/ninebarrow-2](http://www.brewhouse.co.uk/events/ninebarrow-2)

All other Guest nights are £12 in advance, details on our website [www.burtonfolkclub.org.uk](http://www.burtonfolkclub.org.uk)

Burton Folk Club Chairman Geoff Noble said, 'Not many Folk Clubs have survived this long and I would like to thank all the people who support us, some of whom were also regulars years ago at the Barley Mow. We'd love to hear from anyone with memories of days gone by and welcome you back, along with lots of new faces.' If you want to contact the Club email [info@burtonfolkclub.org.uk](mailto:info@burtonfolkclub.org.uk)



# SHOULDER of MUTTON

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# Pub of the Year... Again: Inside The Devvie's Award-Winning Streak



It's early Saturday evening and Burton Albion have just beaten Mansfield Town at the Pirelli. The sunshine is pouring over the beer garden at **The Devonshire Arms**, where I'm soaking up the atmosphere and waiting for landlady Nicki Stout to finish cooking my dinner on the BBQ Shack. My wife returns from the bar, navigating through a crowd of jubilant football fans. She's holding two drinks, a Coke and a pint of Bass. No prizes for guessing which one's mine.

"I've just seen Carl," she says, referring to landlord Carl Stout. "My god, it's busy isn't it?"

The crowd breaks into a chant: "That's the way, aha aha, we like it, aha aha..." The garden is buzzing with cheers, chants, the clink of glasses and my mind drifts back to a recent conversation with Carl and Nicki in this garden, when it was much quieter.

"We don't really set out to win awards," Carl says. "All we try and do is our best all the time and try to give customers what they want. Now it sounds quite a simple philosophy to follow, but to do it consistently all the time, it takes a lot of hard work

and a lot of dedication, not just by us, but by the staff as well."

And yet win awards they do, plenty of them. Since taking over the pub in 2019, The Devvie has become a juggernaut in the local CAMRA scene, scooping Burton & South Derbyshire Pub of the Year in 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and finishing runner-up in 2022. No award was handed out in 2021, but they're also reigning joint champions of the "Best Bass in Burton" title, sharing the crown with **The Roebuck Inn**.

"We're fiercely independent," says Carl. "Because we can steer our own ship, it's up to us what direction we want to go in. That comes with a little bit of responsibility, a little bit of risk but ultimately, we seem to be doing okay."

Nicki grins. "Is it the cleanest pub in town? Best polished brass? Prettiest hanging baskets? You've got to tick all the boxes, it's all in the detail."

"And that's before they even see the mirror and the copper tables," she adds, referring to their gleaming

tabletops, often photographed with an immaculate pint of Bass perched on top.

“I think Carl loves them more than me and Jack.”

Carl remains silent just long enough to raise eyebrows.

“He’s not saying no!” Nicki laughs.

Their son Jack, now 20, has grown up in the pub world and is clearly following in the family’s footsteps. “He just wants to be in a proper real ale pub, chatting with people,” Nicki says proudly.

Carl and Nicki’s story began in a pub, naturally. “It’s a cliché,” Carl shrugs. Since starting at Wetherspoons in 1998, they’ve managed pubs across London, Harrow, Cambridge, and finally, Burton upon Trent, where they arrived in 2000 to take over **The Lord Burton**.

Continues on next page...



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## Pub of the Year continued...

"We came to be closer to family in Nuneaton," says Nicki, smiling. "But not too close, for obvious reasons."

"Where else would a Wetherspoons be the only pub in the Good Beer Guide?" Laughs Carl.

Burton quickly got under their skin, they ran The Devvie for Burton Bridge Brewery for a while before being offered **The Burton Bridge Inn**. "We're obsessed with the place, in the best way," Carl admits. "It's got this incredible pub culture."

During their early days at The Lord Burton, they caused a stir by shifting a barrel of Pedigree a day and being recognised by the brewery. "We had ten barrels lined up in the cellar," Carl recalls, "plus seven other beers."

"Marston's pubs were livid!" Nicki chuckles. "They had to tweak the award title to 'biggest free trade account' just to stop the complaints."

Shortly after they bought The Devvie in 2019, Carl had an idea that has led to a series of regional beer festivals, starting with a simple idea: get every Burton brewery under one roof.

"Once we did that, we had to do a Geordie one, then a Yorkshire one ... before you know it, we're driving to tiny breweries in the Lakes and getting turned back by flood water."

One Yorkshire brewer North Riding proved so popular they're now on permanent rotation. "People went crazy for it," Carl says. "He delivers to us now."

Carl: "We rang up these little breweries and said we are doing a festival, can we come and collect? You have a nice time away too, so it's a bit of a jolly. It's really interesting going round to different breweries and seeing how some people operate. You go to these most idyllic settings and you think, wow, this is absolutely stunning, and then somewhere like an industrial estate in the middle of Rochdale ... keep the van running! The brewery door was locked and none of the casks were outside!"

