

Donny Drinker

Free



161

Autumn 2025

**CAMRA Doncaster &
District Branch**



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Branch's 50th Anniversary - further memories

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South of Sheffield Social

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Editorial

The quality and range of beers and other drinks can often decide the popularity of a pub but these are not the only deciding factors.

We must not forget the impact of the staff that work in your locals. The landlord, staff behind the bar, kitchen staff and servers if food is available and, last but not least, the cleaners. They all impact on the enjoyment of your visit.

The staff will have a particular skill set to offer on which we are dependent. They all have to work as a co-ordinated team in order to fulfill customer satisfaction. At times it can be difficult work from dealing with awkward customers to working in a hot kitchen at the height of summer. The hours can be long and many may probably be on the minimum wage.

They have to respond to customers' needs in all sorts of situations and demonstrate a wealth of knowledge on such things as the drinks, local transport services, food allergies, local events and many more.

So, please treat the staff with the respect they deserve. Recognise their importance to the quality of your visit and, if you have a complaint or comment, do it in a manner that does not offend.



Support your pub team

In this issue there is a flow chart of how we deal with Good Beer Guide entries. This is a very demanding and intricate process involving many volunteers over a large number of hours. All our real ale pubs are visited throughout the year and we monitor pub closures and changes in ownership. One of the ways we do this is with our socials but we also have individual members who often make a big effort to visit pubs and clubs throughout our branch area. We hope members will get involved in the voting so that our pubs that regularly serve good beer get a place in this important guide.

Donny Drinker Autumn 2025

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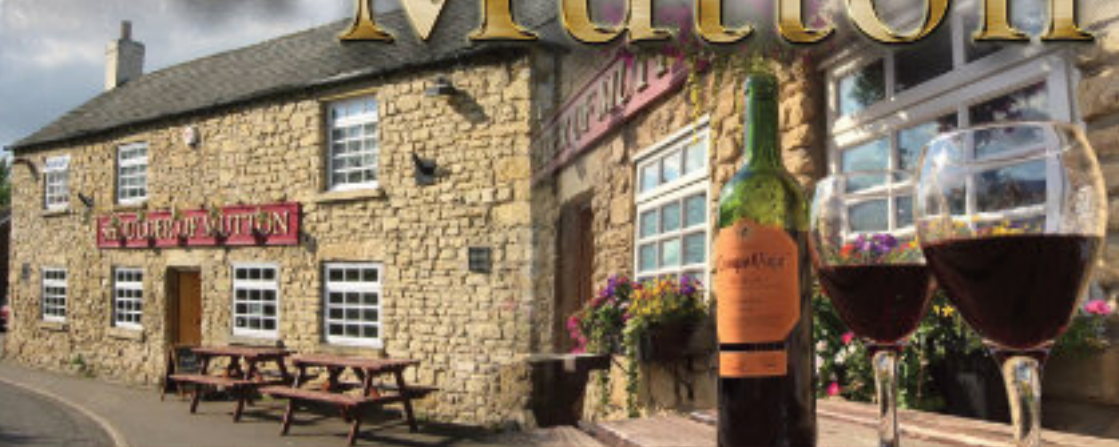
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Contents

Autumn Pubs of the Season	6
CAMRA Books	8
Partner Discounts	8
Chairman's Notes	9
Pub and Brewery News	13
50 th Anniversary of the Branch	16
State of the Pub Industry	18
Donny Dozen Part 3	22
Yorkshire Cider Pub of the Year	26
Pub Ghosts	28
Beer Festivals	29
CAMRA Membership Benefits	33
South of Sheffield Social	34
CAMRA Pub of the Year	35
Route to Good Beer Guide	36
Branch Awards	37
Social Diary	38



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Doncaster Pub of the Season - Doncaster Brewery Tap (City Centre)

Dave Bartley

On a wall above the bar of the Doncaster Brewery and Tap there's an impressive display of certificates, both local and regional. It's three deep and a testament to the work of Ian and Alison Blaylock over the past 13 years. Soon they'll have to find room for two more as the DBT has been awarded Yorkshire Cider Pub of the Year - and it's also our Doncaster Pub of the Season for Autumn 2025.

Sandhouse Blonde, Cheswold Bitter and Saint Legar are just three examples. Then there's the DBT's speciality - six hand-pulled ciders as well as a range of CAMRA-approved bottled ciders. There are few pubs in Yorkshire which can match DBT in that field.

DBT is more than just a pub though. It has also



Since the Doncaster Brewery opened at an industrial unit near Wheatley Hall Road in 2012, Ian and Alison have made an impact on the local real ale scene. Their ales quickly gained fans among local drinkers. When they moved into their current premises (see photo above) on Young Street in 2014 the DBT became a go-to for real ale drinkers. The quality of their ales is shown in the sheer number of awards they've won and, naturally, it's part of the Donny Dozen real ale trail.

Up to six cask ales are always available, often with names reflecting local history and culture -

made its own contribution to local culture, hosting live music (Doncaster Roots Music sometimes use the upstairs room as a venue), poetry sessions and a Shakespeare readers group who recently completed reading the entire works of the Bard. There's live music most Saturday afternoons, often provided by a local ukulele group.

Ian and Alison will be presented with their well-deserved awards on Saturday 1st November at 8pm. This is sure to be a popular event so don't be late. All are welcome to come along and support the occasion.

District Pub of the Season - The Hilltop (Conisbrough)

Celia Sawbridge



John and Julie Bulcroft celebrated 20 years of ownership of The Hilltop in May of this year. This is an impressive achievement, especially at this time when so many traditional pubs are closing. Claire Duke and Graham Baxendale the bar staff always give a friendly welcome and Brad Duke (Creative director and Chef) now does a lot of the cellar work to keep the beer in good condition and is usually found in the kitchen, where he and Julie make excellent pies.

There are two large bars, one of which is mainly for meals, plus a comfortable covered outdoor area, where you can see the swallows and wagtails circling round. There is a fine selection of old photos in one of the bars as the pub originated about 200 years ago. A secret garden at the back is in the process of being developed.



There are usually 4 hand-pulled beers available, 2 from White Rose brewery and Little Critters and 2 changing beers plus 1 hand-pulled cider. There is also a selection of keg beers and ciders.

