

Real Ale Talk

Magazine of the Heavy Woollen branch of CAMRA



Old Colonial in Mirfield



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Autumn 2012

Distributed FREE to West Yorkshire pubs & clubs

Circulation 2000



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Beer Festivals Near & Far

November 2012

Thursday 8th – Sunday 10th - 22nd Wakefield Beer Festival at The Space

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th - Sale Winter Ales Festival, Masonic Hall, Tatton Road, Sale, Manchester M33 7EE

Saturday 10th - East Keswick Beer Festival at East Keswick Village Hall LS17 9DA, noon till 22:00 with around 22 real ales, live entertainment and pub food, bus services 99 Leeds-Wetherby and 923 Tadcaster-Otley, entry includes souvenir glass, programme and drinks token

Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th - Colne Valley Lions' annual Moonraker Beer Festival at Slaithwaite Conservative Club, 19 Britannia Road, Slaithwaite HD7 5HF. Thu & Fri from 18:00, Sat from noon.

Friday 16th - Saturday 17th - Twelfth Otley Beer Festival featuring real ales from Yorkshire microbrewers at Otley Rugby Club, Cross Green, Otley LS21 1HE, open 12:00-23:00. Approx 60 real ales, real cider, real perry, global beers, soft drinks, food and live music. £5 entry includes glass, programme and £2.50 in beer tokens, organised for Otley Parish Church to raise funds for local charities, nearest station Menston. www.otleybeerfestival.co.uk

Friday 16th @ 5pm - Sunday 18 November Sandal Rugby Club Beer Festival Wakefield supported by Ossett Brewery. Saturday from 2.30pm (after start of first XV fixture). In the evening two live acts to keep the show running. Sunday 12 noon to 6pm after the M & J training / matches.

Wednesday 21st - Sunday 25th - Star, Folly Hall Huddersfield Winter Festival

December 2012

6th - 9th - Imperial Club, Mexborough - new breweries beer festival

January 2013

23rd – 26th - National Winter Ales Festival 2013 - Sheridan Suite, Oldham Road, Manchester

Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th - Navigation Tavern Mirfield - Beer Festival, provisional date.

February 2013

Friday 15th - Saturday 16th - Boston Spa Beer Festival at Boston Spa Village Hall, 199 High Street, Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, LS23 6AA, Fri from 18:30, Sat from noon (advance tickets recommended) www.bostonspabeerfestival.co.uk/

April 2013

Saturday 20th - Thornor Beer Festival at Thornor Victory Hall open from noon, bus 770 from Leeds/Wetherby/Harrogate www.thornervictoryhall.co.uk/event-diary/thornor-beer-festival/

May 2013

Thursday 16th - 18th – Dewsbury Beer Festival – At the Town Hall.

Cover Story

The cover photograph for this 5th issue of the Real Ale Talk features the Old Colonial in Mirfield, which has recently won first place in the national "Heritage Pub in Bloom" competition for 2012. It also appears, for the fourth consecutive year, in the CAMRA "Good Beer Guide", so further information about this well respected pub (along with the Navigation Tavern and the welcome appearance of a new entry, the Pear Tree at Battysford) can be found in the GBG 2013 edition.

The Old Colonial has also been awarded the Autumn "Pub of the Season" for 2012, which (at the time of writing this) is to be awarded to Tim Wood and his staff on the 2nd November 2012. This will be the first time that the Old Colonial has been presented with this award since changing from a "Club" to being open to the public as a Public House..

What is likely to be less well known, and is appropriate to mention in our November issue of the Real Ale Talk, is that the landlord Tim Wood is well known in Mirfield for his support and organisation of the local Remembrance Day parade which is held in Mirfield every November to remember the fallen from the two world wars and other conflicts. This is one of the largest events of its kind in the country and at which representatives of the Armed Forces, local groups and the British Legion march through the town to lay wreathes at the local memorial in Ings Grove Park. The Old Colonial also has its own memorial (see insert), in the gardens of the public house.

From the memorial, past the sentry box which serves as a shelter, a military theme continues inside this former club, with some fascinating photos and memorabilia from around the world, in particular those places with a British colonial connection. A recently-added feature is a solid fuel fire in a mock-library corner with deep Chesterfield sofas, very appealing on Winter nights.

Before changing its status from a club to a pub, the Old Colonial won third place last year in the Yorkshire region Club of the Year competition run by CAMRA and decided

by judges from all parts of the County of Yorkshire. For beer drinkers, there is usually a bitter from Copper Dragon and up to five rotating guest beers on the handpumps, spread in pairs at the ends and middle of the bar.

To travel here by public transport, the 202 and 205 between Dewsbury and Mirfield pass by all day; Mirfield railway station is just over a mile away and the 253 and 221 buses come within striking distance. If coming by rail, the walk from the station may be broken up by calling at the Navigation Tavern, winner of the Summer Pub of the Season award and, via a worthwhile diversion, last year's Summer award winner the Saville Arms (served by the same bus routes), these three pubs between them offering visitors to Mirfield up to 20 different well-kept ales.

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A Grand Day Out

(continued from issue 3)

So, fresh after forty winks on our journey from Sowerby Bridge we took a brisk ten minute walk to Bar Fringe on Swan Street. This atmospheric “continental-style” bar had five beers available including Boggart Cascade and a superb Winkle Undertaker as a guest. There was also a good selection of draught and bottled Belgian beers to tempt some of our group.

By now we realised it was over six beers since we had eaten so there could be only one destination which was the famous Marble Arch on Rochdale Road. We took a leisurely five minute stroll to this splendid Victorian pub with its grand exterior and ornate glazed-brick interior. Even at six in the evening the pub was busy with happy drinkers so our party set up camp in the back room to dine.

