

O to K

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Issue 87 . Autumn 2022 . FREE!



GOOD BEER GUIDE HITS 50

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WELCOME TO ISSUE 87

You have probably before reading this introduction had a quick flick through the magazine and I hope you have noticed the What's On guide on pages 8 and 9. It isn't the normal thing that many CAMRA magazines would do but in this issue I wanted to highlight the great events, evenings and sometimes daytime events that pubs run.

If you want to take your kids to meet Santa, well I have listed some of the pubs running Meet Santa events during December. Pubs are not just about great beer, they are focal points for local communities and by visiting the pub at any time you are helping that pub run as a successful business.

If your pub or club is running events in the new year either contact me directly or make sure you post on Facebook as I follow most pubs in the district and can pick up the information there.

Likewise if your pub runs special nights on a regular basis or is doing something for charity let me know.

The next magazine will be due in February so you have plenty of time to get information to me and I accept information at any time. If it can't go in the magazine then we can at least put it onto our social media.

I hope to make this a regular feature.

BIG BOYS TAKING OVER

I have seen some talk in beer circles around the increasing prevalence of in particular Beavertown (owned by Heineken) and Camden Town (from AB Inbev). Two global giants who have muscled in on the craft beer market by buying up two formally well regarded small independent craft brewers and putting these beers into pubs.

This is because Heineken have a large pub estate and AB Inbev a big budget so their products are appearing because of this and not because the pub has access to local (or better) beer.

Some are calling these "Faux Craft", not real craft beer but I don't agree with this. One of craft beer's biggest failings was to not correctly define itself in this country. It spent a lot of wasted time going after "boring brown beer" i.e. cask beer like Bitter and forgot that the real "enemy" was big beer coming in and buying up breweries. I note with some amusement many craft beer writers talking about how great cask Bitter and Mild now is, I always knew they were.

But back to Beavertown and Camden Town, I welcome them appearing in pubs offering people a choice of better beer than the average lager or smooth ale and if it makes people try better craft beer in other venues then it's all good.

**Enjoy the magazine
Mark**

BRANCH DIARY

3rd Dec - Branch Meeting at the Little Bull, Middlestown. Saturday lunchtime meeting followed by a pub crawl around Horbury.

10th Dec - Christmas Party at Henry Boons, Wakefield. Come and meet old friends and new. From 5pm.

5th Jan - Branch meeting at Luis Bar, Wakefield (TBC)

7th Jan - Survey Trip around the branch by coach

17th Jan - Committee Meeting at Bier Hius, Ossett

4th Feb - Branch Meeting at Black Rock, Wakefield (TBC)

23rd Feb - Committe Meeting at Priory, Wakefield (TBC)

14th Mar - AGM & Branch Meeting at Henry Boons

You can keep up to date on all events by following us on Twitter and Facebook or visiting our website wakefield.camra.org.uk/branch-diary

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Pub News

South Elmsall - Barnsley Oak

Happy Retirement, Mark!

After 17 years, Mark Larkin and the Barnsley Oak, South Elmsall have gone their separate ways.



Over those years, legendary landlord Mark built up an outstandingly good community pub which featured in quite a few editions of the Good Beer Guide. His food offering of proper home cooked pub meals at sensible prices became so popular that he ended up turning people away at busy times. Along with that there were live music nights and a very well attended Sunday night quiz. Even more importantly, his insistence on civilised standards of behaviour made the Barnsley Oak a safe and welcoming place to eat and drink. He will be much missed and a tough act to follow.

For the moment, the Barnsley Oak is trading as before. There is currently 1 cask ale on the bar, recently it was Landlord. There have been rumours about plans for something rather different so it will be interesting to see what happens.

Thanks, Mark, for your contribution to the local scene in an area where there have been many closures leaving very few quality pubs.

Enjoy the next chapter!

Colin Williams

Castleford - The Griffin

And we offer good luck and best wishes to Kevin and Wendy as they close The Griffin on Lock Lane. They opened in 2017 transforming it into a welcoming pub.

The pub featured in Good Beer Guide including the newly issued 2023 guide which stands as a final thank you from all of us on what is a loss to the local pub scene.

Two new bars in Castleford have opened, **Aviators Bar** offering Beavertown Neck Oil on keg and **Thieves Market** with Asian street food with a couple of craft kegs including Kirkstall and Northen Monk recently.

We wish both places every success.