Opening times are Mondays 4pm to 10pm, Thursdays 12 to 10pm. Friday and Saturdays 9.30am to 10 pm and Sunday 9.am to 9 pm

Meals are served as per What Pub details. Monday night is chip butty night and where else can you get a chip butty with Canadian steak or fish fingers and mushy peas to have a meal for two for about £12. The pies on Thursday are well known, sizzling Saturday includes meals such as Cajun chicken and traditional Sunday lunch is always very popular. It is recommended to book in advance for Saturday and Sunday. The weekend mornings are now providing welcome breakfasts. The kitchen has recently joined Just Eat deliveries which are also proving popular.



On Saturday 21st June their beer festival proved a great success with an additional outdoor bar having 6 extra hand-pulled beers and two live music acts from local artists. They hope to have a sausage and cider festival later in the year so keep an eye on their Facebook page for details.

The Hilltop is situated on the main A630 between Doncaster and Rotherham with car parking space and close to an X3 bus stop for the bus from Doncaster to Rotherham and Sheffield.

I am delighted The Hilltop has won Pub of the Season again and trust there will be a good turn out by Camra members for the presentation on Saturday 27th September at 4pm.

There are many benefits to becoming a member at CAMRA.

CAMRA partners with a number of organisations to give you the best deals possible.

Below are just few examples of the partnership offers. To see the full list go to the web address below.

<https://camra.org.uk/membership/partner-benefits>



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CAMRA Books



£14.99

Once our ancient ancestors discovered that by settling and cultivating grains they would have a regular and plentiful food source, it was only a matter of time before beer became a part of everyday life. And that beer was mainly made by women. For centuries, women brewers remained key participants in our beer trade, up to the Industrial Revolution when increased mechanisation, alongside Victorian societal constraints, conspired to push a lot of them out. From then on, commercial brewing was generally considered a male-led profession.

But things are changing. With the increase in new breweries, and a growing enthusiasm for beer, women are back at the helm at an ever-growing number of British brewers, large and small, reasserting their dominance in the industry.

This important book, meticulously researched by beer historian Dr Christina Wade, charts the rise and fall – and rise – of women in Britain’s brewing trade, and includes interviews with women working in today’s beer industries. It tells us the whole story, explaining the real reasons why women brewers became marginalised, while also debunking some tired old myths along the way.

Doesn't time fly? It's almost time for Doncaster CAMRA to hold its Annual General Meeting so I should like to begin by reminding members that it will be held on Friday 14th November. Official business will commence at 19.30 in the concert room at the Hallcross, Hall Gate, Doncaster. The AGM is the ideal time to find out more about the aims of the branch, meet the committee and link up with friends both old and new. After the reports and other formalities have been dealt with, there will be a buffet, followed by a pub quiz and a raffle. With at least six cask ales available it should be a good night so why not come along.

The Hallcross was also the venue for our 50th Anniversary celebration which took place recently. It was great to see so many members present. Many of them remembered the venue when it was owned by Coopland's and called the 'Humpty Dumpty Hot Bread Shop'. Those who have read the previous issue (DD160) will know that the building has played its part in the branch's history when, in 1979, our first official beer festival was staged there.

It was fitting, therefore, that the anniversary event was held at the Hallcross and included a mini-beer festival as a tribute to the branch's early years. I would like to thank our host Julian Clark for arranging everything and to Kate and Karl Hadfield for the tombola. Thanks should also go to Natalie Hodgson who ran a charity cake stall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, which I thought was a nice touch. Everything was home-made and the Bakewell Tarts were delicious! There was a box of beer for the winner of 'The Worst Quiz in Doncaster' and live music (unplugged) later on. Everyone seemed to have a good time (that means no-one has complained yet LoL!) and the 'drop-in, drop out to suit your day' concept also seemed to work.

Thank you to everyone who attended. If you missed it, you missed a 'rait gud do'!

The Donny Dozen Real Ale Trail social went ahead as planned, despite the rain. The pubs and outlets on the trail were reviewed by CAMRA members to check their current status. Advertised on the same principle as mentioned above, the Draughtsman on Doncaster station was the first

port of call but from there on we did the trail in the reverse order. The bad weather early on did put some off at first but, as the day progressed, people began to meet up with us. Although all twelve bars and pubs featured in the publicity leaflets were visited, sensible drinking was encouraged throughout the day with thirds and halves being ordered by many. A most enjoyable time was had checking out the quality and variety of the real ales on offer and we were able to demonstrate that the trail can successfully be dipped in and out of, to suit those taking part.

'The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft' is staging an open day on Sunday 19th October. Not normally something I would say too much about in this



publication, but I have been asked to mention that CAMRA members have once again been invited to use the free vintage bus services connected with the event as a means to access the (almost) bus route-free Isle of Axholme. This part of our branch is difficult to get to without using a car which is a shame as the Isle contains some cracking pubs, including the current holder of the District Pub of the Season award. Don Valley Brewery Tap is also located close to the museum and we hope to be able to arrange a visit.

This has got to be the ideal time to explore the area so why not try something different and give it a go? An enjoyable afternoon can be spent hopping from pub to pub. All the buses are absolutely free and, as there is no obligation to visit the museum, up to four hours can be spent on the Isle.

More information and bus times are available on the museum's website: www.sandtoft.org

I hope reading about our recent activities has whetted your appetite and encouraged you to come along and try some of our proposed events and socials. Please turn to the 'Branch Diary' section of this publication for more info. Non-members are always made welcome but please note that some of the minibus trips can fill up quickly and priority has to be given to members where necessary. Please contact the social secretary, whose e-mail can be found on page 3.

Don't forget that members attending their first meeting can claim a free pint of guest ale from me. Yes, that's right! Just show me your membership card and I'll get you one in - and CAMRA pays! This also includes those attending other branch events for the first time, such as socials and presentations. Traditional cider (where available) can be chosen as an alternative if preferred.

Hope to see you at a social, meeting or other event soon.

Cheers

Ian Jones: Branch Chairman.



At the end of the 'Donny Dozen' social where members visited all or some of the 12 pubs. Everyone was relatively sober and to prove it one stood up for the photo!



A Big Thankyou

To CAMRA members who
helped at the Doncaster
Beer Festival



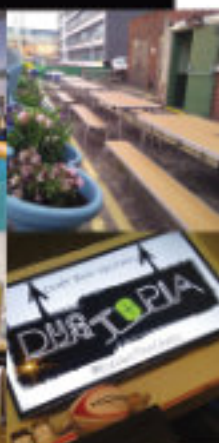
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2016, 18, 19, 20, 22 & 2023

Donc CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year
2016, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 & 2024

Yorkshire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year
2016 - Runner Up
2018 - Winner
2019 - Runner Up
2023 - Highly Commended
2024 - Winner

Donc CAMRA Pub of the Season
Autumn 2024



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- Sunday 8pm: Quiz-a-thon with DJ Cev to include quiz/music quiz/unlucky dip and Irish Bingo.
- Located on West Laith Gate, a couple of minutes walk from Doncaster railway station.
- Sports fans well catered for.
- Awarded on numerous occasions Doncaster CAMRA's Pub of the Season.
- Listed on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors.