The food ranges from home-made Fish Finger sandwiches to Spicy Cauliflower soup to marvellous cheese boards with over twenty to choose from. The ladies in our party even managed a divine (not my words !) Prune and Armagnac tart. Of greater importance the beer was in top condition and included their own Draft, Pint, Best and Chocolate Marble amongst others with two guests from Liverpool Organic and Lancaster on this occasion.

It was now after seven and time for our next journey which was a twenty minute walk to Piccadilly station. However we could have spent the rest of our night here as three GBG pubs are all within ten minutes walk of the Marble. They are Angel (Angel Street), Crown and Kettle (Oldham Road) and Smithfield (Swan Street).

After a slight delay our next journey was roughly twenty minutes to the renowned Stalybridge Station Refreshment Rooms. We managed the thirty second walk to the bar but as it was after eight and this bar is part of the other “Rail Ale Trail “ there were limited supplies. There was Boddingtons, Moorhouses Black Cat, Smart “A**e from Preston and the refreshing Broadoaks Moonshine Perry.

After a quick pint we were off and heading back to God’s own county.

After 20 minutes we arrived at Marsden and ignoring the popular Railway next to the station we made the 5 minute stroll to the lovely warm and welcoming Riverhead Brewery Tap on Argyle Street. There were nine beers available including their own Sparth Mild, Butterley Bitter and Redbrook Premium along with Gales Seafarer and Ossett Silver King amongst others.

By now the day was catching up with our energy levels and the climb back up to the station seems steeper than normal. However thanks to Northern Rail our train was twenty minutes late and the cold air soon woke us all up again!

We eventually rolled back into Huddersfield just after ten o’clock and quickly adjourned to the Head of Steam on the platform as it was slightly nearer than The Kings Head (thirty seconds further walk !). At the Head we had amongst others a delicious Wylam Gold Tankard and Jarrow Rivet Catcher. Our party now decided to split with some hardy souls heading for the ever popular Sportsman two minutes walk away on St Johns Road.

So we had enjoyed good food, 8 railway stations, 12 great pubs, countless superb beers and fantastic company. Dave Wood had certainly organised us an unforgettable twelve hour “Grand Day Out”.



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OSSETT CRICKET AND ATHLETICS CLUB, Dimple Wells, Ossett, WF5 8JU

SILKWOOD FARM, Mother Way, Silkwood Park, Ossett, WF5 9TR

TAPROOM (@The Wilton Arms), Commercial Street, Batley, WF17 5HH

Ossett Brewery Pubs are also members of the OBE Club, check the website for locations.

For further details about Ossett Brewery Beers or the OBE Club please contact the sales team on **01924 261333** or visit www.ossett-brewery.co.uk





PUB OF THE SEASON - SUMMER 2012 THE NAVIGATION, MIRFIELD

The Navigation, Mirfield was awarded the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) Heavy Woollen branch Pub of the Season award for Summer, following the highly successful beer festival held in June. Due to the efforts of Kevin O'Donnell and his team, the pub has been a regular entry in the national CAMRA Good Beer Guide, for which the branch has an allocation of just ten pubs which are selected purely on merit. The pub is an ambassador for Theakston ales, having six on handpull including XB and the renowned Old Peculier at a very reasonable price, alongside John Smith's Cask, beers from Caledonian Brewery in Edinburgh and other beers from independent brewers.

The pub's thrice-yearly beer festivals have gained something of a following, with a good range of around 40 beers on offer, the latest selection being sourced mostly from the South-west of England; six real traditional ciders were available, indeed some are available all year round. All of the beers were cellar-cooled and hand-pulled and priced lower than most other pubs in the area.

Other than at festival times, regulars participate in the traditional pub games and the pool table is popular as are the frequent Motown/soul nights. There is a large, pleasant function room available for parties, meetings etc. and there are seats outside including some by the canal. The pub benefits from its location by the railway station and fans of the transpennine ale trail populate the bar at weekends although lately the trail has become more boisterous on Saturday afternoons as stag parties and the like have cottoned on to it.

The award was presented by branch chairman Alan Mapplebeck and accepted by Kevin's partner Christine Barker.

A Pub With A History - 7

A word of caution. Should you be invited by a fellow real ale fancier to meet up for a pint in the Church House or Amen Corner, you will search in vain throughout the Heavy Woollen District for a pub of either name. It is to Thornhill you must make your way, and by deduction find yourself outside the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. There nestling in a bend of Church Lane is The Savile Arms, the epitome of the sort of white-walled, slate-roofed village inn found pictured on the lids of gift shop toffee tins, certainly not the usual architectural style associated with licensed premises of a milltown like Dewsbury.

The link between the church and the pub is not only one of proximity. Should you have time to spare, enter St. Michael's, parts of which date from the twelfth century and marvel at the stained glass window in the Savile family chapel built in 1447, mentioned by no less an authority than Nicholas Pevsner in his guide "The Buildings of England - Yorkshire the West Riding". So there you have the clue - the Savile family is very much connected to this area, possessing an extensive estate of land and property, bestowing its name on nearby Savile Town and not at least, the Savile Arms which forms part of the estate.

Who better than the present licensee to tell us of what he has uncovered about the history of his premises? David Oldfield and his wife Hilary are celebrating their tenth anniversary as proprietors, nudging the half-way mark to the record set by their predecessors, Colin and Jean Fleetwood. David explained that the earliest evidence of a building on this site is on a map dated 1634, that part of the present structure houses the ladies toilets and is accessed via a staircase off the main bar. It was erected to house the stonemasons working on the adjacent church. Originally comprising of a single storey, there is evidence in the stonework that a second story was added later. The pub was built around 1777 probably as a coaching inn, with stables on the opposite side of Church Lane, which is now the car park. The building was extended to the rear to form two more rooms and west into the churchyard making the

Savile Arms one of only three licensed premises in the country to sit partly on consecrated ground. This blessed space is now the tap-room which in the 1950s was known as the concert room. Ground rent at that time was paid to the church and there was a stipulation that this room could not be used on Sunday evening until after evensong finished at eight o' clock.