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Wakefield

Priory - On Saturday afternoons the pub has been offering 2 cask ales for £6.00 (£3.60 for one). They have Bredfield Farmers Blonde and a second pump which can have Abbeydale Moonshile and Oakham Citra.

Bridge Inn - Is the new name for the Ruddy Duck. The pub has had a refit and will reopen during November promising a new look, new menu, weekly events and entertainment.

The Lupset Reopening

Shut when the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 The Lupset on Horbury Road has a planned reopening of November 16th.

Still owned by Greene King the pub is to be operated by Mustard Pubs. The pub has been completely refurbished inside and a repaint on the outside.



The pub is promising real ale and simple food menu aiming make the pub a real community venue.

Calder Vale - Summer Pub Of The Season

At the September branch meeting we presented the award to the Calder Vale. The home of Luddite has 7 hand pulled ales on and a number of craft kegs as well.

There is a full program of events and food evenings advertised well in advance by the pub and a listing of these for December can be seen on page 8.



The Autumn Pub of the Season is the Old Grocers, Pontefract.



Prop Ur Baa, Ossett



Star, Sandal



Junction, Castleford



Doghouse, Castleford



Polka Hop, Wakefield



Luis Bar, Wakefield



Black Rock, Wakefield



Little Bull, Middlestown



Robin Hood, Pontefract



Cricketers, Horbury



New Albion, Alverthorpe



Congratulations to all our entries into the Good Beer Guide 2023

- The Robin, Altofts**
- Bier Huis, Ossett**
- Boons, Horbury**
- Calder Vale, Horbury Junction**
- Masons Arms, Ackworth**
- Old Grocers, Pontefract**
- Henry Boons, Wakefield**
- Harry's Bar, Wakefield**
- and on the front page**
- Red Shed, Wakefield**

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ACKWORTH BEER FESTIVAL A ROARING SUCCESS

Ackworth real ale pubs, clubs and restaurants continue to prosper in what are still proving to be difficult times nationally post the Covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. Cask Real Ale is consistently served up good, or better, in all six, soon to be seven, establishments. Landlords/Landladies and Managers are now busy gearing up for the Christmas and New Year festivities.



Ackworth Cricket Club (behind the Boot and Shoe):

The Cricket Club hosted a very successful Beer Festival over the weekend of the 17th and 18th September. The festival ran alongside a funfair, musical entertainment and a vintage car show. 18 different very well presented real ales were on offer. David, of the Hill Top Tap in Hemsworth organised the beers and bar equipment. Well done to David, Leah Taylor the Club Bar Manager, Lydia Taylor the Festival Organiser and the Club Committee for putting on such a splendid event. Planning has already started for a beer festival in 2023. Funds were raised for CRY Rory Foundation, Riding for the Disabled and Aspire who support people with Spinal Injuries. Hill Top Raspberry Blonde was voted Beer of the Festival and will become the first cask real ale to be served on the permanent hand pump that will be on the bar from mid November onwards. Occasional Bottled Conditioned Beers are available but Leah has been having problems with suppliers. Christmas opening times and entertainment will be posted on the Ackworth Facebook page. Winter opening hours are: Mon and Tues 18:00 to 22:00, Wed closed, Thurs and Fri 18:30 to 23:00, Sat 12:00 to 23:00 and Sun 12:00 to 17:00.

Rustic Arms: There are two regularly changing guest real ales available. On a recent visit they were Theakston Best Bitter and Hodgoblin IPA. The Friday night Live Music and Tribute Bands/Acts continue to be very well attended. All the weekly entertainment is posted on the Facebook Page. The Sunday Carvery, 12:00 to 6:00, continues to be very popular.

Masons Arms: Congratulations on consistently providing top quality real ale and again featuring in the recently published 2023 CAMRA National Good Beer Guide. Bradfield Brewery's Blonde and Farmers Bitter are the two permanent real ales on offer. Live music on

Saturday at 8:30 and Sunday at 4:00 is proving to be very popular with both locals and visitors to the village. Quiz night is Thursday at 8:30.