Opening Hours

Mon - Thu 11am - 11pm

Fri/Sat 11am - 11.30

Sun - 11am - 11.30

8 West Laith Gate

Doncaster DN1 1SF

Tel: 01302 738310



@TheLittlePlough



@Littleplough



Editors Note: We take every effort to make sure that everything is correct when this article goes to the printers. However, with the current volatile situation with pubs, clubs and breweries throughout the country the time between writing, printing and distributing may result in the situation changing. If your visit to a pub is important then check before you travel to make sure the situation has not changed.

South Yorkshire

The Doncaster Free Press has reported that Sam Smiths are looking for two couples to run the **Ridge Wood** in Edenthorpe and the **Holly Bush** in Kirk Sandall. Both of these pubs have been closed for several months. There is a requirement for the couples to be locals.

In Bessacarr on a recent visit a member found no real ale at the **Toby Carvery**. It appears the last real ale was sold in May and no more is likely to be available. The other local pub, the **Flying Childers** was selling Marstons Pedigree.

At Hooton Pagnell we are pleased to report the **1903 (The Hostel)** has reopened. The new team of Dean and Julie began on the 4th June. It is understood that there is a cask ale available.

Two members visited the **Travellers Rest** at Tickhill and found that the kitchens were now serving meals.

On a visit to Mexborough a member found Abbeydale Pale and a Citra at **Pastures Lodge**. Stancil Black was available at the **Old Market Hall**.

The **Horse and Groom** in Armthorpe continues to sell Black Sheep Bitter and the other pump usually has a rotating guest pale ale. Following refurbishment of the lounge, they have replaced some of the outdoor furniture in the beer garden. There have been restricted days of meal availability but they have now returned to a 7 day service with the addition of lunchtime choices for those customers who want smaller portions. This menu is available Monday to Friday between 12 and 3pm,

The **Old George** at Sykehouse has continued with its Summer Wheels Café and Old George events for bikers. They are held every Wednesday from 5.30pm to 8pm. Even if you are not into motor bikes, it's quite a spectacle. Don't expect them to be drinking real ale as non-alcoholic drinks are the order of the day.



The **Wheatley Club** closed several months ago and, whilst it was not an establishment serving real ale, we must note that the premises have been sold to a local man and the Doncaster Free Press has reported that he intends to call a meeting for the local community to have their say about its future. It's enlightening to know that there are still people about who take into consideration the views of a community.

City Centre

The **Railway** is under new management. There was no real ale available on a visit but watch this space for possible developments.

All seems very quiet at the former **Corner Pin** building. We are still no closer to finding out what the future has in store.

Due to poor sales, the **Hallcross** has decided to stop selling Stocks St Leger Gold. This is one of the three beers resurrected from the brewery that was on the Hallcross site many years ago. It's unfortunate but the other two Stocks beers, Old Horizontal and Select, will continue to be sold.

When Russ, the landlord at the **Draughtsman**, was creating his pub on platform 3b at Doncaster Station he envisioned providing a much-needed service to travellers passing through the station.

Little did he know that several years later he would be serving a drink to one of the world's greatest travellers. The Doncaster Free Press reported that travel journalist and broadcaster Simon Calder had popped into the pub. He described it as "an amber lining amid the storm clouds of travel".

Doncaster Brewery and Tap have a range of 6 real ales on their bar, four of which are brewed on site and two of which are generally guest beers. On the cider bar are 6 ciders. A dry, a medium, a sweet, a Perry and two CAMRA-approved fruit ciders.

East Riding of Yorkshire

The **Tom Pudding** at Goole continues to feature four rotating real ales and a real cider. Keep an eye on their Facebook site for music events that are held here.

North Yorkshire

Peter, the landlord at the **Bay Horse** in Great Heck, will be celebrating one year at the pub on August 15th. He has done a good job at supporting the local community and during the year there has been a number of different events. You can expect to find beers from Old Mill Brewery here and some good food.

Isle of Axholme

The **Carpenter's Arms** at Westwoodside has been under new management since May. On a visit there were two cask ales. One was a blonde ale and one amber/dark ale. The third pump will be used for

milds and stouts. Most ales are sourced locally. The 399 Isle of Axholme bus stops outside the pub.

The campsite at **Willow Fields** in Haxey now has a public licence to sell alcohol. You may find examples of Pig Barn beers here.

Brewery News

At the **Doncaster Brewery** Ian has recently had a planned operation on his shoulder. Prior to the operation Ian brewed numerous times to replenish shock. He brewed a pale, a blonde, a Kentucky Common and a Black IPA, filling the cellar with casks. Unsurprisingly, the Handsome Pat sold quickly and Robin was called upon to do an assisted brew day to replenish stocks. The Sand House Blonde will also have to be brewed again soon before Ian is able to use his shoulder for anything more than lifting a pint of beer. If you would like to see Doncaster Brewery beer on the bar in your local, please mention it to the landlord and Doncaster Brewery will be happy to deliver.

For sales email robin@doncasterbrewery.co.uk

At the **Don Valley Brewery** Cody, the brewery manager, has moved on to fresh pastures. She has spent a successful time at the brewery and has done much to raise awareness of the brewery and its products.

Once again the Pig Barn Brewery is to be congratulated. They managed to win the Best of Festival award at the Doncaster Beer Festival with their Haxey IPA beer.

FRIDAY 14th November

7.30pm at the Hallcross

The Branch

AGM

'It's a once in a year experience'

Branch Reports

Quiz

Raffle

Buffet

Last chance to cast your GBG & Pubs of the Year votes

THE LEOPARD DONCASTER

REAL ALES

six regularly changing guest ales
and ciders, from local & regional breweries,
including our very own 100% situated
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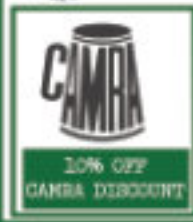
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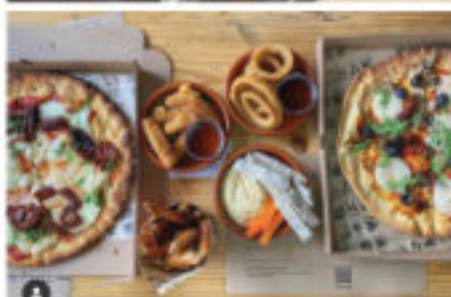
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50 Years of Branch Awards

It's always nice when you can give something back to a person, organisation or business. From the start CAMRA branches created Pub of the Season Awards. Over the years this has expanded to Pub of the Year, Club of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year. There are also very specific awards the branches have created. Added to this is the prestigious CAMRA Good Beer Guide entries.