In the early years of the eighteen hundreds the Freemasons Lodge No. 208 - The Three Grand Principles held meetings probably in the upper room, which is used now for private events. In those times before the introduction of street lighting the monthly gathering would take place when the moon was at its fullest to facilitate horse-drawn travel. Even now this calendar is observed at the present Masonic Hall, coincidentally the former Lord Savile's Estate Office in Thornhill Lees. After these



The Savile Arms, Thornhill

meetings the Oldfield's bar is often graced by gentlemen in black ties and pinstriped trousers preferring to end their evening supping handpulled ale before closing time.

Walking into the pub half a century ago it looked quite different to what you see today. On your right was an area known as the tap-room where the miners from Thornhill colliery used to drink. This would have been a simply furnished room with a bell-push system to summon the bar staff. Ahead, what is now a separate lounge, was then the landlord's kitchen and on the left was a small enclosed area where the beer was dispensed, the window doubling as a serving hatch for outsales. A door led to the enclosed snug where the far serving counter now sits. The occupants would also have had a bell to summon the staff to bring in drinks on a tray when required.



A reminder of those times can be found on the wall of that room, now just a cozy corner – a framed price-list of Dutton's products, dating from 1959. A pint of bitter cost one shilling and four pence, with light or dark mild on sale at threepence cheaper. Dutton's had bought out the previous owners, Kirkstall Brewery of Leeds, but many of the older regulars will best remember the roadside hanging sign of the brewery that carried out the next take-over – Whitbread's. In turn this was replaced by one showing the famous Tetley monocled huntsman who remained there until superceded by the livery of the present regular supplier, Black Sheep of Masham. The observant amongst you will notice that the Savile family motto "Bee Fast " has been cleverly incorporated into the combined brewery and pub signs. It also appears carved into one of the two stone fireplaces. Black Sheep bitter is a permanent fixture and the other three wickets feature a rotating selection of ales from breweries of the Heavy Woollen District, wider West Yorkshire and further afield.

To celebrate 10 years of running the pub, Clarks of Wakefield have supplied a "10th Anniversary Ale" with a pumpclip depicting this fine old hostelry. Recent ales have featured from local breweries including Partners, Pennine and Bradford's Salamander.

In 1952 an historical pageant was held in Thornhill's Rectory Park. This was a huge affair with scaffolding erected for a stage and elaborate backdrops in front of which various events in the history of Thornhill were enacted. The white charger "Roma" that had once been owned by the fascist leader Mussolini was loaned to the pageant organizers by a Captain Walter Millington, who had acquired the horse in Italy a year before the end of World War Two. It was ridden nightly for a week by "St. Michael", a role played by the curate, Rev. K.M.Wiley, who ironically had been captured at Tobruk and had been interned in one of Mussolini's P.O.W. Camps. After the final performance Roma was brought through the front door and right into the Savile Arms. This unusual visit is recorded in the building's most striking internal feature, the colourful

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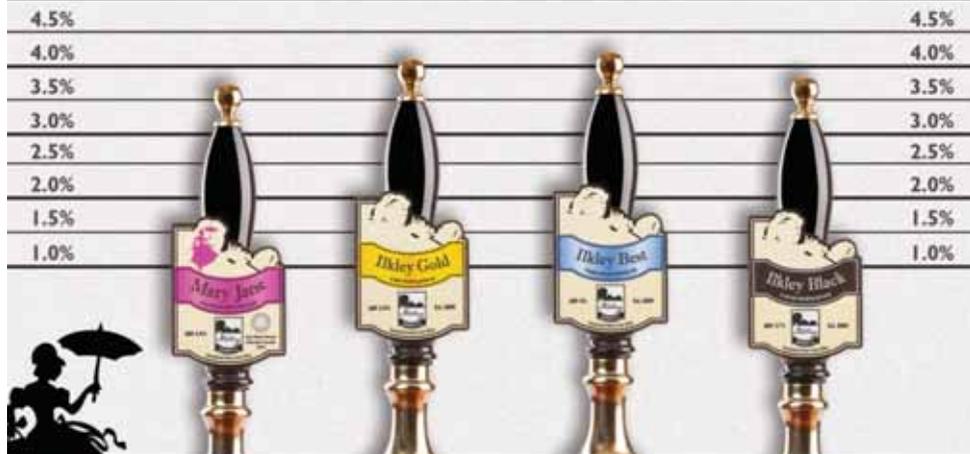
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mural that fills the four walls of the back lounge. Depicting a history of Thornhill starting with the first settlement twenty thousand years ago, it shows several of the modern regulars in scenes throughout the ages up to its completion in 2004. The horse is clearly visible, but you will look in vain for an even stranger visitor, a camel. There are still a few of the present day patrons who recollect the day in the early sixties when a Thornhill resident, given the job of exercising a camel from a visiting circus, let it put its head through the outsales window with the aim of filling up with a long drink of water.

One of the first things a visitor to the pub will notice is that the walls are filled with pictures for sale by local artists and more recently a photographer. The longest-serving is Malcom Jones who has kindly granted permission for his 1985 pen and ink drawing of the Savile Arms to illustrate this article. Besides the mural there are other attractions, not at least the bar-billiards table in the tap-room. A rare sight now, though once commonplace, it was re-introduced by David to help preserve the game. The low-beamed ceilings and church-pew style seating add to the feeling of being in a village inn.

The steps to the function room and garden are as steep and sharply curved as you would expect in premises of this vintage, but the climb is well worth the effort. Exiting the staircase through a substantial shelter set up for barbecues you will find yourself in a large lawned area enclosed by stone walls overlooking the churchyard but still retaining its own privacy. Wooden picnic benches in this "secret

garden" are available for David's evening barbecues which are popular events on warmer evenings. However, indoor cooking is the responsibility of Hilary, and although meals are only available by prior arrangement she is kept busy with catering for various functions including those following church services. The traditional Yorkshire Funeral Ham Tea is of course in demand, but the menu for this and any private "Do's", including her prestigious Gourmet Evenings draws on cuisine from around the globe.