Ego at The Beverley Arms: The mainly food based pub restaurant has the one permanent real ale available. The recent change from Dissolution IPA to Kirkstall IPA, both by the Kirkstall Brewery, has proved very popular and was of a very good quality on a recent visit. The Festive Menu runs from 28th November to 30th December. 2 courses £25.95 and 3 courses 29.95. Also, there is a 4 course New Year's Eve Menu, with Live Entertainment, at £54.95. Book for both menus by either contacting the restaurant direct or head to www.egorestaurants.co.uk/book-now



Brown Cow: Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker and Ossett White Rat, both of consistently high quality, are proving very popular and seem to have become semi-permanent real ales. The recent major refurbishment of the main drinking area has been well received by the locals. The Christmas Menu, which will run

alongside the normal menu, starts 1st December Tues to Fri 12:00 to 7:00. 2 courses £19.95 and 3 courses £24.95. Further details on the Facebook Page. Quiz night is on Tuesday at 9:00 with a free supper.

Boot and Shoe: Ossett White Rat and Yorkshire Blonde are the two permanent real ales. A rotating guest real ale from the Ossett Brewery range is usually available on the third hand pump. Live Music is on Saturdays at 9:00. Quiz Night is Thursday at 9:00. Wood Fired Pizza and Skewers on the recently changed menu are proving to be popular (see Page 10). Sunday Roast is served 12:00 to 6:00.



Angel: Black Sheep Bitter is the permanent real ale. Recent changing guest beers on the second hand pump have also come from the Black Sheep Brewery, including the Special Ale at 4.6%. The Black Sheep Respire fruity beer was very popular. The smart refurbishment, including new furniture, recently has gone

down well with the regulars. The Christmas Party Food Menu can now be booked (01977 611276 or theangelackworth@gmail.com) and runs from 22nd November to 22nd December Mon to Fri (excluding Fri evenings). 2 courses £22.95 and 3 courses £25.95. Seniors, daytime only, £15.95 and £18.95, respectively. Quiz night is on Wednesday at 8:45 with a free supper.

Quiz Nights

Angel, Ackworth - Wed
Boot and Shoe, Ackworth - Thu
Bradley Arms, North Featherstone - Wed
Brown Cow, Ackworth - Tue
Cricketers, Horbury - Wed
Doghouse, Castleford - Wed
Gardeners Arms, Lofthouse - Sun
George V WMC, Glasshoughton - Thu
Hop, Wakefield - Tue
Kings Arms, Heath - Tue
Kings Arms, Horbury - Thu
Little Bull, Middlestown - Sun
New Pot Oil, Wrenthorpe - Thu
New Wheel, Wrenthorpe - First Tue of Month
Nightingale, Outwood - Sun
Masons Arms, Ackworth - Thu
Old Halfway House, Horbury - Thu
Red Shed, Wakefield - Wed
Star Inn, Netherton - Tue
Sun Inn, Lofthouse - Thu
Swan & Cygnet, Pugneys - Wed
The Tap, Ossett - Thu
Woodman, Outwood - Wed

Regular Live Music

Black Horse, Wakefield
Blue Bell, Pontefract
Bradley Arms, North Featherstone
Brewers Pride, Healey
Calder Vale, Horbury
Deep Drop, Outwood
Doghouse, Castleford
Elliots Bar, Wakefield
George V WMC, Glasshoughton
Kinsley Hotel, Kinsley
Harry's Bar, Wakefield
Hilltop Brewery Tap, Hemsworth
Hop, Wakefield
Horse & Jockey, Altofts
Junction, Castleford
Little Bull, Middlestown
Luis Bar (Fernandes), Wakefield
Market Tap, Castleford
Masons Arms, Ackworth
Ossett Brewery & Tap Room
Polka Hop, Wakefield
Red Shed, Wakefield
Rustic Arms, Ackworth
Shephards Arms, Horbury
Station, Crigglesstone
Venue 23, Wakefield

Any errors or want to be listed?

Do you have Darts, Pool, Football teams?

Contact the editor

otok@wakefield.camra.org.uk

Events Listing (all dates Dec unless specified)

Altofts

The Robin - Have a book club, the November book was Margaret Atwood - Penelopiad. The pub holds an evening to discuss the book. They have wood fired pizza with takeaway orders on Fri and Sat, thru Facebook messaging. Thu is stack em up burger night.

Castleford

Junction - 2nd Thu each month is Debate Night, an open discussion on all things Castleford. Last Fri of each month is cocktail night and last Sun of each month is a folk afternoon.