Good Beer Guide

For a member to be eligible to vote for a pub they must have drunk at least half a pint in that pub in the last 6 months. When the voting is complete then the pubs will be assessed, where possible, for their beer scores in the National Beer Scoring System (NBSS) and the licensee and/or cellar manager will be assessed to see if they have been in post for 6 months.

Pubs of the Season

The branch holds quarterly awards for pub of the season at Doncaster and District levels. The Doncaster award is for all pubs within 6 miles of the Mansion House in the city centre. All other pubs are eligible for the district award. The process starts by pubs being nominated at

relevant branch meetings and those pubs can then be voted for by members within a defined time period. The winners are the pubs with the most votes. The social secretary will then arrange presentations at the pubs.

Good Beer Guide Voting and Pubs/Clubs/ Cider Pubs of the Year

This voting process starts in September of each year and members will receive guidance on which pubs are eligible and how to vote. The last date for voting is midnight on the day of the AGM in November.

Garth Nicholls Award

The award is for recognition for all the work an individual has done supporting real ales in the branch area. Nominations can be made at a branch meeting and then voted on at that meeting.

Regional and National Awards

The local year winners are then considered for the various regional and national year awards. For instance the Doncaster Brewery Tap, which has regularly won our Cider Pub of the Year award, has now twice won the Yorkshire Cider Pub of the Year Award.



The first

Branch Pub of the season - Millstone (Tickhill) Spring 1985
Doncaster Pub of the Season - Eden Arms (Edenthorpe) Spring 2006
District Pub of the Season - Windmill (Thorne) Spring 2006
Branch Pub of the Year - Scarbrough Arms (Tickhill) 1997
Doncaster Pub of the Year - Corner Pin (City Centre) 2006
District Pub of the Year - Jemmy Hirst (Rawcliffe) 2006
Club of the Year - Tickhill Cricket Club (Tickhill) 2022
Cider Pub of the Year - Doncaster Brewery Tap 2016



Doncaster CAMRA's 50th anniversary party at the Hallcross

Doncaster CAMRA was created in 1975 which gave us an excuse for a party this year. The Hallcross was the venue for this event. It included a mini beer festival, with a beer brewed in our honour called L (50 in Roman numerals), an Elderflower pale ale (not our pun!). Some of the

early members of our club joined in the festivities. There was a fiendishly difficult pub quiz based on history, not easy after a couple of pints, a raffle, and coffee and cake sale in aid of Macmillan charity. To complete the evening, live music was put on and we all had a good time.



What was the state of the drinks industry in the 70's

We have written a lot, over the years, in Donny Drinker about the creation of CAMRA and our branch but there is a limit by using words of how far you can express the importance of the CAMRA movement.

Recently we came across a video on YouTube of an episode of the Philpott Files which used to appear on the BBC in the seventies. It gives a brief review of the production of alcoholic drinks over the past 300 years and then features the changes to brewing the various forms of beer in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

There was a time when the owners of breweries could grow very rich and they were known as the 'beerage'. The tax revenues from alcoholic drinks

were huge and there is a suggestion that it just about paid for the NHS. Then in the 50s television began to impact on pub attendances and the consolidation of breweries began to take shape with 7 brewers, known as the '7 Sisters', controlling much of the market at the expense of independent brewers.

The video then moves on to follow the role the emerging CAMRA organisation played in ensuring drinkers still had a choice of purchasing real ale in their local pubs. At the time of the video Philpott comments that CAMRA was regarded as the most effective consumer group in Europe.

If you want to look back in time, search for 'Philpott Files, beer review' on YouTube.

The pub trade could do with some good news but a number of sources are saying the outlook is poor.

The British Beer and Pub Association reports that 378 pubs in England, Scotland and Wales are in danger of closing this year and there is a desperate need to cut pub costs. It quoted that £1 in every £4 spent on beer goes directly to the Treasury.

David Wigham, the commercial director of Admiral Taverns is quoted as saying that energy costs were still double the level before the energy crisis.

The Morning Advertiser has carried out a survey of beer prices across the UK. In London the average cost of a pint is £6.10 while the cheapest average pint is in the Midlands.

The Doncaster CAMRA branch is not surprised by these figures. We fully understand the pressures

our local pubs are under and have every sympathy with our hard-working licensees and their staff. Let's not forget that there is also an impact on our brewers.

There is only so much the branch can do to help although we know that CAMRA nationally is fighting to support everyone in the pub trade and constantly raising important issues with our politicians. The loss of trade equates with a loss of revenue to the government which will affect their spending plans. Locally, we ask the general public to support their local pubs and clubs as much as they can. They are much needed community assets that will be missed when they are gone.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL PUBS



The Royal Hotel
West End Road, Norton DN6 9DH
01302 702950

Food (Tuesday to Sunday)
Family/dog friendly
Hand-pulled Beers
Beer Garden
Live Music
Sports TV



The advertisement features a large yellow triangle overlay on a background image of The Royal Hotel and various food items. The text within the triangle provides contact information and lists the pub's offerings. The background image shows the exterior of the pub on the left and a collage of food items like fish and chips, a burger, and a drink on the right.