Opening times can be varied for these special occasions, but are generally Monday to Thursday 5pm to 11pm; Friday 4pm to 11pm; Saturday and Sunday noon to 4.30pm and then 7pm to 11pm.

If you are planning a trip by public transport Dewsbury railway station is the most convenient. From there it is a few minutes walk to the bus station. The hourly 128 service to Wakefield will drop you off just across the road from the front door, but ends just after 7pm. After that the frequent 281 / 282 / 283 Thornhill service stops at Rectory Park 200 yards distant allowing travellers to stay shortly before closing time to catch the last bus.

So whether your interest is ale and architecture or history and handpumps, make your way to Thornhill and ask for "The Church House" . It's well worth a visit.

The Savile Arms, Church Lane, Thornhill, Dewsbury WF12 0JZ (tel.01924 463738)

J.G.Gibson

The Real Ale Talk Word Search

Please find the ten Yorkshire breweries hidden in the wordsearch

Q	N	D	S	R	A	C	L	O	G
S	O	A	T	E	S	A	M	P	O
R	M	T	S	I	P	T	K	R	E
E	I	L	L	T	O	W	N	A	S
N	L	K	S	E	R	E	U	T	U
T	L	N	B	R	T	Y	F	E	O
R	T	R	O	O	S	T	O	K	H
A	O	T	B	O	M	W	O	T	P
P	W	Q	U	E	A	O	X	H	A
Y	N	P	E	N	N	I	N	E	C

Real Ale Talk Pub News

This section reports recent changes plus a few pointers of where to find good beer in the district. For a comprehensive guide with maps to local pubs and clubs, see our website with links to a Google map of pubs and clubs and an interactive guide to our pubs,

www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk/Where.htm

If you have news to report, please contact us.

Batley: The **Rose of York** has been rescued from closure by a local businessman so Ryan, the manager can continue to build his real ale trade free of tie. Pennine Amber Necker was on when last visited, meanwhile Pennine's Real Blonde is now a regular at **Batley IDL Club** alongside Black Sheep Bitter. Pennine held a "meet the brewer" event at the club which went down well. The club welcomes real ale drinkers.

The Taproom has become an established venue for good beer and music, with Ossett Yorkshire Blonde, Taylor's Landlord and Theakston's Old Peculier always on with three rotating guests, Naylor's and Revolutions beers proving popular. The pub held a novel "Battle of the Blondes" with customers voting for Ossett's Blonde or Pennine Real Blonde, the latter coming a close second. CAMRA members' discount of 20p/pint is available. The **Church Steps** was boarded up in September.

Birstall: The **White Bear** was boarded up in early October and is for sale freehold at a modest price considering it has letting rooms and a kitchen. Contact us for more details.

Coopers Arms is about to re-open as Luigi's Pizzeria Restaurant. The **Vaults** has Taylor's Landlord at £2.60 / pint.

Briestfield: The **Shoulder of Mutton** has Copper Dragon Golden Pippin.

Carlinghow: The **Victoria at Carlinghow** re-opened under new ownership, connected with Partners' Brewery, on a Friday in August with Tetley Bitter, Partners Blonde and Olympian on the pumps. Licensees are David and Anita Pickering who are moving here after twenty years at the Black Horse at White Lee. The pub opened at 4pm, Tetley's ran off at 9:30 and the Partners beers weren't far behind. More beer had to be delivered on the Saturday to keep up with demand, this in a pub which under Thwaites' ownership recently didn't serve real ale due to lack of demand. The official opening was a month later; in that time Dave and Anita continued to work very hard redecorating and updating the pub including fitting a new bar in the rear function room and two new cellar cooling systems. This pub was about to close and had no real ale, it now has four hand

pulled ales and is increasing real ale sales weekly. It is a fine, historic building, 145 years old this year, with a good atmosphere and we wish them success. The pub will open daily from noon. Ales on handpull on the official opening night were Tetley Bitter and four beers from Partner's; Ghost, Spike's, Olympian and their new seasonal craft beer, Triple Hop, a 4.2% Pale Ale heavily hopped with three American hops. Meanwhile, across the road the **Wilton & Bridge** (Admiral Taverns) has no real ale but new tenants are hoped for soon.

Cleckheaton: Apologies for reporting the Priory as closed; refurbishment is in progress and the pub remains open with Tetley's on offer. Our September social in Cleckheaton found that the **Obediah Brooke** has Ruddles Best and Greene King Abbot as regulars, with guests Moorhouse's Black Cat, Pride of Pendle and Witchfinder General, Saltaire Tyke's Gold, Acorn Barnsley Bitter and one other, all in fine condition. **The Wickham** had Black Sheep, Golden Pippin and Taylor's Landlord and the finest example of Tetley Bitter I have had since the brewery closure, with a wonderful hop aftertaste. **The Marsh** was busy on quiz night; Old Mill Bitter, Bullion, Blonde Bombshell and Yorkshire Porter were available with Fall Over to appear later. **The Malt Shovel** now sports two handpulls, both serving Leeds beers when visited.

Dewsbury: Dewsbury Socialist Club is now stocking Partners beers on a regular basis.

Dewsbury Moor: The George at Moorend Lane is raising money to buy a mobility scooter for one of their customers who suffers breathing difficulties.

