



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE**

ISSUE 5

SPRING 2014

## MAD BECOMES A FULL BRANCH

At the Branch AGM in January, a special resolution resulted in a majority vote to apply to National HQ for Full Branch Status.

Chesterfield Chairperson Mick Portman fully supported the move and Regional Director Carl Brett undertook to take this forwards to the CAMRA National Executive meeting in mid February where the motion was ratified.

### Seven Year Itch

It goes without saying that we need to thank Chesterfield (hitherto our main branch) for all their help since Matlock and Dales was formed as a sub-branch over seven years ago, and we shall

continue our ties. Having said that, we should now look forward to being masters of our own destiny. The branch needs to stand on its own two feet, although with 175 branch members perhaps standing on 350 feet is more accurate.

### Decent Beer in Decent Pubs

So now is the time to get behind your branch and make sure we are representing you properly. Most people join CAMRA for the same reason: they want to drink decent beer in decent pubs, and they see the need to help protect and promote this. If you have a view on how we should be doing this in the local area then come along to our monthly branch meetings, meet some like minded individuals and share your thoughts.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Newly elected Chairperson Graham Dawson shares some real ale related thoughts ...

Beer lovers, as you are reading this Matlock and Dales CAMRA (MAD ) are getting to grips with becoming a full branch.

So this is the time to get involved, Why?

1. I believe that the more active the local CAMRA branch the better the quality and choice of Beer in the area.
2. Pubs nationally are closing at an alarming rate, so we need to support our local hostelrys.
3. The chance to drink and chat with like minded people.
4. See No 1.

Please get in touch with the branch contact or join us at one of our monthly meetings or social events. Look forwards to seeing you.

*by Graham Dawson*

## FEEDBACK

This Newsletter was produced by Membership Secretary [Michael Clarke](#). Feedback or queries to [madcamra@btinternet.com](mailto:madcamra@btinternet.com)



The technical term for this picture on the website is the masthead, and if you haven't seen this one yet, then get along to [www.mad.camra.org.uk](http://www.mad.camra.org.uk) which is the new online home for. **MATLOCK AND DALES.**

Produced entirely by your branch volunteers, this is your one stop shop for branch matters and links to all your needs, including

- latest news from your branch
- link to the Branch Diary for all meetings and socials
- details of August 2014 Beer Festival

- link to [whatpub.com](http://whatpub.com) to check a pub's beers, opening times, and to Rate Your Beer

- ability to download and read latest copies of InnSpire magazine,

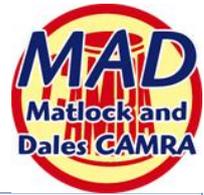
- details of branch Pub of the Season and Pub of the Year awards

- link to the branch yahoo group for up to the minute news

- branch contacts

- national CAMRA news and twitter feed

- and so much more !



As you probably know by now, details of our branch pubs and pubs across the country are online at

<http://whatpub.com>.

However did you know that you should also use this site to Rate Your Beer. Make sure you do this on a regular basis, because we use your ratings to decide which branch pubs go into the Good Beer Guide. You'll just need your CAMRA website logon and password to be able to do so.

## MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

20th March; Branch Meeting, 8pm; Thorn Tree, Matlock

28/29th March; York trip, see website calendar for details.

17th April; Branch Meeting, 8pm; venue to be arranged

15th May; Branch Meeting, 8pm; venue to be arranged

19th June; Branch Meeting, 8pm; venue to be arranged

15th July; Branch Meeting, 8pm; venue to be arranged

8-9th August; 2nd MAD Beer Festival, The Fishpond Hotel, Matlock Bath.

(see flyer and keep an eye on website for full details)

21st August; Branch Meeting, 8pm; venue to be arranged

Check the website calendar at <http://www.mad.camra.org.uk/> and look at the Branch Diary page for up to date information and details of meetings and socials. This is where details of the venues will be placed as soon as they are available. Social Secretary [Peter Boitout](mailto:peterb56@hotmail.co.uk) can be contacted at [peterb56@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterb56@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07791 159526.

## MAD TRIP TO NOTTINGHAM 2014

Nottingham has a great history. The Danes started the town off as a place to be reckoned with in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. King Richard and King John battled for the castle in 1194. Another king, Charles I reputedly started the English Civil War just outside the castle on Standard Hill, although Parliament ended up holding the castle for the duration of the conflict. (And when it was all over, they demolished most of it themselves, which defies belief). Famous sons (and daughters) include Nell Gwynn, DH Lawrence, Jake Bugg, Kenneth Clarke, Leslie Crowther, Jayne Torvill, and Godber out of Porridge. There was some bloke called Robin Hood too. It's an interesting place, so when Sandra and Dek Meakin said they

were going to organise an educational trip round Nottingham, I thought it would be great to go along and revel in the history of the place, so packed my camera and joined the busload. Well imagine my surprise when it turned out to be a CAMRA pub and brewery tour....

The only King on the itinerary was The King William IV pub in Sneinton. Pretty good beer though – So good I had two. The Doctors Orders in Carrington just up from the King Billy (to use the local vernacular) was next. A funny little place : an old pharmacy converted into a micropub. Waiter service too – Beer with a difference, and I ordered two. Being rather interested in 19<sup>th</sup> century British politics, I was looking forward to what was labelled 'Gladstone' on Sandra's itinerary. Nothing to do with the

Grand Old Man and champion of Irish Home Rule though, but the place did serve an excellent pint of Tim Taylors Landlord, which was so good I had two. Onward to the Plough Inn and Brewery Tap in Radford for a short tour round the 10 barrel Nottingham Micro Brewery, with a buffet laid on, then the tour bus diverted to the Dewdrop in Ilkeston for a pint (or two) before dropping into the Gate at Awwsworth, where I tried two real ciders. Final port of call was the Thorntree at Waingroves. No history there either, but I'd got the format of the day by then. I can't recall how many ales I tried there – possibly two. Education was never this good when I was at school. Roll on Sandra and Dek's next road trip.

*By Tony Farrington*

**CONTACT HQ** : If you do not wish to receive further contact from your branch please inform CAMRA HQ so that your membership record can be amended accordingly. Write to Membership Services, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW. Alternatively contact CAMRA HQ on 01727 798 437 or e-mail at [membership@camra.org.uk](mailto:membership@camra.org.uk)