Horse & Groom
Pub & Restaurant



Nutwell lane, Armthorpe
01302 831658

Homecooked food served daily

Mon to Thurs: 12pm - 8pm

Friday/Saturday: 12 - 9pm

Sunday Lunch 12 - 5:30pm

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Thursday nights

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Facebook: [Horse & Groom - Nutwell lane](#)

Instagram: [Horse_and_groom-Armthorpe](#)

Branch Area Real Ale Pubs/Clubs

Adwick upon Dearne

Manvers Arms

Airmyn

Percy Arms

Arksey

The Plough **GW**

Armthorpe

Horse & Groom **GL**

Auckley

Eagle & Child **WLG**

Austerfield

Mayflower

Balby (Woodfield Pltn)

Maple Tree

Barnburgh

Barnburgh WM Club * **LWG**

Coach and Horses **LDCG**

The Crown Inn **WTGD**

Barnby Dun

The Olive

Bawtry

Ship **WT**

Turnpike **WG**

White Hart **WD**

Bar and Brasserie **CDL**

Beal

Jenny Wren

Belton

Crown

Wheatsheaf

Belle Vue

Town Moor Golf Club **LW**

Bentley Town End

Three Horseshoes **LG**

Bessacarr

Flying Childers

Blaxton

Blue Bell

Station

Burghwallis

The Burghwallis Pub

Cadeby

Cadeby Pub & Restaurant

LDCTG

Clayton

Clayton with Frickley Club

LWTGD

Conisbrough

Hilltop **LWG**

The Terminus **TWG**

Cusworth

Old Brewhouse **GCLD**

Doncaster

Black Bull **L**

Doncaster Brewery Tap

LCWGT

Don Valley Tap **LDCTG**

Gate House **LW**

Hallcross

Leopard **DLTG**

Little Plough **L**

Marketplace Alehouse **LC**

Masons' Arms

Queen Crafthouse **C**

Railway

Red Lion **WDL**

Salutation **LC**

Social

The Draughtsman Alehouse

The Mallard **DT**

Town Field Sports Club

Tut 'n' Shive **DT**

White Swan **L**

Yates

Dome/Lakeside

Beefeater Lakeside

Cheswood

Edenthorpe

Eden Arms **DG**

Eggborough

Horse & Jockey

Epworth

Old School Inn

Queen's Head

Red Lion

White Bear

Fenwick

Baxter Arms **W**

Finningley

Harvey Arms **W**

Fishlake

Hare & Hounds

Goole

Aire and Calder

City & County **LDT**

North Star Marina Club **LG**

Old George

The Viking

Tom Pudding **LCG**

Victoria Hotel

Great Heck

Bay Horse **L**

Harlington

The Harlington

Hatfield

Bay Horse

Hatfields

Hatfield Chace

Ingram Arms

Jack Hawley at the Grange

DL

Haxey

Duke William

Kings Arms

The Loco



Boat Inn,
Sprotborough

Brewer's Arms, Snaith

Jenny Wren, Beal

Scarborough Arms,
Tickhill

Hickleton
 Hickleton Village Hall * **WG**
 Hooten Pagnall
 1903
Kirk Sandall
 Glasshouse **DTG**
Kirk Smeaton
 Shoulder of Mutton
Mexborough
 Gorilla Beer Hall **LTGDW**
 Imperial **LTG**
 New Masons
 Old Market Hall **LW**
 Pastures Lodge
 The Falcon **WD**
Micklebring
 The Grazing Harts
Norton
 Coronation Club **TGD**
 The Royal Hotel
Owston
 Darios
 Owston Hall & Golf Club
Owston Ferry
 Crooked Billet
 White Hart
Pollington
 King's Head **L**
Rawcliffe
 Jemmy Hirst **LC**
Rawcliffe Bridge
 Rawcliffe Bridge Club*
Rossington
 The Styrrup
Sandtoft
 Don Valley Brewery Tap
 Reindeer **W TG**
Scawsby
 Scawsby Mill **DT**
 Sun (Inn)
Snaith
 Bell & Crown
 Black Lion
 Brewer's Arms **L**
 Mansion House Bar
 The Plough Inn **LDC**

Sprotbrough
 Boat Inn **W**
 Ivanhoe **WT**
 Newton
Sutton
 Anne Arms
Sykehouse
 Old George Inn
Thorne
 Barge Inn **G**
 Canal Tavern
 Punch Bowl **LTG**
 The King's Chamber
 Windmill **LGWD**
Tickhill
 Carpenter's Arms
 Travellers Rest
 Royal Oak
 Scarbrough Arms **L**
 Tickhill Cricket Club
Wadworth
 White Hart
West Butterwick
 Ferry Boat
West Cowick
 Ship **W**
Westwoodside
 Carpenter's Arms
Wheatley
 Strawberry Island Boat
 Club *(Private Club)
 The House Martin
Wheatley Hills
 Wheatley Golf Club
Woodlands
 Woodlands Snooker Club
Wroot
 Cross Keys

Abbreviations

- L Locale registered
- D CAMRA discount available to members
- C Traditional ciders and perries served
- W Wheelchair access
- T Wheelchair access + toilets
- G Dogs allowed in all or part of the pub
- Pub/Club may have restricted opening times

Donny Dozen Part 3 - The Hallcross

DeanSouthall

This is another of the Donny Dozen pubs and it is one of my favourites, They have a beer festival every year : they also have 3 guest beers on cask and 2 of their own (With original recipes now brewed by Welbeck Abbey). There are terraces out at the front and also at the back which you can use on that one day of the year when we have summer. It is also a sports pub so ask nicely behind the bar and they will put on the sport you like, cricket in my case. The friendly owner Julian Clark helped out the new owner of the Marketplace Alehouse when he had recently taken over that pub.

What makes this place stand out is that it's the most dog-friendly Donny Dozen pub. There are always happy dogs in the pub, possibly because there are free dog treats on the bar. I'm not sure what the dogs prefer more - the cricket, the treats or the choice of real ales?

The Hallcross won our Pub of the Year award for 2024.



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of
tradition

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Bradfield Brewery Limited, West House Farm, High Bradfield, Sheffield, S18 9LG

Visit our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for the latest news and offers.

hallcross

doncaster CAMRA city pub of the year

🍷 good beer guide 2020/21/22/23/24/25

🍷 **Stocks** BREWING CO. DONCASTER resurrected original brews
& new specials. £3.00 All day everyday

🍷 3 regularly changing guest ales
£3.50 a pint

🍷 takeaway and delivery service
for all real ales.
5, 9, 18 and 36 pint boxes available

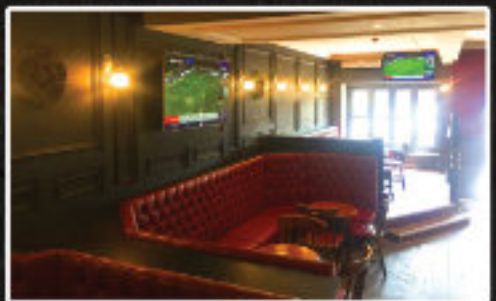
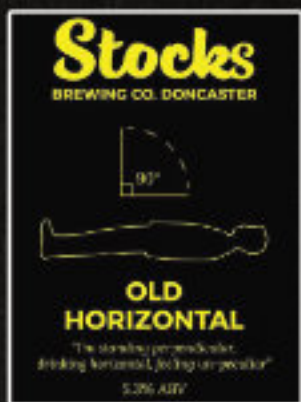
🍷 weekly quiz every Wednesday

🍷 patio beer garden - large walled
outside area & large patio beer
garden & area at the front

🍷 live sports inside and out.