Yorkshire Craft Beers

Fri 9th/ Sat 10th - Xmas Party Nights (ticketed)

Sat 17th - Cheesy Xmas Party (ticketed)

Fri 20th Jan 2023 - Craft Beer Experience (ticketed)

North Featherstone

Bradley Arms - on the last Mon of each month there is an acoustic session at 8pm so bring your instrument, voice or just ears.

Healey

Brewers Pride

Curry Night - Every Wednesday

Open Mic - Every 2nd Sunday afternoon of the month

Pie Night - Every Tuesday 5-8.30pm

Quiz Night - Every Monday 9pm

Vinyl Sundays - Every 1st Sunday of the month 2pm

Ossett Brewery Taproom & Shop

Fri 16th-18th - Kitchen Takeover - Stacked Burger Co.

Sun 18th - Christmas Afternoon 12-5pm with mulled wine, brass band, street food, handmade crafts.

New Years Eve Party - Free entry, complimentary buffet and live music with Paul Stott. From 7pm.

Horbury

Calder Vale

Sat 3rd/4th - Bank St Kitchen 2pm

Sat 3rd - Washboard Resonators 1930s Music Hall Jazz Duo 7.30pm

Fri 9th/10th - Flame Pit Pizza 6.30pm

Fri 9th - Jonny & The Rizlas Electric Rhythm & Blues 7.30pm

Sat 10th/11th - Vintage Xmas Fair 2pm

Sat 17th - Grange Moor Brass Band 4.30pm and Comedy at the Calder 13 7.30pm

Sun 18th - The Hunch before and after World Cup Final

Thu 22nd/23rd - Ryan & Scott's Big Not Like a Quiz QUIZ Xmas Edition

Cricketers

Have a meat raffle on Fridays between 4.30-6.30. Ticket with every drink purchase over £3.

Lofthouse

Gardeners Arms - Tuesday is Bingo and Sunday Quiz night with Open the box & PYCR

Lofthouse

Sun Inn

Sat 3rd, 10th, 17th - Breakfast With Santa

Sun 4th - Xmas Market 12-4

Takeaway is available on Deliveroo and Just Eat

Middlestown

Little Bull

Pie Night - Every Wednesday 5-8pm

Authentic Thai Night - Every Thursday 4-9pm

Fish Friday - 4-6pm

Normanton

Black Swan - Every Thursday in Bingo with £500 jackpot and Sunday night is Quiz night

Ossett

Bier Huis

Sat 26th Nov - 11th birthday party

Sat 9th Dec - Gin tasting night (tickets £20)

Pontefract

Carleton

11th, 17th, 20th - Breakfast With Santa

Fri 16th - Festive Party Night

Sun 18th - Xmas Market 11am-3pm

Mon 19th, Thu 22nd - Festive Quiz parts 1 and 2

Wed 21st, Thu 22nd - Seniors Xmas Lunch

Every Thursday is Quiz Night, there are Sunday dog walks and they have a running club which meets on Tues, Thurs and Sundays (www.carletonrunning.co.uk for more information)

Old Grocers - Acoustic afternoons last Saturday in the month and host Pontefract Folk Club on selected dates.

Sandal

Star - Monday is Pie Night from 4pm-8pm

Wakefield

Holmfild Arms - newly refurbished

Sat 3rd - Lunch with Santa 2.30pm

Sat 3rd, Fri 9th, Sat 16th - Tribute acts 8pm

Tues 6th, 13th - Golden years lunch with bingo 12-2

Inns Of Court - have free pool on Tuesdays.

Luis Bar (Fernandes) - Live Music in December

Sun 27th Nov - The Cadavers

Sun 4th - Alison Bulivent

Sun 11th - Brass Band (TBC)

Sun 27th Nov - The Welsh 'T' Band

Swan & Cygnet

Fri 2nd, 9th, 16th - Xmas Party. Festive menu & music

Mon 5th - Xmas wreath making workshop 7pm

Sat 10th, 24th - Breakfast with Santa 9.30am

Sun 18th - Meet & greet with Mickey & Minnie Mouse 5pm


Some events are ticket only and check with the venue that the events listed here are running.

Want to be listed?

Contact the editor otok@wakefield.camra.org.uk

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A Good Meal And A Decent Pint - Boot and Shoe Ackworth

On this occasion we return to Ackworth, once a notorious real ale desert and now, as regular readers will know, awash with real ale and a good choice of pub food. We thought we'd check out what the Boot and Shoe has to offer.