The Devvie's cellar still reflects its traditional roots, built for volume, not variety.

"Back in the day, you'd have a mild, a bitter, and maybe a strong bitter. Now, people demand choice," says Carl. "We can't go below six beers. We can't go above seven, we just don't have the space. We've tried the uprights where we stand the beers up on the vertical rods, but we couldn't really get along with them. So, we're down to the more traditional self-tilters, which in general work very well."

Events like the recent Manchester Beer Festival stretched them to their limits: sixteen firkins stored alongside regular stock. "The Manchester stuff flew out, but so did the Bass."

Their beer map is ever-expanding. "We were looking at which way we were going to go next, probably Lincolnshire or Humberside," says Carl. "When we get to Sheffield, Nottingham area we're going to have to be quite picky which ones we get. It requires an awful lot of hard work, logistically and convincing them to let us have the beer because you'd be surprised how many brewers say, this is too good to be true! What, you're going to come up in a van? You're going to pick the beer up from the brewery? You're going to pay on collection and then you're also going to leave a deposit for the casks? It does take some convincing because some people just think you're on a wind-up."

While Carl obsesses over beer, Nicki takes the reins in the kitchen. Her regular food nights are a local legend.





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## The Red Lion at Repton

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“Eight themes: steak, fish, burgers, kebabs, tacos, Spanish and Oriental tapas ... wait, that’s seven.”

“Pie night!” she remembers. “That’s a crazy one, really hard work so it is every couple of months. We do them every Tuesday and Wednesday evening. We use the Snug, four tables, turn them around every hour. Have a seat and eat, it is very strictly timed. We can get 40 to 45 people a night. We did pie night last month and it was a record-breaking night! That’s the one they go mental for.”

Nicki’s food events hark back to their Burton Bridge Inn days: “We started doing a steak night in a small room that nobody used. We were on holiday in Cumbria, just outside Penrith and we went to this pub who was having a sausage festival and that’s how the Burton Bridge Inn Sausage Festivals came about.

“I said to the guy, what’s a sausage festival? He was selling thousands of sausages,” says Carl. “I thought we can do something like that, before you know it, you’re selling 2,500 sausages in two and a half days. Smelling like sausages for weeks afterwards.”

When the sun’s out, so is the BBQ Shack, sizzling burgers to go with the pints. The whole thing feels effortless but it’s anything but. As the queue on that sunny Saturday shows, it has certainly proved a hit with the locals.

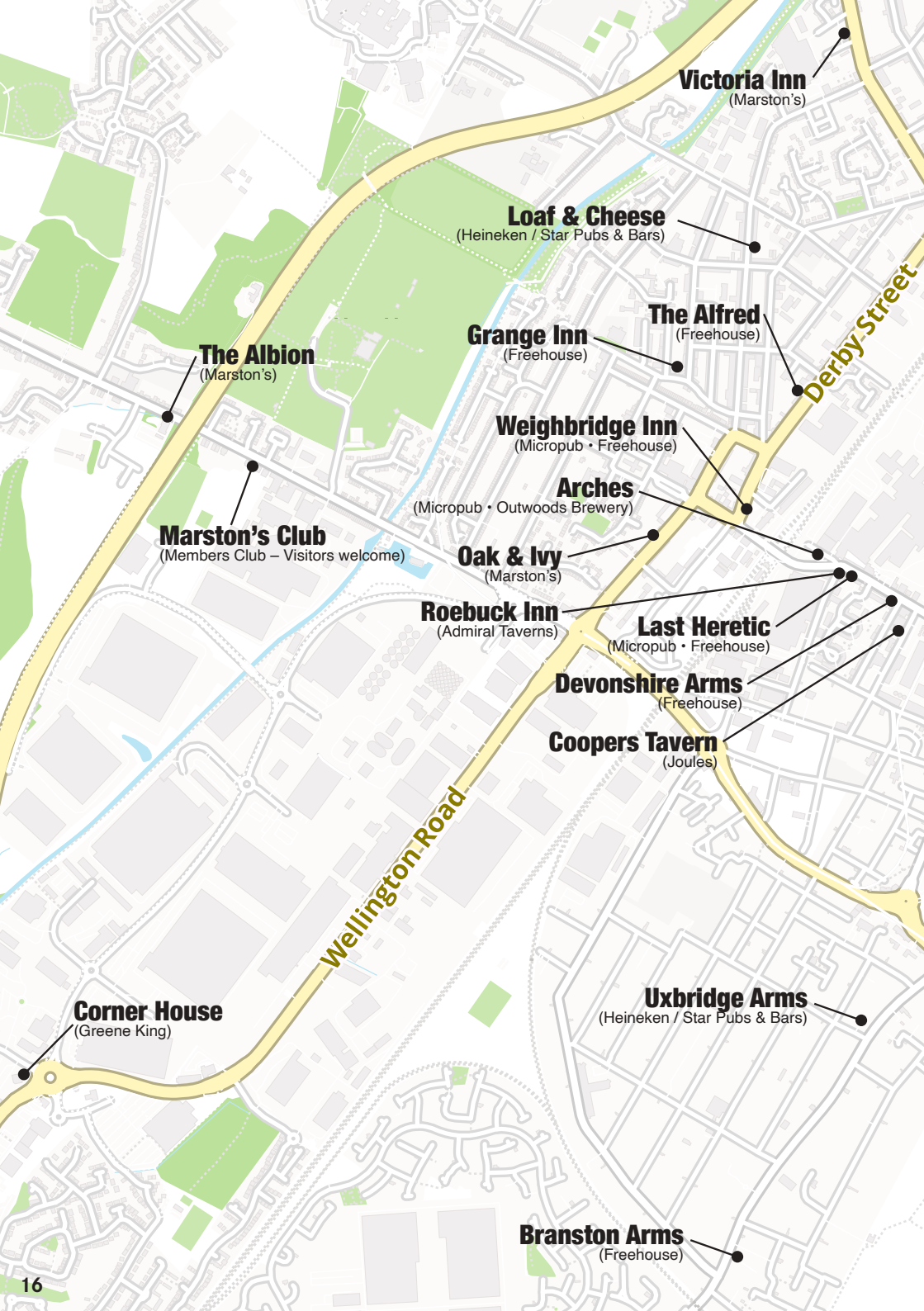
“We’ve always liked the town,” reckons Carl. “Once you get under the skin of the Burtonians, they’re very friendly people. They’re a bit cautious at first to outsiders, but effectively it’s just a small town. The reason it’s developed so much is because historically a lot of people have come to Burton for work and have stayed here. Location-wise, it’s central in the country, close to two airports, half an hour from Birmingham, and an hour and a half from London.”