🍷 functions / room hire &
free meeting area

🍷 dogs welcome



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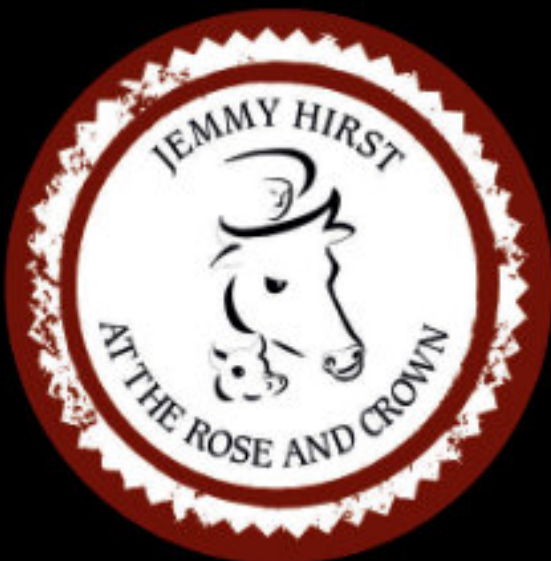
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Yorkshire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year

Our congratulations go to the Doncaster Brewery Tap (DBT) for achieving the status of Yorkshire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year for the second time.

The DBT has long been a premier pub to find real cider with its large selection of them, coupled with the expertise of Alison behind the bar. Cider has found increasing popularity in pubs throughout the country but traditional cider, as defined by CAMRA, can be hard to find.

There will be an opportunity to join in at the presentation at one of our socials so please come and join us.

We are also pleased to announce that the runner-up for the award was one of our advertisers, the Three B's Micropub in Bridlington. They are doing a great job up there in Bridlington and receive many visits from our members.



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Red Lion - Epworth

This 17th Century pub is famous for being visited by John Wesley. However, its other claim to fame is that ghostly 'going-ons' have been reported. It's said that glasses have flown off the shelves and people who go into the cellar have had a feeling of being watched.

There have also been occasions when a ghostly child has been seen to run around the chairs of diners. Chefs have reported the presence of a tall man standing in the doorway of the kitchen.



Eagle & Child - Auckley

There has been an inn on this site since 1492. There are at least two reported ghosts. One is a scruffy man who sits at his favourite table having a smoke. The smell of his smoke has been reported to linger in the air.

There is also the ghost of a labourer who once worked on a redevelopment of the pub. He had been banned by the landlord for wearing dirty work clothes and died the next day. Legend has it that he returns because he had a liking for one of the cleaning girls



Red Lion - City Centre

This busy city centre Wetherspoons pub is another "ghost pub".

In this case the ghost has a name and is called Rosie. She is believed to have hung herself in the area which is currently the gents toilet. The reason for her committing suicide is thought to be because she was jilted at the altar. Witnesses have also reported a male ghost has also been seen.



The Punch Bowl – Thorne

This was once a large private home. The ghost this time is a small ghostly boy. Overnight guests have said they felt like they were being pushed down into their beds and staff have reported the feeling of being watched in the cellar.



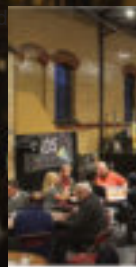
No-one knows how much truth there is in these tales so don't hold back on visiting these pubs. Ghost experts have visited the Red Lion in the city centre and all claim there is a paranormal presence.



Explore the subject further on YouTube - 'The Haunted Pubs and Hotels of Doncaster' (The Wanderlust Way).



Set in the atmospheric Museum, the Steel City Beer & Cider Festival offers over 200 cask beers across 2 bars. In addition to the beer, there's a popular food hall, live music, and more. Book your tickets now!



Beer Festivals



York Beer & Cider Festival returns to the spectacular surroundings of St Lawrence Parish Church. There will still be more beers and ciders than anywhere else in Yorkshire with over 200 and great food vendors.

17th - 20th September



Steel City Beer & Cider Festival

Set in the atmospheric Kelham Island Industrial Museum, the Steel City Beer & Cider Festival offers over 200 cask beers and over 50 ciders across 2 bars.

15th - 18th October



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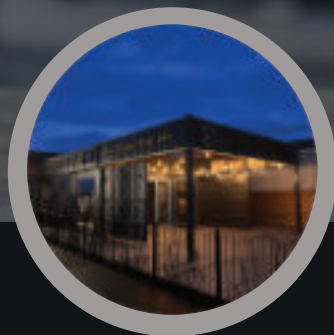
IN ONE OF OUR
UNIQUE PUBS
NEAR YOU



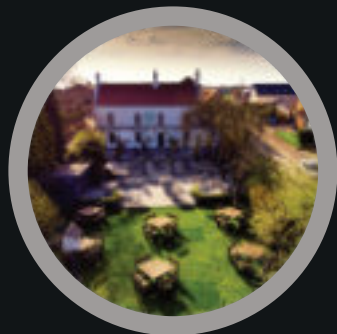
Don Valley Brewery Tap 1
Wool Market, Market Place
DN1 1NG



Don Valley Brewery Tap 2
Wool Market, Market Place
DN1 1NG



Don Valley Brewery Tap 3
The Brewery, Belton Road
Sandtoft, DN8 5SX



The Cadeby Inn
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Doncaster & District CAMRA
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CAMRA Membership Benefits



There are many benefits to CAMRA membership, including reduced entry to some beer festivals. Below are the details to schemes offering discounts on beer.

CAMRA Voucher Scheme

This scheme offers CAMRA members a total discount of £30 off a pint of Real Ale, Cider or Perry. Effectively 50p off each of 60 pints.

All new or renewing CAMRA members receive the following.

£30 worth of CAMRA Real Ale, Cider and Perry Vouchers for single or concession members and £40 worth for joint members. These are redeemable at over 1,200 pubs nationwide, including selected Stonegate and J D Wetherspoon-managed pubs. All vouchers will be valid for the length of membership. Vouchers may be redeemed one at a time against part of the cost of selected drinks.

Find out more and full Terms and Conditions at camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/camra-voucher-scheme.



CAMRA Members Real Ale Discount Scheme

The Real Ale Discount Scheme offers CAMRA members discounts in thousands of pubs across the UK.