East Bierley: The New Inn was the first venue for our August branch social, where one of us tried the beer-battered haddock with mushy peas and chunky chips and found it delicious; also a sea-angling club was meeting in the cosy front lounge; they had brought some fresh fish with them which the pub kitchen transformed into a fish pie which was offered around and I found it to be the best I have ever tasted, washed down with some of the four ales on tap. Next port of call was the **George IV**, now owned by the licensees and having up to six ales available including Tetley's, Landlord and a regular from Salamander. Banks and Taylor Shefford Mild was an unexpected find which went down well, followed at the **Halfway House**, where Tetley's is still a big seller, by their tasty guest beer, Bitter and Twisted from Harviestoun Brewery. Altogether a memorably good social.

Gomersal: The Saw has been sold by Punch to a local company and is expected to be refurbished soon while the **White Horse** is for sale freehold, open but with no real ale. **The Bull's Head**, the **Wheatsheaf** and the **West End** each have a selection of proudly-kept ales.

Hanging Heaton: The Fox & Hounds had another mini-festival in October, with a fine singer entertaining on the Saturday evening. Regulars were invited to choose beers for the event from a shortlist. Tetley's is always available with usually three guest beers rotating weekly, including beer from local breweries.

Hartshead: The Gray Ox, famous for its food which won it the award for Marston's North-east region Food Pub of the Year, has Jennings Cocker Hoop, Cumberland Ale, Sneck Lifter and sometimes a guest from the Marston's portfolio. **The Hartshead** also has Cumberland Ale plus two or three good independent guests. The 229 bus passes nearby.

Heckmondwike: Sad to see the beautiful building which was the **New Charnwood**, with bricked up doors and windows after being bought by Mumtaz hardware store, likely to be used as storage.

Hightown: The Shears had a successful beer and music event in August, despite a few showers, with a dozen ales on, my favourites being Lancaster Red and Castle Rock Harvest Pale. Regulars are Tetley's, Black Sheep, Moorhouse's Luddites Ale and one or two good guests. **The Cross Keys** has Old Speckled Hen and Wells' Bombardier.

Lower Hopton: Punch, the owners of the Flowerpot, have plans for a major refurbishment inside and out, with promise of good ales to come.

Mirfield: Knowl Club has had beers from Leeds & other small breweries & opens 12 - 2 Sat + Sun. **The Thirsty Man** has re-opened under new management while one of its former management teams continue to serve a good range of well-kept ales modestly priced at the **Saville Arms** nearby. The food-oriented **White Gate** is now owned by Stonegate and has a keen new manager. So far two pumps have rotating guests, Copper Dragon IPA and Golden Pippin when visited. Prices are low and a loyalty card offers every sixth pint free. Tim Wood's **Old Colonial** has won a national competition, "British Heritage Pubs in Bloom" for the excellence of the floral displays which include some unique garden features, well worth a look prior to indulging in some of the six beers on offer from renowned breweries. The September beer festival at the **Navigation** was another

great success with some wonderful beers and ciders, expect the next one at the end of January.

Norristhorpe: The **Rising Sun** now has Black Sheep Bitter on handpull with new licensee Adam keen to expand his ale and food trade, with plans for a new dining room.

Ravensthorpe: No real ale at the **Bull's Head**.

Roberttown: The Star has Copper Dragon Golden Pippin, Taylor's Landlord and now has a handpulled real cider, Thatcher's Heritage, not too strong at 4.9%. At the end of July, the **Bobtown Beer Bash** was a great success, selling 39 firkins of beer in a day. Much thought had been put into planning to cope with the numbers, resulting in much quicker service than last year. Once more, the event raised substantial funds for the community centre and for local charities. We now have four breweries in the branch area as Joe Kenyon has set up a half-barrel microbrewery in the cellar of the **New Inn**. The first proper brew, Summer Bob, was available in August and was a fine beer considering its newness. The next beers were Rusty Bob (4.5%), a smooth, malty bitter with a slight bitter aftertaste and Golden Bob (4%) flavoured with European hops; further brews are expected to follow the Bob theme. The brewery is a good example of Joe's craftsmanship, with fine, wood-clad vessels and all the elements in place for production of good quality beer. Joe honed his brewing skills at Riverhead in Marsden where he built a good reputation.

Scholes: Stafford Arms is boarded up.

Thornhill: The Alma expect to add more handpulls soon as the two they have are in good demand. Brewers represented lately include Pennine, Partners, Ossett, Taylor's, Oates and Caphouse. **The Saville Arms** to celebrate 10 years of running the pub, one of the guest beers has been Clarks 10th Anniversary Ale with a pumpclip depicting this fine old hostelry. Ales have featured from local breweries including Partners, Pennine and Bradford's Salamander. The permanent resident Black Sheep Bitter remains a firm favourite with the regular drinkers.

A Curry Night and a Gourmet Evening are planned for those who appreciate Landlady Hilary's skills in the culinary arts.

Thornhill Lees: The Aletaster, closed and for sale advertised as a house, was refused planning permission to convert to residential use, on the basis that it has not been shown to be non-viable as a community asset. This decision is probably as a result of recent changes in planning rules which put more emphasis on retention of community facilities, something for which CAMRA has been

campaigning. The estate agent's photos show the interior as a pub starved of investment (by Thwaites). Perhaps someone could make the current owners an offer to restore it? At least Black Sheep Bitter and a guest is available at **Morton House Club**.

Upper Hopton: The **Hare and Hounds** recently had Hop Back Summer Lightning at £3.50 alongside Black Sheep Bitter and Leeds Pale.

Over the border...

Stalybridge station buffet is now managed, as requested by the former owners, by Mike Field's team who also run our Pub of the Year, Dewsbury's **West Riding**. The bar will remain much the same with some overdue refurbishment mainly behind the scenes.

Pennine Brewery News

Sales are going from strength to strength, working to capacity due to deals with M&B, Spirit and Punch. Since installing their third fermenter, they are looking to add four more 18-barrel fermenters to enable them to brew six different beers per month instead of the current three or four. Last month there was a "Battle of the Blondes" at the Taproom, Batley which was all good fun; another was held in York where Real Blonde won. Similar events are likely to be repeated elsewhere. Ossett Yorkshire Gold won over Real Blonde but both beers scored well.