“As we’ve been here more than 25 years, we’ve become an adopted Burtonians so I understand,” adds Nicki.

Carl smiles, pint in hand. “It’s just perfect. And the pubs? They’re brilliant.”

*Ian Webster*





**Victoria Inn**  
(Marston's)

**Loaf & Cheese**  
(Heineken / Star Pubs & Bars)

**The Alfred**  
(Freehouse)

**Grange Inn**  
(Freehouse)

**Weighbridge Inn**  
(Micropub • Freehouse)

**Arches**  
(Micropub • Outwoods Brewery)

**Oak & Ivy**  
(Marston's)

**Roebuck Inn**  
(Admiral Taverns)

**Last Heretic**  
(Micropub • Freehouse)

**Devonshire Arms**  
(Freehouse)

**Coopers Tavern**  
(Joules)

**Uxbridge Arms**  
(Heineken / Star Pubs & Bars)

**Branston Arms**  
(Freehouse)

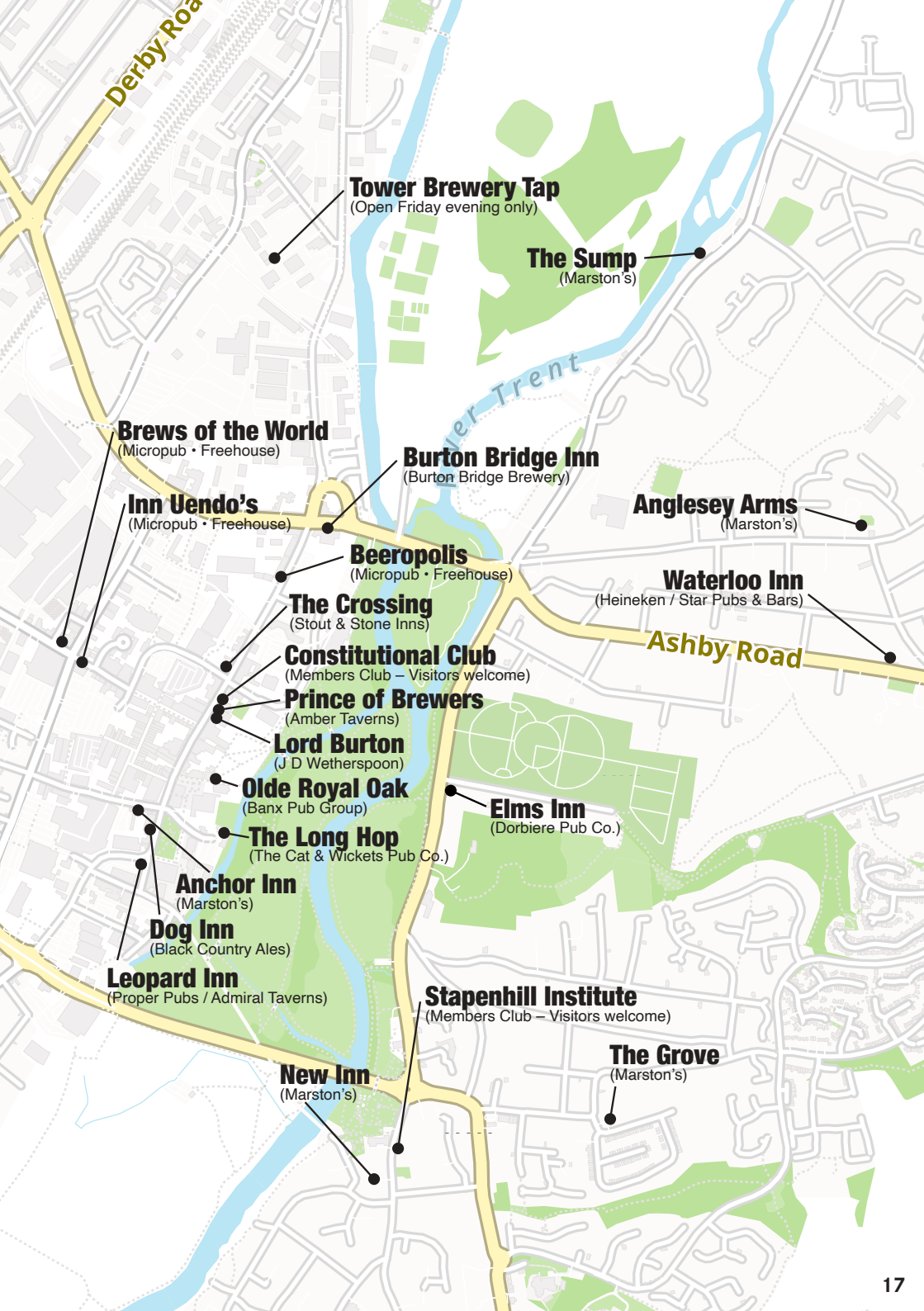
**The Albion**  
(Marston's)

**Marston's Club**  
(Members Club – Visitors welcome)

**Corner House**  
(Greene King)

**Wellington Road**

**Derby Street**



Derby Road

**Tower Brewery Tap**  
(Open Friday evening only)

**The Sump**  
(Marston's)

**Brews of the World**  
(Micropub • Freehouse)

**Burton Bridge Inn**  
(Burton Bridge Brewery)

**Anglesey Arms**  
(Marston's)

**Inn Uendo's**  
(Micropub • Freehouse)

**Beeropolis**  
(Micropub • Freehouse)

**Waterloo Inn**  
(Heineken / Star Pubs & Bars)

**The Crossing**  
(Stout & Stone Inns)

Ashby Road

**Constitutional Club**  
(Members Club – Visitors welcome)

**Prince of Brewers**  
(Amber Taverns)

**Lord Burton**  
(J D Wetherspoon)

**Olde Royal Oak**  
(Banx Pub Group)

**Elms Inn**  
(Dorbiere Pub Co.)