CAMRA members can receive discounts across selected products on the production of a valid membership card. Pubs offer the discounts to encourage footfall and CAMRA members into their pubs to enjoy real ales. Pubs participating in the scheme may also feature the Real Ale Discount Scheme window sticker.

In order to find those generous pubs that are involved, simply visit whatpub.com and search for pubs with the special symbol. Also the pubs listed in the centre pages of Donny Drinker will have the 'D' letter after their name. You can also go to the following website address.

Camra.org.uk/join/membership-benefits/real-ale-discount-scheme

Please note: Pubs reserve the right to remove an offer at any time and all offers are subject to change without notice.



CAMRA promotes responsible drinking and thus encourages all vouchers to be used responsibly at all times

**Sign the petition for cask
beer to get UNESCO
heritage status**



Scan here to sign



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An almost full bus, only two spare spaces, left West Street promptly at 2.13 pm. Unfortunately, one of our number had been delayed because he was engrossed in a film titled 'Mr. Beamish Goes South' and was late for his connecting bus. Even though he had clearly been engrossed, he strongly recommended anyone who is thinking of seeking out the above film not to bother.

We headed off in the general direction of Sheffield. Although not officially a mystery trip, the vast majority of people declined the offer of seeing the itinerary thus creating the illusion of a little excitement. One can only assume that the ones that looked are the sort of people who peek at the end of a book when they are only halfway through.

We travelled down the motorway (M18) and off at junction 31 of the M1, heading to **Killamarsh** and a micropub named Guzzle. This is sister to another pub, also called Guzzle, in Woodseats. As it was a full bus it took some time for the nice lady to serve us all but we had plenty of time. They had Acorn Old Moor Porter and two Nailmaker beers. I had a pleasant pint of the porter.

Back on the bus and further into North Derbyshire where we visited the small village of **Middle Handley** and the Devonshire Arms. From the outside there was no escaping the fact that this looked like a posh pub. As every real ale fan knows, posh usually equates to bland beer and inflated prices. We were all pleasantly surprised to find that two of the three hand pumps were dispensing beers from the Little Critters Brewery at a not excessive £4.50. One member enquired about the Theakstons XB on the third pump and was told it was £6 a pint.

It's not my place to comment on such matters but the member in question opted for the Little Critters beer.

The next stop was the Travellers Rest just outside the village of **Apperknowle**. This had a good selection of what can only be described as real ale 'standards', Timothy Taylor Landlord and Landlord Dark, Bradfield Farmers Blonde amongst others. I opted for the Landlord Dark, or Ram Tam as us stubborn old folk insist on calling it. This pub features an amazing selection of cheeses that would very much excite the taste buds of the Wallaces of this world.

It is very nicely located on the top of the hill and features an area outside, across the road, where you can sit and enjoy the view of somewhere that definitely isn't Chesterfield but features a lot of north-east Derbyshire.

From the seats it was possible to hear the distinctive sound of leather on willow. It begged the question, how did someone manage to create a flat cricket pitch on the side of a hill. A closer inspection revealed that they hadn't. I have honestly never seen a cricket ground with a steeper slope. In fact, apart from in the Winter Olympics, I don't think I've ever seen any sports pitch with a slope that steep. Any batter on that ground was most definitely going to be aiming for one boundary more than the other.

And so to the Cross Daggers at **Coal Aston**. The bus couldn't make it up the street because of some awkwardly-parked cars which meant a quick walk, or sprint, up to the pub. As well as a number of national brands, it featured a beer from the local

Drone Valley Community Brewery which was particularly nice.

The pub has recently been awarded the local CAMRA Pub of the Year award. As we all know, this is the most prestigious award any pub can win. A small TV in the corner was showing the Andorra v England World Cup qualifier game and, for some reason, I was the only person watching it. Fortunately, we had to leave for the next pub at half time.

We now turned and started heading back towards home and into **Mosborough** and a micropub called Craftworks. This was actually quite posh with some very nice handpumps built into the stone bar. This very popular pub boasted a number of options including a house beer from Abbeydale and hand-pulled draught bass. We scouted round for seats and managed to bag a few until the people who had booked them for the evening turned up.

The last stop on the day's tour was another pub in Mosborough called the British Oak. This was quite busy because it had a function on in a marquee at the back. A large roadside pub with lots of seating and a good food offering, it looks like a standard chain pub but is operated by True North Brewing.

On the bar, amongst others, was their resurrected Stones Best Bitter. Having ordered a pint I was looking forward to being able to complain that it 'tasted nothing like it used to' and 'wasn't particularly nice'. I was, however, disappointed and all agreed it was a particularly agreeable pint of best bitter.

Despite the event there was plenty of space in the pub and we basically took over the conservatory area to enjoy our final pint. It always surprises me how quickly these days fly by. It seemed no time at all since our first pint in the Guzzle and now it was time to board the bus for the return trip to Doncaster