It would be fair to say that there was a time when the Boot and Shoe was not the grandest pub in the village. The loss of the original Bardsley Bitter would have been a major blow to this pub and to the nearby Masons Arms.

The building has now had a major refurbishment. The new outdoor drinking area is very attractive and is very popular in good weather. The large bay windows which looked nice but were very cold to sit in have gone and it was a delight to see that the famous roaring fire is still where it always was. The place felt warm and welcoming and it was good to see it very busy on a Thursday early evening.



On the bar were 3 real ales: White Rat, Ossett Yorkshire Blonde and Ossett Midnight Rider, a hazy black IPA brewed in collaboration with Neptune Brewery. It was good to see a dark beer on offer, something different for the customers to try. The White Rat was in perfect condition and Chief Inspector Locale was well impressed with the Midnight Rider.

There has been a trend for pubs to offer something other than a general food menu and for smaller pubs the use of mobile caterers has made this easier to do. Here at the Boot they have a "Fuego" menu consisting of a large choice of wood fired pizzas and skewers. Pizzas start from £8.50 for a Margherita and skewers include Greek halloumi (£9.50) and steak and sausage (£11.50). The skewers have various marinades and dips and come with a decent salad and either flatbread or salted fries. There is a selection of sides for those who

wish to personalise their meal. Outstandingly good value can be had on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays when you can have any 2 pizzas for £15 or a pizza for £10. They like pizzas here; at the entrance a sign reads "In Pizza we Crust".



The Chief Inspector liked the sound of the "Yorkshire Pig" pizza (£13). It was a pretty substantial dish on an excellent base featuring "Yorkshire ham, pork sausage, Wensleydale cheese, mozzarella and tomato sauce". It met with his approval. In fact, all 14 pizzas sound rather tempting. I could have chosen any one of the 7 skewers but I settled for the Thai chilli sausage version (£9.50). Tasty pieces of sausage were skewered along with onion and pepper, sesame seeds coriander and a sweet chilli dip. The skewer was placed on proper salad and came with a generous serving of salted fries. We had both chosen well.

This original "Fuego" menu looks like a successful venture. It won't suit everyone and some might prefer traditional pub fayre but it was good to see something out of the ordinary being well received. I'm certainly intending to revisit and sample some more.

For a village of its size, Ackworth has a very poor bus service. The 485 from Wakefield is daytime only and there is also the hourly 28 Pontefract-Barnsley which actually does run in the evening. The adventurous could try to pick this service up at Fitzwilliam Station.

Boot and Shoe, Wakefield Rd, Ackworth, WF7 7DF, Facebook: Boot & Shoe Ackworth, 01977 610218. Meals 1200-1500 and 1700-2100. Sunday roast 1200-1800.

Colin Williams

Follow Colin on Twitter
@ColinWilliams14



Real Cider And Perry In The Wakefield District

Alverthorpe WMC	Doghouse, Castleford	Reindeer Inn, Overton
Bier Huis, Ossett	Fernandes, Wakefield	Robin Hood, Altofts
Blue Bell, Hemsworth	Glass Blower, Castleford	Robin Hood, Pontefract
Boons, Horbury	Harry's Bar, Wakefield	Six Chimneys, Wakefield
Boot And Shoe, Ackworth	Market Tap, Castleford	Wagon, Wakefield
Broken Bridge, Pontefract	New Albion, Althorpe	Winter Seam, Glassho'ton
Cherry Tree, Horbury	Old Grocers, Pontefract	
Cricketers Arms, Horbury	Polka Hop, Wakefield	

Let us know! Does your pub or club sell real cider or perry?

Have you been somewhere that that isn't listed here?

**Please contact the editor
otok@wakefield.camra.org.uk**

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It's scary out there at the moment isn't it? Whether you read this as a drinker, a landlord or a hospitality worker, you'll have either a shared or individual reason to be concerned. Sadly, that doesn't seem to be going to change anytime soon either. There's the overall Russian concern, concerns over job stability and, for our beloved pubs and bars, concerns over financial sustainability. Like those sitting at home, how are they going to pay their electricity bills?

With everyone, myself included, facing imminent price hikes for utilities, food and other bills, will there be room for beer in our budgets? Will we be able to venture out to our locals (or beyond) for a pint in a bid to 'do our bit' and help them keep their lights on? Well, we just might be able to...