**The Long Hop**  
(The Cat & Wickets Pub Co.)

**Anchor Inn**  
(Marston's)

**Dog Inn**  
(Black Country Ales)

**Leopard Inn**  
(Proper Pubs / Admiral Taverns)

**Stapenhill Institute**  
(Members Club – Visitors welcome)

**The Grove**  
(Marston's)

**New Inn**  
(Marston's)

# Pub of the Year Award Ceremonies



Starting off the year was a surprise award. It was a surprise not only for **The Burton Bridge** but to everyone in the Branch as well. Most of our awards are the result of the Branch activities, but this one was a surprise to us as it came from CAMRA HQ, recognising them with the Champion Beer Award.



In the photo above, Chairman Les presents Brewery Manager Emma Cole with an award.

The next award was a Pub of the Year (PotY) award for **The New Inn**, Tutbury, the Staffordshire Country PotY. The pub had been closed for a while but was acquired by Black Country Ales (BCA) sweeping changes inside the pub had created one huge room. The presentation was again made by Les Stretton, this time to Lucy Sheffield and Shaun Banton who proudly run The New Inn.

Next on the presentation trail was **The Weighbridge** that won a creditable third place. It was a turbulent year for Mandy and Richard, having to close their Brewery. Mandy has always run the pub and Richard the Muirhouse Brewery. Richard now has a new passion, being the chef at the Weighbridge running the 'restaurant'! Les making the presentation, looking a bit like he wants to get behind the bar?



