

FOOD & DRINK

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Changes a-brewing

Renowned Sheffield off-licence Mitchell's Wine Merchants has been going for 80 years, and last year their long-standing dedication to providing the people of Sheffield with tipples for all tastes and budgets was recognised as they were named best independent drinks retailers outside of London.

The Meadowhead store, which has been in the Mitchell family since 1935, has long been an expert in fine wines, spirits and ales, while recently extensively expanding its craft beer and gin selection in line with popular demand.

Now boasting a range of over 400 beers in stock, 120 of which are craft, and a third of that number being canned beers from popular brands such as Beavertown, Magic Rock and Camden Town Brewery; a vast fridge in the middle of the store now keeps some of the finest products from the UK's craft revolution nicely chilled.

However, the most exciting update has been taking place next door where Mitchells have

been preparing their latest venture – installing an on-site hop house and creating brews of their own while also building a beer museum and tasting room to host a variety of events upstairs.

Mitchells adopted the premises following the departure of Italian restaurant Ferdinandos last year, and the microbrewery has since been erected on the ground floor while their first brew, a 3.8% golden ale called Version One (V1), is now available in the store and across a range of local pubs including The Sheaf View, Blake

Hotel, Wortley Arms, New Barrack Tavern and others. As well as providing a space to brew their own range of drinks, they will be inviting a selection of guest brewers along to make beers on the premises, a process known as “cuckoo brewing”.

The remaining beers – Madness Session IPA, Marilyn Golden Ale, Independent Blonde, Let's Have a Butcher's Pale Ale, Dennis' Beer & Beef Bitter – are expected to be brewed and bottled over the next month and sold both in store and on draught at various local establishments. Beer growler



owners are also well catered for and will soon be able to top up from tap once the refill station is installed in the shop.

The upstairs beer museum will seat up to 30 people and host various drinks evenings, the first being a gin-tasting experience hosted by the people behind Sir Robin of Locksley Artisan Gins, while chef Andy Gabbitas from The Wortley Arms has been drafted in to provide the food at the events.

But they won't be stopping with just brewing beers; plans for the installation of a gin distillery are well underway and Mitchells expect to have their own brand ready to go on sale early next year.

And we'll certainly raise a glass to that...

To find out how to book your tasting experience in the beer museum, head to the website below or phone 0114 274 0311.

MITCHELLS WINES

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www.mitchellswine.co.uk

OPEN

10:00-20:30 Mon-Sat

12:00-20:00 Sun