CAMRA Pub of the Year 2024



The Bailey Head in Oswestry



Photo: Graham, Mitchell

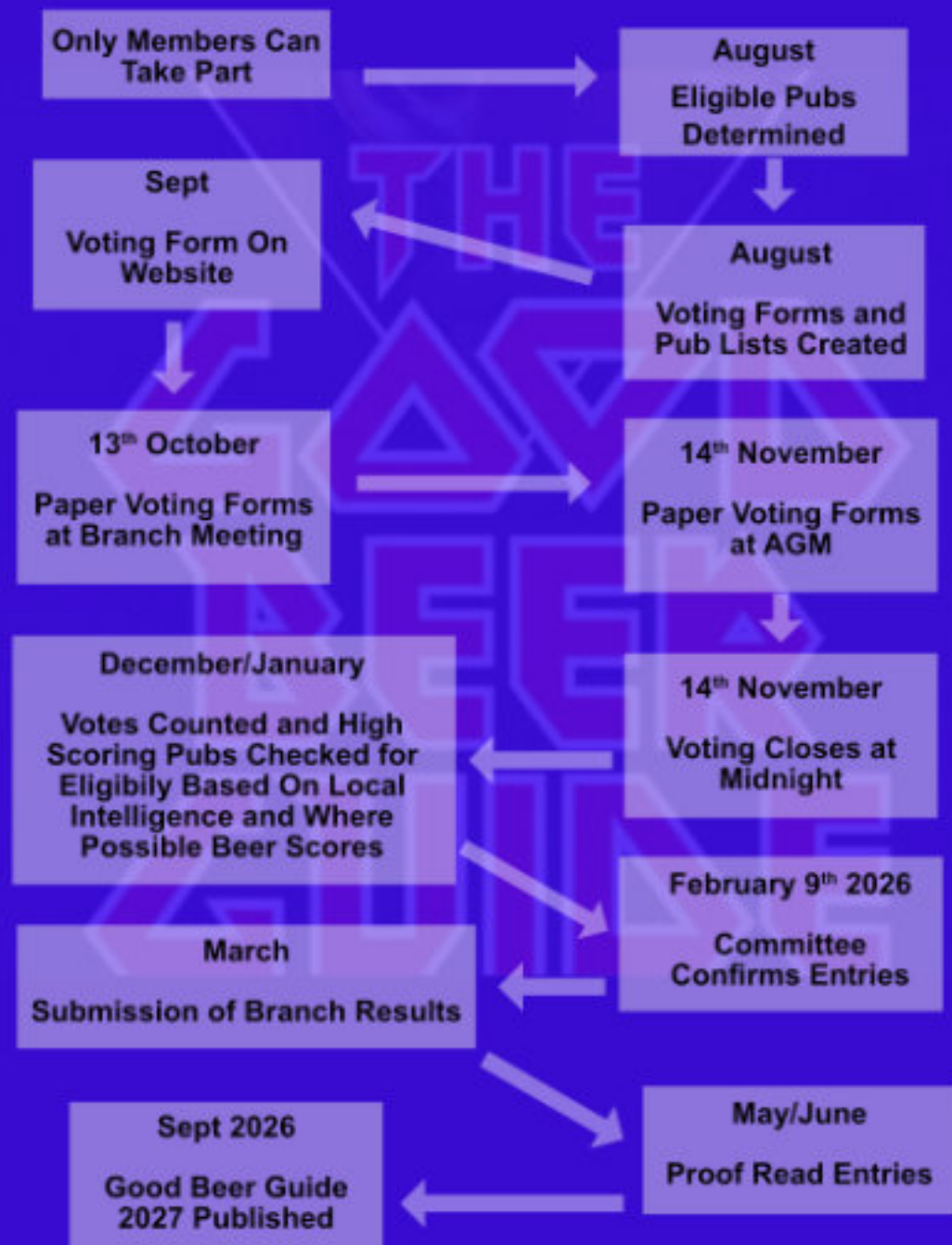
CAMRA's Pub of the Year is the annual competition to find the very best pub in the UK. CAMRA has been highlighting the best pubs in the country since 1988, and the competition helps to showcase quality pubs around the UK that are worth seeking out and visiting. It's all about finding the cream of the crop and the best place for you to enjoy a pint of cask ale. Some may also have good quality real cider or perry for you to sample.

The Bailey Head in Oswestry, Shropshire has been named the Campaign for Real Ale's (CAMRA) overall Pub of the Year for the first time. The pub is a rags-to-riches success story after the owners turned what was once a closed local into a haven for the local community.

The Bailey Head had been failing under the ownership of a major pub company and was listed by CAMRA as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) to protect it from redevelopment. Nine years ago, it was bought by Duncan Borrowman and Grace Goodlad who poured their knowledge and passion into it to transform the fortunes of the pub.

Community and inclusion are at the heart of the pub, and it acts as a hub for locals to come together for good causes through events like their charity pub quizzes and live music. Aside from providing a welcoming atmosphere, the Bailey Head also boasts an impressive array of cask beer and cider.

The Route to Good Beer Guide 2027 Entries



Branch Awards

Because the last edition of Donny Drinker came out a month early we have had some catching up to do with the presentation photos.



Doncaster Spring Pub of the Season
The Little Plough - City Centre



Doncaster Summer Pub of the Season
Horse & Groom - Armthorpe



District Summer Pub of the Season
Crooked Billet - Presentation will appear in DD162



Club of the Year 2024
Coronation Club - Norton



Doncaster Pub of the Year 2024
Hallcross - CityCentre



Cider Pub of the Year 2024
Doncaster Brewery & Tap - City Centre

We encourage you to come and join us on our varied socials. We organise them so that members get an opportunity to meet and make friends and to ensure that we visit and support the many parts of our branch area.

For further information or to book seats on a bus trip please contact Caroline on 07722625299. Additional information or updates can be found on our Facebook site and website (www.doncastercamra.org.uk)

Sat 30th August. Lynn's Barnsley Birthday Bash (Barnsley).

This is a long overdue visit. A South Yorkshire Connect Plus day ticket (presently £11.40) bought from your bus driver (not at the station) gives you use of all buses, trams, and trains in South Yorkshire for the day. Catching the 10.21 train (we change at Meadowhall) it will be easy on the legs, as most pubs are only 5 minutes' walk from the station and each other. Aiming for the 17.43 arriving back in Doncaster 18.24, or, using the same ticket, we could change in Sheffield instead and visit a few pubs there, before returning to Doncaster much later.

We arrive in Barnsley at 11.09 but there is always the Globe Coaches X20 bus Doncaster to Barnsley at 9.35 which arrives 10.42 or the 10.35 which arrives 11.42 if people wanted to do it by bus instead of by train. The last bus back is at 17.50.

Sat 13th Sept Minibus social to the Northeast of the Doncaster area.

Minibus will leave from opposite the Leopard on West Street at 2pm and return at 9pm. It is £5 pp for your seat, which you can book with Caroline

Sat 27th Sept Hilltop PotS presentation

Meet at the Hilltop at 3pm for the presentation at 4pm. X3 service bus is available from Doncaster interchange.

Sat 11th Oct Trip to Sheffield on the train. Times to be confirmed.

Mon 13th Oct Branch Meeting

Wait in the bar area at the Hallcross Hallcross. Meeting starts at 8.30pm.

Sun 19th Oct Sandtoft Isle of Axholme Vintage bus trip.

Details can be found on Doncaster CAMRA website.

Sat 1st Nov Awards evening at the Doncaster Brewery Tap

Starting at 7.30pm for 8pm presentation. They have won the Doncaster Pub of the Season and Yorkshire Cider Pub of the Year

Fri 14th Nov Branch AGM

The AGM will be held at the Hallcross, in the back room, 7pm for 7.30pm. Please bring your membership card as members will need to sign in.

Mon 8th Dec Branch Meeting

Wait in the bar at the Hallcross. Meeting start at 8.30pm.

There will be a Christmas social in December

Details to be confirmed in the next Donny Drinker.

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Save on beer when you visit the pub with our voucher and discount schemes. Plus save on entry to 100s of beer festivals too, just a few perks of our CAMRA membership.

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Real stories, real people, real ale