The brewery intend to be bottling in time for Christmas.

As for beers, Sun Stone (4.4%) went down well, Ruby Mine (a 4.4% ruby beer) is the special for October, a wheat beer is on the cards and a Porter is expected for Christmas. Good Health got brewed for a second time and exclusively went to a few customers, they loved it again so the brewery is confident that the recipe is right. It could be seen in cask, keg and bottle for Christmas.

Cap House Brewery News

It was Cap House Brewery's first anniversary during October 2012 and they have moved on to become a consistent brewers of good ales.

From their first brew, **MINERS A PINT (3.8%)**, they now produce four additional beers on a regular basis. These are:

MINERS A LIGHT (4.2%) - a smooth tasty blonde light ale. A tempting alternative for lager drinkers.

BLONDE & BEYOND (4.0%) - a light hoppy beer with a well balanced fruity taste.

FOX HUNTER (4.0%) - a full bodied easy drinking ale, particularly for those who like a thick creamy head.

RUBY (5.6%) - A rich and strong ruby ale with a smooth finish.

Seasonal specials are also available from the brewery so go to www.caphousebrewery.co.uk and check these out.

All beers are now kept in prime condition, in a newly installed large refrigerated unit, ready to be shipped direct to pub cellars.

Their beers are always available at local beer festivals including the recent Huddersfield Beer Festival and shortly at Wakefield, Tynemouth & Nottingham, and various pubs and clubs in the locality as well as at their home pub, the Reindeer @ Overton. Call in and try a sample.

Partners Brewery

Sales are booming at Partners with September being our best month since taking over the brewery in June 2011. American Triple hop pale ale 4.2% which was limited to two brews in late August was so popular that we are now brewing it until the end of the year.

We are now experimenting with new hops to create new recipes for launch in the new year when we will be brewing the second beer in our triple hop series using three hops from a single country. A dark mild will also be brewed in 2013.

Local Stockists News

The **Victoria on Bradford** road is trading well after a very successful opening night and is stocking Partners beers as well as Tetley cask.

The **Spotted Cow in Drighlington** is going from strength to strength and will be adding 2 more hand pumps before Christmas there is always a good selection of beers from local breweries including Partners beers which are on the bar permanently. The Spotted Cow which is just outside the Heavy Woollen area has been nominated for most improved pub by Leeds CAMRA . In November buy one pint of Partners Ale between 12 and 3pm on a Sunday and get two home cooked Sunday lunches for just £10 that's a saving of £2.

The **Tap Room at Batley** has taken delivery of American Triple Hop. The **Socialist Club in Dewsbury** is now a regular stockist of Partners ales which are well looked after by Rodney.

Partners are also pleased to be supplying the Beer festival to be held at the **Fox and Hounds Bennett Lane Batley** through the SIBA direct delivery system.

The American Triple Hop went down a storm at **Rose of York Bradford Road Batley**.

It's great to see so many local pubs now stocking a great selection of Real ales.

Back here at partners our expansion is all going to plan with the arrival of 150 new casks in October and the new in-line cleaning system is now up and running.

Christmas will see two seasonal Partners beers, Christmas Cracker will return after its success last year and this year we will be brewing a brand new beer Christmas Devil.

I would personally like to thank all at the Heavy Woollen branch for all their help and support and look forward to The Dewsbury Beer Festival in 2013.

Cheers

Paul Horne

NEW POLICY WILL *HELP SAVE PUBS*

The National Planning Policy Framework – not words likely to get anyone's pulse racing are they? Yet this new document is a powerful weapon in the battle to protect our beleaguered pubs.

Over recent years, we've lost huge numbers of pubs through conversion to housing and other uses needing planning permission. When Councils consider planning applications, they must take into account not only their detailed local policies but also the broader national policies. Until March 2012, those national policies occupied a legion of documents totalling over 1000 pages. Some policies were vaguely helpful to pubs, albeit mainly rural ones.

The new Framework sweeps away this complex set of rules, replacing them with just 52 pages of policy guidance. Thanks to intensive lobbying by CAMRA, this new guidance includes national policies which are potentially very helpful to community facilities like pubs. Most importantly, Councils are told to "guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services" which specifically includes community pubs. What's also crucial is that these rules apply to all pubs, urban and rural.

Councils must have in place, by March 2013, local planning policies consistent with the Framework; in the meantime, Framework policies should generally be applied.

So what does all this mean if your local is threatened by an unwanted planning application? You should object to the Council, of course, but when doing so, make sure to refer to the relevant policies in the Framework. If you can show that loss of the pub would reduce the local community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs, then the Council should refuse the application. CAMRA has produced an advice note on the best wording to use and this can be found, along with much other information on planning issues, at www.camra.org.uk/nppf or if you

would like any of these documents posted to you then please phone CAMRA's Campaigns Officer Claire Cain on 01727 798 454.

The Framework is already making an impact. Councils in Cambridge and the Fylde have used it to refuse planning applications to convert pubs to houses. In those cases, the applicants have appealed against the refusal and, in each case, the Government Inspector, considering the appeal, has dismissed it largely because approval would run counter to Framework policies.

Sadly, not every development adversely affecting pubs needs planning consent – conversion to a restaurant or a shop for instance. CAMRA is campaigning hard to get planning law changed in these areas. In the meantime, the new Framework is very much a step in the right direction.

If you have any issues regarding a campaign to save a local pub in your area please contact CAMRA's Local Planning Policy Advisor Paul Ainsworth on: paul.ainsworth@camra.org.uk or go to camra.org.uk/nppf

West Yorkshire Trading Standards

West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service
Nepshaw Lane South ,
P.O. Box 5 ,
Morley ,
Leeds ,
LS27 0QP

Readers are encouraged to contact the local Trading Standards Officer at the above address with details of pubs failing to serve full measure, failing to display price lists, strengths or business names.