The next stop on PotY tour was **The Colville Arms**, the number of people that turned up was astounding. It seemed like everyone from the village was there and a few more. Due to the large gardens that were packed, so impossible, for most town pubs could do! Well done, Neil, on winning Branch South Derbyshire PotY, Branch Country PotY, and Branch PotY Runner-up. Clearly Neil is rock star status bringing in the crowds, is that a guitar on his left?



Saving the best to last, **The Devonshire Arms** has won again, the best in the Branch, fantastic! For this pub only we have Mike Gibson our previous Chairman to give this highest accolade to The Devonshire Arms. Carl and Nikki must be proud of what they have done to achieve this. They are worthy of all the plaudits they get and are two of the nicest people you will ever meet.



This may not be the last stop of our annual trekking across Staffordshire and Derbyshire but this is certainly the grandest building, **The Constitutional Club** being the Club of the year Runner-up. **Rolleston Club** claimed first place.

Les has presented many times and can still smile. This time John Foxley is the recipient of this prestigious award.



# Statto's BAFC Quiz and Pub Crawl



The origins of this probably started on the terraces of the Pirelli Stadium watching Burton Albion Football Club. There, on the terraces, many of the supporters always go to pretty much the same spot. This particular group congregate in the North Stand, the "popside", on the halfway line. Some of us are well known to each other but not everyone, but I would bet we will locate each other now in the next season.

Statto, or Ed as he was previously known, was the guy that put the whole thing together, a quiz of 5 rounds that so happened to align with a pub crawl through Burton. Statto, the word that was previously known as statistics was ideal for his role. Each round of the quiz was different with a Multiple Choice round, a True or False round, and 3 other rounds with themes of History, Random and Stats, aptly called for the quizmaster. The questions for the quiz were not all straightforward as Statto had put a few tricky questions in. For example, 'Against which opposition was the highest league attendance at the Pirelli Stadium in 2024/2025? The trap was easy to fall into, Birmingham City were the obvious ones as they were top of the league and have massive support. The other obvious one being Mansfield Town, probably our closest team and the Nigel Clough connection must surely be the highest. No, the answer was Lincoln City! Wow, how come? Well, when you are reminded by other members of your team that Lincoln City were our first game of the new season and hopes were high amongst the Brewers supporters. I did then realise on reflection, there is a maximum limit



for any teams away supporters, I would guess around 1,700 which teams like Birmingham City will sell out. So, the expectant home Brewers supporters were the reason for the highest attendance and reality soon set in as we didn't win a match for a few months!

The Pub Crawl added a relaxed feel to the day. The start point was **The Devonshire Arms** with the first round being 'True or False'. We were split into 2 teams of four with another person going for lone glory by themselves. Pints were drunk, scores were tallied up and then off to **The Coopers Tavern**. Another pint, another quiz round and a slice of pork pie each before moving to **The Dog Inn**, followed by **The Royal Oak**, a break from quizzing in **Beeropolis**, and the final round in **The Bridge Inn**. After counting up all the scores Statto unveiled a 3D printed trophy for the winning team to lift. A nice conclusion to the day's events.

So a bit of knowledge, a bit of lateral thinking and consumption of several pints made for a good day. Great stuff Statto, I'm already looking forward to next years competition.

*Theo Hollier, Editor*



# A Brief History of Burton



Join our guides Blue & Jim  
outside the Burton Bridge Inn  
at Middy.

Approximately 2.5 hours  
and 2 miles.

£15 per person

Souvenir Guidebook

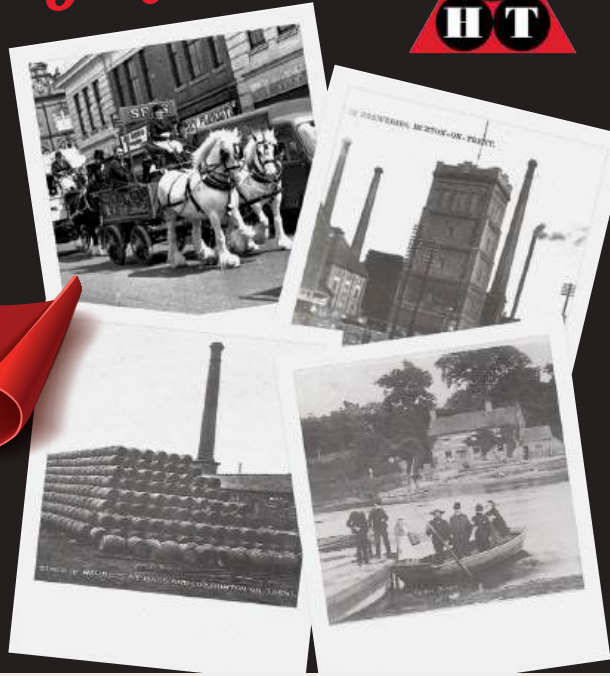
## Upcoming Tours

September 13<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 15<sup>th</sup> & December 28<sup>th</sup>

Tickets available via the website:

[www.goldenbadger.co.uk/  
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# Funny Bassiness?