It's impossible to avoid the numerous saddening news stories of venues closing (The Griffin in Castleford being one of the latest) but between them, there are small glimmers of hope, and opportunity for those able. Pubs have been the beating heart of communities for generations now and if we're not careful, we're in danger of losing that. Whilst the word 'pub' might instantly mean beer that could, particularly over the winter, change to warmth.

In a world where home-working has become the norm, sitting at home might not be as comfortable as it once was. Instead of staring at the thermostat with scrutiny before sticking on a tenth layer of clothing, pubs and venues could provide the answer; allow people to work from them. For a fee of some sort, perhaps with a pint or cup/s of tea/coffee thrown in, not only could someone work remotely in relative comfort, but the pub can also cover a portion of their heating/electricity bill at the same time. And, let's be honest, who isn't going to stop for a pint after work too?

This isn't a new or ground-breaking idea either as venues such as Springwell, North Brewing's taproom, and Horsforth Brewery cater for those needing a workspace, but it's one I'm surprised we haven't seen more of. Not only can those working from home find some company and conversation by working outside of their own four walls, but the pub could find itself some new customers too.

Of course, this isn't going to be applicable to every venue across the district, but how many would otherwise potentially be heating an empty space wishing for customers? Not only is it beneficial for both parties if done correctly, but it could be the first crucial step in re-connecting with the local community and prolonging the pub being the centre of its local community. If people are happy to work there, they're certainly going to be happy to eat, drink and socialise there after. Done properly, the pub could become people's second homes, much like they used to be, with a thriving community look and feel.

It's a novel idea, and one that may not generate thousands in income but, in the current climate especially, surely something is better than nothing? The potential long term effect is worth considering too, with plenty of opportunity to advertise upcoming events & community projects, enticing further revenue and support.

If I worked from home and my local offered such an idea, I know where I would rather be sat. Imagine being able to say, "I'm going to work," meaning the pub and having the best of both worlds; a comfortable & welcoming space in which to work, then having a pint after.

Sounds perfect to me.

Stephen Carter, Points Of Brew



Find our podcasts with Stephen through the Points of Brew Instagram page.

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Coming Soon...



November



December



January

Beer On DVD 72 - The Halfway House (1944)



A cracking cast with Esmond Knight, Françoise Rosay, Alfred Drayton, Glynis Johns and her father Mervyn Johns, Basil Dearden, Sally Ann Howes, Tom Walls, Guy Middleton, directed by Basil Dearden and Alberto Cavalcanti.

A group of travellers, all with something to resolve from their past, have

arrived by train and take shelter from a storm in an old Welsh inn, called the Halfway House, which it is, in more ways than one. These folk are a symphony conductor who has a few months to live, a couple of war profiteers, a husband and wife whose marriage is breaking up although their daughter is desperate to keep them together and an elderly couple trying to resolve the death of their son in the line of duty.

The inn-keepers seem a little creepy, maybe because the pub was actually bombed out of existence a couple of years before and the hosts, father and daughter, were killed in the blast. They have no shadows and no reflections!

Cert: PG from the Ealing Studios Collection for about £6 or, with a different cover £9 dvd/£12 Blu-ray from Amazon



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Bradbury's Beermat Column - Foxfield Brewery

The mat featured this time is from the Foxfield Brewery which was located Prince of Wales pub in the Cumbrian village of Foxfield.

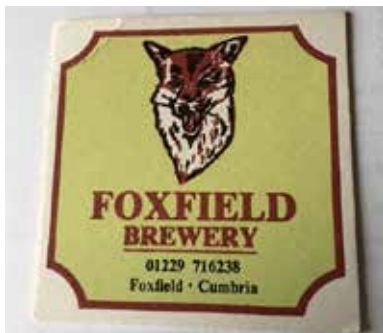
It was set up in 1997 by two of Wakefield CAMRA's members, Stuart and Lynda Johnson, when they moved to Foxfield from Flanshaw where they had set up the Tigertops Brewery.

The mat is one of 15 issued by the brewery which come in 2 basic designs. The other design has a diagonal band from top right to bottom left and has the Foxfield logo on one side and the Tigertops logo on the other. The reverses of the mats had details of opening hours, Christmas Wishes, Beer Festival information and Charity advertising.

The pub did accommodation and Stuart's breakfasts were legendary. You did not need much more food for the rest of the day after you had a traditional Cumbrian breakfast. Stuart and Lynda made everyone feel at home and people used to travel from Barrow and the surrounding area to enjoy Stuart's unique beers which came in many different styles and tastes.