Pure Enjoyment at Pure North Wassail

Nestled in the Holme Valley, close to Netherthong and not far from Holmfirth is Deanhouse, the home of The Pure North Cider Press. Last year Rob and Petia North hosted a wassailing ceremony to celebrate the newly planted orchard and the renovation of the old stables as the new cider house. This year they chose mid-October to coincide with Apple Day, an annual celebration of apples and orchards initiated by Common Ground in 1990. The old English custom of wassailing hails from the traditional cider areas in the South West and involves singing and drinking to the health of the orchard's trees, to ward off evil spirits and to ensure a good harvest.



At this community event the ladies wore flower garlands, the gents were dressed in traditional country apparel with flat caps and one family were even dressed in apple outfits.

Once charged and lubricated with cider (soft drinks for the drivers and children of course), a declaration from the scrolls was made by the Master of Ceremonies, Micky Black. The assembled multitude then marched up to the orchard singing the Wassail Song led by Jimmy "Two Dogs" Elliot playing the concertina in grand style. Gunsmen fired several shots into the sky to frighten away evil spirits and the Wassail Queen blessed the trees with toast soaked in cider from the ceremonial cup. More songs were sung as we returned to the warming fire for more cider, sausage and mash and other culinary delights specially provided for the afternoon. Further entertainment was provided for both adults and children with more music, apple bobbing and hula hooping. On a dry, and for the main part, a bright afternoon, we were all grateful for the blazing log fire as the evening drew in to the accompaniment of traditional folk songs.

We all enjoyed the afternoon thanks to Rob, Petia and their friends. Naturally copious amounts of superb cider were consumed with "Fusion" and "Maggie in Bloom" being the most popular. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Candlelighters charity for children with cancer.

Pure North ciders can be found in selected outlets in Huddersfield and Holmfirth, at the Taproom in Batley and at the West Riding Licensed Refreshment Rooms in Dewsbury. For further information visit the Pure North website: www.purenorthciderpress.com

Wassail

BFH



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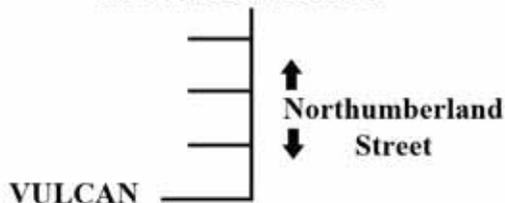
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Dewsbury Beer Festival 2013

Planning of the next Dewsbury Beer festival has started with the formation of a committee to oversee the organisation of the event. It will be held at the Town Hall in Dewsbury on the 16th, 17th and 18th May 2013 and will be the fourth annual running of this event. If you would like to get involved in the planning, setup or serving at the bar, please get in touch via the web site below.

To get things rolling, the Beer Festival web site, www.dewsburybeerfestival.co.uk will soon be up and running with up to date information regarding the 2013 festival together with information about sponsorship deals available to local businesses and individuals who would like to get involved. Early sponsorship will ensure that contributors get maximum exposure on the web site plus we are offering an additional feature this year with a Video Projection system at the festival, displaying up to date sponsors details throughout the event. Please check out all these features on the above web site.

National Winter Ales Festival 2013

23rd – 26th January 2013
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Opening Times

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& 5pm-10.30pm

Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 12noon-10.30pm

Tickets

No advance ticket required – Pay at the door.

The Real Ale Talk Word Search - Solution

Q	N	D	S	R	A	C	L	O	G
S	O	A	T	E	S	A	M	P	O
R	M	T	S	I	P	T	K	R	E
E	I	L	L	T	O	W	N	A	S
N	L	K	S	E	R	E	U	T	U
T	L	N	B	R	T	Y	F	E	O
R	T	R	O	O	S	T	O	K	H
A	O	T	B	O	M	W	O	T	P
P	W	Q	U	E	A	O	X	H	A
Y	N	P	E	N	N	I	N	E	C

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All Change at Stalybridge

The Buffet Bar (at Stalybridge Railway Station) dates from 1885 and, as far as I know, is an original part of the station.

When I first knew it (in the early 1970's) it was run by Dot Redfearn and her husband. The highlights were the traditional beers from Robinson's and in particular the Old Tom served on tap from the back of the bar and the Saturday night folk club.

There was a late night train to Dewsbury (perhaps 11:30 or so) and the great thing was to be able to order up to the last minute, knowing full well that you could still catch the train. Big lumbering trains – hauled most likely by Deltic Diesels - would announce themselves from afar and take ages to stop and restart.

It became a regular call off spot for Kirklees CAMRA (1975 onwards) on their outings to Manchester, Stockport and Macclesfield. In those days it was a decent connection to Stockport and the wonderful pleasures of Hillgate near the brewery. Now all you have is the "Ghost Train" but that will change in the near future.

Forward to the 1980's and an accountant spent many hours waiting at Dewsbury for trains to Leeds. Eventually he became aware that the waiting rooms were slowly being de-manned. In the end one member of staff, usually Malcolm, was left in the booking office and the toilet could only be accessed if you knew to ask him for the key. Couldn't it be turned into a buffet bar for real ale, just like the one at Stalybridge? When I saw British Rail in York in December 1992, the answer was "yes".

Meanwhile, at Stalybridge, Ken Redfearn succeeded his parents and eventually ran the bar into the ground. It closed and Arriva (?) (B.R. had by then disappeared) sought new tenants.

I applied, but the tenancy went to John Hesketh, a graphic designer and owner of the Station at Ashton. A restoration was needed and John provided it, with more than a little help from Sylvia Wood who then took the licence. It reopened in early 1997 and proudly returned to being a regular fixture in the Good Beer Guide.