To steal from Brian Clough, “I wouldn’t say Bass is the best beer in the world, but it’s in the top one”, a view that is undoubtedly shared by the Honourable Order of Bass Drinkers. Over the past decade, I’ve crossed paths with them more times than I can count, usually during their annual pilgrimage to Burton. Like clockwork, I’d spot them around eight on a Sunday evening, a gallon of Bass already under their belts, living up to the “drinkers” part of their name without apology.

Formed in Manchester in 1967, years before CAMRA even existed, the HOBD is the oldest ale-enthusiast group in the country. Their motto is “numquam facere quae per partes” which kind of translates to “never do things by halves” means you can get fined for drinking out of a half pint glass during the meetings. Their original branch has since inspired others: a lively one in Blackpool, another in the New Forest, and obviously Burton itself, which held its inaugural meeting at **The Constitutional Club** last October.

I was invited to join the Burton Division last year but hit a sticking point straight away: they consider the non-Burton-brewed bottled version to be “real Bass.” It isn’t, not even close. Call me stubborn, but as the admin of the Great Stuff This Bass Facebook group, which firmly supports the Burton-only version, it felt like betrayal. Still, after the recent unexpected but welcome interest in the brand by owners AB-InBev, the bottled version has quietly disappeared ... what was stopping me? There’s even talk that it might return, only with brewed in Burton this time. I know this for sure, I started the rumour.

The Burton Division has made **The Devonshire Arms** its headquarters, so I turned up one Sunday, purely as an observer. Research, I told myself. Definitely. Not. Joining.



*President, Gary Summerfield*

“The Devi has fantastic Bass,” says HOBD - Burton Division President Gary Summerfield, a man so enthusiastic and dedicated to the cause that he has three Bass tattoos. “Landlord Carl Stout is very accommodating and they have a suitable private area for us to hold our meetings. Bass is my trusted go to beer, great taste and at 4.4% a perfect session beer. My Dad worked at Bass for many years as well, historically it has punched way above its weight with Royals starting brews like King’s Ale and Prince’s Ale, to becoming a global brand throughout the British Empire. Also never forget just how much Bass and the other breweries gave back to the town!”

My main curiosity: what exactly do they do at these monthly meetings? About ten members sit with pints in hand as the chairman, Barry Edwards, kicks things off with a toast “Gentlemen, are we having a drink? Certainly!”. The printed agenda lists the mysterious “Gerreminagin and BFFG” twice, this is a call for beer and Break For a Fag and Gypsy’s. Minutes from the previous meeting are read aloud, immediately setting a tone of cheerful absurdity. Jokes fly, pints vanish and the Treasurer admits, completely straight-faced, that his plan to invest club funds in a casino was “sadly thwarted.” Fifteen minutes in, the meeting screeches to a halt when there is a delivery of pork pies.

Membership is next. It turns out the last recruit quit, having been strong-armed into joining before sheepishly admitting he didn't actually like Bass. At this point, everyone looks at me. I cave, laughing, and agree to sign up. Which, according to HOBD's wonderfully illogical rules, technically means I can't. The whole thing is starting to feel like a Monty Python sketch. I sign anyway, another pint is shoved into my hand, and I make a mental note: resign as soon as possible. (I don't.)

Amid the laughter, there's a serious undercurrent. Talk turns to Bass itself, the "sleeping giant" of the beer world. For years, enthusiasts have been trying to wake it up: National Bass Day, The National Bass Directory of pubs, a Facebook group with thousands of members. Now, suddenly, AB-InBev is interested. New branded glasses are on tables, bar runners and mirrors are appearing in pubs, and I recently dragged the Brand Manager around Burton on a Bass pub crawl, he was impressed by the town's passion for its beer.

Gary: "We have 43 virtual members and 29 full members, you can join the Facebook group but to become a full member you need to attend a meeting."



*Chairman, Barry Edwards*

So if you've got a soft spot for Bass, live near Burton, and enjoy a Sunday pint in good company, you could do far worse than an afternoon with the Honourable Order of Bass Drinkers. Bring your sense of humour. You'll need it.

*Ian Webster*

# THE DEVONSHIRE ARMS

**A friendly and welcoming family-owned freehouse,  
operating in the heart of Burton-on-Trent.**

- Burton & South Derbyshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2025, 2024, 2023, 2020 and runner up 2022
- Serving a wide range of cask ales • Large beer garden at the rear • Themed food nights



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# Black Shed Brewery: Beers and Backyard Passion



Is this grassroots brewing at its finest? Although Black Shed Brewery isn't commercially licensed yet, this project has pedigree. Tucked away behind a quiet home in Burton, this small, hand-built operation is run by Rich Catlin of the greatly missed Burton Town Brewery.