They retired a few years ago and will be missed by all who visited the pub and by us in Wakefield who had the privilege of calling them our friends. I'm sure everyone who knew them will join me in wishing them well for the future.

Cheers, Albert.



Current Chairman Albert presenting the first Chairman Stuart Johnson with a "Tetley Dave" Award in 2018.

GEORGE V WMC

There's a great welcome at this popular busy club for members and non members with a fine selection of beers and lagers including three cask beers from **Old Mill, Black Sheep, Pedigree and a local brewery including Ossett**

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The LUDDITE oath

The Luddites of 1812 had a solemn oath, which stated that any man who “twisted in” to their cause must “punish with death any traitor or traitors who may rise up against us”.

The “oath” of the Luddite Brewing Company doesn’t go quite that far, but there are a few things we do try to follow when brewing and running our brewery tap, The Calder Vale Hotel in Horbury Junction.

We try to brew interesting ales from the finest ingredients. We like traditional beer recipes, popular trends such as IPAs, and we also like to experiment with our take on continental beer styles, particularly those of the clever Belgians.

In our pub, The Calder Vale, we have a “Yorkshire First” policy. This means we have guest ales from smaller brewers across Yorkshire, our lagers are from Sheffield and we have spirits from Mapplewell, Richmond and Filey. Our crisps are from Howden and our nuts are made in Holmfirth.

We also make a point of having... restaurant quality wines, live music, comedy and cinema evenings, the daftest pub quiz ever, log-burners, a large hop garden and we allow dogs. We are currently Yorkshire’s “dog friendliest” pub.

If you like our oath, you may like to pay us a visit. You’ll receive a reet warm welcome... so long as you’re not a traitor!

LUDDITE

The Calder Vale Hotel, Millfield Rd., Horbury Junction, WF45EB

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At the start of October, the media reported that 50 pubs a month were closing their doors for good across England and Wales. Soaring operating costs and fragile consumer confidence have all contributed to this dire situation.

From a nostalgic point of view, it breaks my heart to see the 'tins' covering the windows of pubs which were, at one time, thriving successful businesses at the heart of the community. From a practical point of view, I realise the negative impact this has on the brewers and food companies who supply the pub with goods, and the staff who deliver the package.

I would love to see all pubs thrive and survive, but let's cut to the chase: times have changed, and people have changed. There is no easy way to soft soap this, the days of a pub opening its doors and expecting customers to flood in have long gone.

Why do you think Wetherspoon's has been so successful? Admittedly, you could argue that it's the cheap beer on the bar. But it's so much more than that. They're consistent. You know what time they open and what time they close. You know what you're getting when you order a meal off their menu, it's the same every time. You know they always have cask beer on the bar; it might not be the most exciting choice, but

it's always there. People love to hate Wetherspoon's, there's a 'Ryan Air' mentality towards its outlets (and Tim Martin, its owner) but you always know what you're going to get. Put it this way: you arrive in an unfamiliar town, you don't know the local pubs, you want something to eat and drink, where can you go with confidence that you're going to get what you know? Wetherspoon's.

I know I'm risking the wrath of a thousand keyboard warriors here, but I like knowing what I'm going to get for my money. I can't always guarantee that kind of confidence when I walk into an unknown pub. So, whilst Wetherspoon's delivers consistency and value, is this what the future of the pub industry looks like? No, because nobody wants the bland homogeneity we experienced throughout the latter part of the twentieth century. But if the traditional boozier is to survive, change needs to happen.

Innovation is as important as consistency. A good example of this is BrewDog who have recently opened a massive bar in Waterloo station in London. They have made it whatever you want it to be. It can be any of these things at any time of day: a pub, a café, a beer shop, a restaurant, a party venue, a workspace and most importantly, a place to meet your mates. Beer sits at the heart of this environment. It's rammed every day of the week. Isn't this what all pubs were always supposed to be? I'm not a massive fan of BrewDog, but believe me, if there's a blueprint for what pubs need to do to survive, this is it.

I know some of you reading this won't like what I've said. It was hard to write this. But I've just had a couple of (brilliant) pints in my local pub and on the back of a beer mat I worked out how much it had cost the staff to serve me those pints in a near empty pub. The sums don't add up.

