



CAMRA MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

Matlock & Dales



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

ISSUE 7

AUTUMN 2015

**VIEW FROM
THE CHAIR**

MAD THIRD BEER FESTIVAL 2015

After the successful Chesterfield Winding Wheel beer festival in Feb 2013, Matlock and Dales CAMRA (then a sub-branch of Chesterfield) proposed organising one of our own. Chesterfield Branch were already running two a year (the Winding Wheel, and the Market Hall Festivals) and had Barrow Hill Beer Festival as a regular event as well. Various pubs around the area were also experimenting with their own mini-festivals. I mean how hard could it be? So sleeves were rolled up (a difficult operation because it was summer and you don't get too much sleeve on a T shirt), phone calls made, volunteers stepped forward (Chairman says I can't use the word 'pressed'), and before long, an association with the Fishpond in Matlock Bath (with their ideal location, their enormous function room, their dedicated staff, and the contagiously enthusiastic owner, Trevor Milner) spawned the first MAD CAMRA festival in August 2013.

It was an immediate success, so a second was held at the same location in the summer of 2014. By the start of 2015 Matlock and Dales had become an independent CAMRA Branch, had two successful beer festivals on their CV, and things were looking good.

This year, however, ongoing structural alterations at the Fishpond rendered the venue unavailable, so the branch considered that perhaps this time, we should go it alone. Now how hard could that be? Chairman Graham held the torch aloft, and one by one, things began to fall into place. Matlock Country Offices on Smedley Street was acquired for the venue, quirky transportation between the railway station and the new venue has been promised, funds have been appropriated from CAMRA HQ, posters designed, stillages ascertained, beer lists compiled (important one, that), staffing lists distributed... Save the date : **Friday & Saturday October 23rd/24th 2015**, and come to our Third beer festival, now at a great new location, and enjoy some quality real ale. Now how hard can that be?

Another year has gone by and, as you can read in this newsletter, it continues to be busy.

We are already an active branch and are seeing more and more members at our events. But I'm optimistic about seeing even more.

Please get involved at whatever level you like. You don't have to commit long term, just come and drink some fantastic beer on a social trip, attend a meeting, support a beer festival or score your beer on What-Pub.com

Cheers, Graham

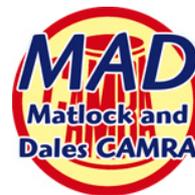
NOMINATIONS FOR PUB OF THE YEAR PLEASE!

Between October 1st and our meeting on December 17th, we will be voting on which one of 6 pubs should be our overall Branch Pub of the Year. The winner goes into the Derbyshire Pub of the Year competition. And who knows, could go on to regional, even national champion. We already have 4 entries—the winners of our Town POTY and Country POTY (for which you still have a chance to vote on the web-site until 17th September). We are now inviting from you 2 additional contenders to make up the six finalists.

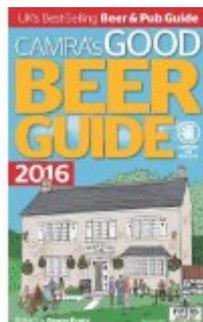
On what should you base your nominations? Remember that this is not the same as entries for the Good Beer Guide, for which the branch take your feedback via whatpub.com. All we can point you at is CAMRA's guidelines on which they base their final winner: "Pubs are judged by CAMRA on a variety of criteria such as atmosphere, level of service, value for money and community focus, with extra weighting of course given to the quality of their real ale, cider and perry".

2016 Branch Pub of the Year Vote

Name	Membership Number
1st Pub	4th Pub
2nd Pub	5th Pub
3rd Pub	SEE OVER FOR HOW TO VOTE



GOOD BEER GUIDE 2016



The 43rd CAMRA Good Beer Guide will be published on 10th September. Fully updated each year, with input from members via what-pub.com.

MEETINGS, SOCIALS & EVENTS

- Thu 20th August - MAD Monthly Meeting 8pm Duke of York, Elton.
 - Sat 5th September 2015 - MAD trip to Stockport.
 - Thu 10th September - Twenty Ten, Matlock Wolds Tasting Panel evening 7:30pm
 - Thu 17th September - MAD Monthly Meeting, Boat Inn, Cromford.
 - Sat 3rd October - Matlock walkabout. Meet 12:00 at the MoCa Bar, Matlock (The first of our new monthly local walkabouts – first Saturday every month).
 - Sat 10th October - MAD Monthly Meeting 2:45pm. The Red Lion, inside Crich Tramway Museum.
 - Fri 23rd – Sat 24th October - Matlock Third Real Ale festival. County Hall.
 - Sat 7th November - Derby walkabout. 11:36 am from Matlock Station.
 - Thu 19th November MAD Monthly Meeting, location tba.
 - Sat 5th December - Matlock walkabout. Meet 12:00 at the MoCa Bar, Matlock.
 - Thu 17th December - MAD Monthly Meeting, location tba.
 - Sat 2nd January - Nottingham walkabout. 11:37am from Matlock station.
- Disclaimer: We do our best, but please check the web-site or call!

E-MAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE!

Sadly, paper newsletters are expensive to produce and send, and we much prefer to update you all by e-mail (we're talking about one mail every month or so). We're missing e-mail addresses for about 50 members, so if you never receive e-mails from us, and you would like to, then please could you send us your address. You can either just e-mail CAMRA direct, or me: membership.madcamra@gmail.com, and I will get it updated at HQ.

Please be assured that this personal data is held securely by CAMRA HQ and not at branch level, in order to ensure security and to comply with data protection requirements.

WELCOME WIRKSWORTH MEMBERS

May we offer a great welcome to our new members from Wirksworth, Middleton, Carsington & Brassington. Wirksworth have moved from being part of the Derby branch to Matlock and Dales. The feeling in Derby had been for some time that the branch was unable to actively support campaigning in Wirksworth, whereas for Matlock and Dales it is merely a couple more stops on the 6.1 bus on our regular tours along the valley! In fact we have already enjoyed a great social trip around the town pubs along with local members.

Of course Derby has not become detached: we will continue to enjoy Derby's great pubs, fine ales, memorable festivals and other events, and of course the Derby Drinker!

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Just scan our QR code on your smartphone (right) to jump to the web-site. You can vote here, and find out more about anything in this newsletter. You need to download any free QR reader App.



Here is how you vote:

1. Go to www.mad.camra.org.uk, choose the Newsletter 2016 Vote option on the Left Hand Side and complete and submit the form **OR**

2. On the front of this sheet, fill in your name and CAMRA membership number, and the names and locations of the (up to) five pubs you wish to nominate from the MAD area in order of preference ... where the 1st Pub is your fa-

avourite, the 2nd Pub is your second favourite ...up to a maximum of 5. Then cut or tear off along the dots and post this part to Rick Graham, 156 The Hill, Cromford, Matlock DE4 3QU.