Catlin's brewing journey began the Monday after he left school, walking straight into a job at Ind Coope, no interview, just a handshake, thanks to his Dad. He stayed on and off until 2006, eventually moving into project work with Lorien, a company spun out from Ind Coope's old projects team. Along the way, he dabbled in cider-making, malt extract kits, and brewing all the beer for his own wedding. It was the start of something much bigger.

"I built my first proper brewery in a stable in Essex," he says, "using old dairy kit I salvaged on a job." Later, he and his wife Kerry set up Burton Town Brewery in their garage in Stretton. The beer found an eager audience, first with **The Coopers**, then **The Dog**, and soon production scaled up. What had begun as a hobby grew into a full-fledged brewing operation.



Fast forward to today, and Catlin has returned to his roots, both geographically and philosophically. The Black Shed Brewery, as the name suggests, sits in a purpose-built outbuilding at the end of his garden. It's fully insulated, temperature controlled and kitted out with a compact 40-litre single-vessel brewing system, similar to that used at Outwoods Brewing. He's also got a larger 200-litre setup in reserve, salvaged from 3Ps Brewery, in case the urge to upscale returns.



It is what sits beside the brewhouse that might catch people's imagination: The Fat Rabbit. This intimate, ten-person bar is part personal taproom, part social hub. With four keg lines, a well-stocked fridge, a TV, and Catlin's DJ decks, it's a blend of pub, party, and passion project. Plans are already in place for a decking area, complete with firepit and gazebo, a chilled space to enjoy a pint under the stars.

"The bar's named after my son's favourite toy," Catlin explains. "It's about sharing good beer with good company." For now, most of the beer will be kegged and poured right at The Fat Rabbit. Occasionally, a cask might make an appearance for tradition's sake.

"I just want to make great beer for the joy of it. There's something magical about hearing someone talk about a beer you made, that buzz never really leaves you."

If the paperwork goes through with the HMRC and this transforms into a commercial venture, Burton drinkers might just find a Black Shed tap pop up locally or even further afield, at Lanty Slee's in Langdale. But for now, the joy is in the brewing, not the business.

Fans of the old Burton Town beers might wonder if any of the classics will return. The answer? Maybe. The recipes are still there, untouched by later tweaks. And Thomcat, the original best-seller named after his son, is often requested. If enough people start asking, it might just make a comeback. Until then, if you want to try a Black Shed brew, you'll need an invite to The Fat Rabbit and a seat by the firepit.

*Ian Webster*

# The Oak & Ivy

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- Dogs are welcome inside and out
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Wellington Street, Burton upon Trent  The Oak and Ivy at Burton  01283 538032

## HOLLAND SPORTS CLUB

Holland Sports Club is a volunteer-run, non-profit community hub, offering excellent sports facilities, a welcoming bar, and a vibrant social atmosphere. Home to football, cricket, rugby, tennis, and more, the club hosts regular village events and proudly serves ales from local microbreweries.

- Bar open weekdays 6pm–11pm, weekends 12pm–close
- Potters Yard Café open 9am weekends
- Largest playground in the village
- Regular live sport and social events
- Fifteen-acre site with outdoor seating



Efflinch Lane, Barton under Needwood, DE13 8BB



## THE BURTON BRIDGE INN



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# The Long Hop opens in Burton upon Trent



Burton Abbey founded in the year 1002 and was dissolved in 1539 under King Henry VIII's dissolution of Monasteries and the seizure of their assets. The Abbey wasn't totally demolished and some parts of it still remain, like out of public view behind the Market Place and the Manor House but also in **The Long Hop** and its grounds. Most of the destruction took place afterwards probably being called dismantling by the Paget family and other owners and probably others that used the stones for other purposes.

The good news is that the building that is now The Long Hop was a 13th-century infirmary which was sometime later converted into a dwelling. Then finally into the Abbey Inn which I can remember as a very popular pub in the late 60s and 70s. Next came the Winery, and true to its name there was good wine. Now, the Long Hop and with four hand pumps of Real Ale and good food, which after only 2 weeks I can personally vouch for, I am confident that Stuart Broad and Harry Gurney will do the business.

*Theo Hollier, Editor*



# Pick up a slice of history

CAMRA's 39th National Breweriana Auction: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October



Have you ever fancied owning a slice of brewing history? Then this Auction is just the thing for you. Run by the Campaign for Real Ale, the National Breweriana Auction returns to Burton on Trent's Town Hall on Saturday 25th October. It will have circa 150 interesting auction lots; everything from mirrors to trays; advertising signs, water jugs, flagons, bottles, books and pump clips as well as a few more unusual items. Plus there will be a number of stands selling brewery memorabilia adding to the atmosphere in this wonderful Victorian venue.