I suppose the point of this article is: support your local pub and support your local breweries. If they go, we lose the heart of our community.

©Annabel Smith

Annabel Smith is founder of BeerBelle, a company specialising in delivering beer training, beer events, and a consultancy service to brewers and pubs.

annabel@beerbelle.co.uk

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Brewery News

Ossett Brewery, Ossett



5000th Brew Special - Treacle Stout Extra 7%

To celebrate the 5000th brew in their current brewhouse, this is a stronger version Treacle Stout. A strong, smooth and robust stout flavoured with roasted and chocolate malts, bitterness is moderate, and aromas of citrus may be detected due to a late kettle addition of Cascade hops.

Collaboration Beer - Antipodean Pale Ale, 5.5%

Originally brewed as a keg lager at Green Duck Beer Co. in January 2022, this is a cask version of the same beer. Pilsner and Vienna malts combine to create a smooth, full-bodied and malty base, while Motueka hops from New Zealand and lime zest in the hopback and as dry-hop result in delicate lime, lemon and floral aromas

Mini Kegs Available

Available is Yorkshire Blonde, Pale Session Ale, 3.9% and White Rat, Hoppy Pale Ale, 4.0% available from the brewery shop and other retailers including Bier Huis.

Five Towns, Wakefield



Although now retired you may have noticed a number of collaborations with other brewers.

Beers have included the brilliantly named Sparklers My Arse a 5% Red Ale with North Riding, Dead Man Walking a 6.2% Stout with Chin Chin, TVC15 a 7.3% Strong Pale Ale and

Cruel Summer a 4.5% Bread and Butter Pale Ale.

Let's hope it continues!

Horbury Brew Co., Horbury

They have brewed both of their dark beers, Tiramisu Porter (Limited Salted Caramel Edition also available) @ 4.3% and Toffee Oatmeal Stout @ 5%. Dr Rudi (West Coast IPA) @ 4.2% is now available having been brewed again for the first time this year and a new Hop Assailant v5 @ 4.6%, brewed with Simcoe, Junga & Styrian Wolf hops will be available 21st October onwards.

Luddite, Horbury

A new Blonde beer and a Smoked Porter are planned to be out by Christmas. The pies available in the Calder Vale will be made using their Milkstout.

Chin Chin, South Kirkby

Harry's Beer (HB) available in Harry's Bar is now brewed by Chin Chin to same recipe as the original.

Fernandes, Wakefield

These are the latest beers being produced.



Afterglow
3.8% Pale Hoppy



Cascade Torrent
4.6% Pale Citrus



Citronic
3.8% Citra Hopped



Half Nelson
3.8% Pale



Hopmaster
4.5% Pale Dry



Laika
4.0% Hoppy Pale



Limelite
3.8% Lime Blonde



Looming
4.1% Pale Hoppy



Mosaic
4.1% Pale Fruity



Mr Brian
4.1% Pale Hoppy



Polaris
3.9% Cirtusy Golden



Spaced Out
5.1% Stout

Revolutions, Castleford

At the York CAMRA Beer Festival Super Swoon won Best In Category and second best overall.

A new beer is Bizzaro, a Lemon and Black Pepper Saison.

The Switch 28 series continues using the modern English hops Harlequin, Olicana and Ernest.

There are two World Cup themed beers at 4.0% named Game of Two Halves. One will be Orange and Mango Blonde, the other berry flavoured. Both issued at the same time.

The next special is Peace and Love, a 4.5% Winter Pale, Simcoe hops and there will be Christmas brew called Personal Jesus, a 4.5% Pannetone Porter!

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Thank you for putting up with us!

Thanks to the following establishments for allowing the Branch to hold meetings recently:

Black Rock, Wakefield
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New Albion, Alverthorpe
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Redoubt, Wakefield

It's your magazine.

Pub food reviews, beer poems and anecdotes, or stories about local pubs are welcomed.
If you have an idea but feel you need help to lick it into shape, do still get in touch with us.
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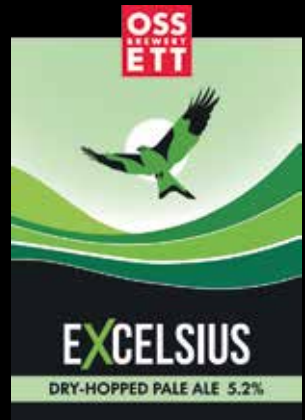
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