The bar remains the same as ever but the dilapidated conservatory has been restored and what was originally accommodation has been converted into extra space along the platform. A lovely end room now offers afternoon tea on Wednesdays and is often used by local groups such as the Sons of the Desert and steam train buffs.

When John died in October 2011, I was told that he had said he would like me to take over. There was no lease in place and it has taken almost 12 months for the deal to be completed and Sarah Barnes and I now have a lease for the next fifteen years.

The one and only Samantha Smith is now running the bar and the Sportsman. Luckily for her, Sylvia is staying on for a few months and we can only hope that we can retain its charm and maintain a real Victorian gem.

But was it actually part of the new station opened in 1885? CAMRA's Regional Inventory Panel have been unable to find evidence of this. If you can PROVE it was, then let me know.

Mike Field
07973215760

UK Cider Industry Echoes Brewing Sector With Substantial Growth In Number Of Producers

The Campaign for Real Ale has recently revealed how the real cider and perry industry is growing in line with the UK's real ale boom. There are now over 1,000 breweries operational across the UK (the highest number for over 70 years) and new figures show that there are now over 300 producers operational across the UK, twice as many as in 2005 when CAMRA's Good Cider Guide reported 155 producers in operation.

With the research conducted by CAMRA's National Cider and Perry Committee, some of the biggest growth areas of the UK for real cider and perry include Herefordshire, which boasts over 40 producers, and Somerset, with over 35.

Such is the increasing interest in the nation's historic cider making tradition; even less popular areas for cider including Yorkshire are seeing small companies start life. Locally, Pure North and Udders Orchard fly the flag in West Yorkshire where their popular and award winning ciders have been produced for the last few years.

Andrea Briers, CAMRA National Cider and Perry Committee chairman, said: *'We are delighted to see a large number of people coming into the real cider and perry industry and playing a major part in driving consumer interest in local produce, whether sold at a small farm outlet or a CAMRA festival. Our local branches are discovering new producers starting up all the time, meaning we are constantly revising our databases, and always welcoming new information.'*

'It's also exciting to hear many of these producers reporting high demand for their ciders and perries. This shows how many drinkers in the current climate are shunning mass produced brands and instead are turning to their local producer for quality and choice. Cider making is one of the nation's proudest rural traditions, and with producers starting to emerge in more urbanised areas as well, the continual growth in the industry is extremely positive news when reinforcing the importance of this historic craft.'

In Memoriam - Mel Chamberlain

Mel was coming to the end of his three year degree at York University when he was taken ill with pancreatitis in April. After battling the illness for three months, he died, aged 34, at the end of June.

Not simply a real-ale enthusiast and CAMRA member, Mel was passionate about beer and the industry. He had worked at the Time Piece and West Riding pubs in Dewsbury, and volunteered at many beer festivals.

In 2008 he embarked on his history degree at York where one of his speciality subjects was the techniques used in medieval brewing.

Sadly, Mel entered hospital days before he was due to sit his final exams, however it is with great pleasure that I can announce that the university awarded Mel his degree, with honours posthumously at his funeral at Dewsbury Crematorium on 12th June.

Mel's ambition was to become a college tutor and had been accepted onto an MA course at the university, to begin in October. He also planned to pen a book detailing the history of brewing in the UK and worldwide.

Mel is survived by his mother Christine, father Melvyn, stepfather Arthur, stepmother Margaret, sister Vanessa, girlfriend Cyan, many other family members and many, many best friends within and outside of CAMRA



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Contacts & Diary

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Home Page: <http://www.camra.org.uk>

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Home Page: <http://www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk>

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HEAVY WOOLLEN BRANCH DIARY

Branch Meetings and Socials, 8:00pm unless otherwise stated (please check the branch web site, above, for any possible changes)

Tue 6 th Nov	Branch Meeting, New Inn, Roberttown
Tue 20 th Nov	Social, start at Timepiece then West Riding, Dewsbury
Wed 5 th Dec	Branch Meeting, Huntsman, Shaw Cross
Fri 14 th Dec	7pm - Xmas Social (booking required), Old Colonial, Mirfield
Mon 7 th Jan	Branch Meeting, Bull's Head, Gomersal
Mon 21 st Jan	Social, Cellar Bar, Union Rooms, Taproom, Batley
Tue 5 th Feb	Branch/GBG meeting, Star, Roberttown
Tue 19 th Feb	Social TBA

REAL ALE TALK

The Real Ale Talk is published by the Heavy Woollen District Branch of CAMRA, and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Campaign or the Editor.

Contributors are asked to provide email or hard copy with contact name and number to the Magazine contact above. Similarly, any contact regarding advertising enquiries should also be directed to the Magazine Contact above. Next Copy Date January 2013.

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The Navigation Tavern

6 Station Road, Mirfield 01924 492476

Saturday Nights at The Navigation

Regular Motown/Soul Nights, a proper night out!

Check in the Navi for future dates

Mirfield Rail Enthusiasts Society's meeting 1st Weds of the Month

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News & Events

Taste of Italy: Event celebrating Italian cuisine 8th November 2012

Bar at Homemade Festival: Dewsbury Town Hall, 10th November 10am-6pm



1 St Johns Rd,
Huddersfield HD1 5AY

T: 07766 131 123

www.undertheviaduct.com

SportsmanHuddersfield



The Sportsman Stall at Festival of Light: Huddersfield 7th - 9th Dec
Christmas Menu: 10th - 20th December 3 courses and Gill Rack £20

News & Events



Cluntergate, Horbury
Wakefield WF4 5AG

T: 07788 506 797

CricketersArmsHorbury

News & Events

Oktoberfest: Our second annual festival 19th - 21st October 2012

Bar at Victorian Christmas Festival: Wakefield City Centre, 22nd - 25th Nov

Please check Website or Facebook pages for further event information