There are all sorts of items from all over the country to decorate your home. What about a Guinness clock or a delightful plate from Lincolnshire's Batemans Brewery. The plate was issued to their employees after the brewery was saved from closure in 1987 when the sister and brother of George Bateman wanted to sell. One of the key components to saving the Brewery was their XXXB winning CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain, resulting in full order books.

As always, there are a number of advertising display cards including two from London's Barclay Perkins (set up in 1616 and merged

with Courage in 1955) and one from the less known Simpson's of Baldock, Hertfordshire. The brewery was founded in the 1730s and renamed Simpsons in 1853 when it was bought by Joseph & Thomas George Simpson. To avoid death duties, the business was sold to Greene King with 130 pubs in 1954 for £525,000 and closed in 1965.

**Continues on next page...**



## Burton Ale Trail 2025 continued...

Another item from Barclay Perkins is a corked bottle of Imperial Russian Stout, probably 70 years old. Other items from past London brewing giants are two Toby jugs from Charringtons, who were famous for its Toby Jug logo. They were founded in 1770, merging with Bass, Mitchell & Butlers, to form Bass Charringtons in 1967, which made them the largest brewery in the UK at that time. The London brewery was closed and brewing moved to the Midlands in 1975. Closer to home, is a bottle from 1984, commemorating Marston's 150th birthday.



Two items, you can either use or more likely display, are trays from Wadworth of Devizes (founded in 1875 and still in family hands) and the less known Tennants. This is not the better known Scottish Tennents Brewery but a brewery established by two brothers in 1840 in Sheffield. They were acquired by Whitbread in 1961 with 700 tied houses becoming Whitbread East Pennines but closed in 1993.

These are just a few of the items on sale, each with a history to tell. You don't have to be an expert to attend the National Breweriana Auction. The Auction is great fun to take part in (or even just to watch) and it's an opportunity to get some great bargains plus many of the items on sale can appreciate in value. And, of course, like any CAMRA event, there is some good beer on sale all day (from a local brewery).

*Christine Cryne*



# Return of The Alfred Ale House

Built in the late 1860s, **The Alfred**, also known as the Alfred Ale House and formerly “Prince Alfred,” was a classic double fronted terrace pub typical of its time. Its position on Derby Street placed it opposite the now demolished Truman, Hanbury & Buxton brewery, making it the brewery tap and a key link between brewery and drinkers. The pub was first tied to the Black Eagle Brewery in the 1870s before becoming closely associated with Truman’s, serving as one of their tap houses until the brewery’s closure in 1971. It remained part of Burton’s brewing story when Burton Bridge Brewery acquired it in 1996, adding it to their tied estate and cementing its role as a venue for real ale lovers.

The interior reflected its traditional roots, with a central bar dividing two rooms by wood partitions and stained glass. One side provided a raised seating area, while the rear snug offered barrel seats, diving memorabilia from the Submariners Association, and a charity book stall that became a familiar feature for visitors.

The Alfred gained a reputation for its range of Burton Bridge ales, including regular favourites and rotating guest beers, alongside English fruit wines. Quiz nights, occasional live music, and Sunday roasts added to its character, while meetings of the Submariners Association every other Friday reinforced its role as a community hub.

Customers praised its homely atmosphere, friendly staff, and well kept beers, often describing it as a “gem.” Sunday roasts were particularly popular, regularly mentioned in reviews as “lovely” and “tasty hot food.”

The Alfred closed long term in October 2022 following the landlord’s retirement and a change of use. Even in its final years it remained highly regarded, with reviews noting its warm welcome, cosy interior, and quality ales such as Erdinger.

*Theo Hollier, Editor*

# THE ALFRED GRAND REOPENING

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- Beer garden

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# The Branston Arms, Burton upon Trent

Originally converted from 3 or 4 houses, but no information on when this occurred.

This traditional community local is situated about a mile south of the town centre. It was substantially altered and refurbished internally in 2012 to provide a large, smart, L-shaped single room, with a wood-topped bar counter around the inside corner.

Classic pub food, with a children's menu. Buffets can be pre-arranged for groups/parties.

## Regular Beers:

Jennings Cumberland Ale  
Marston's Pedigree

## Changing Ales:

1x rotating ale

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- Check Google for opening times



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# BRANSTON ARMS

Weekly Events:

🎮 Free Pool – Tuesdays

🎤 Karaoke – Fridays from 7:30pm

🎵 Live Entertainment – Monthly

- Sky sports and TNT sports
- Large carpark & beer garden
- Come say Hi to Gareth, Ty, Tegan and the team!



115-116 Branston Road, BOT, DE14 3DD

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## Going for a Burton?

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