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MAY - JULY 2016



GEORGE HOGG, WINTERTON GAINS WINTER PUB OF THE SEASON AWARD



Branch Chairman Mike Sayers (centre) presents the Scunthorpe & District CAMRA Pub of the Season certificate to licensees Jacquie and Dave Hogg



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Our Pub of the Year Nominee
- **BREWDOG HANGOVER**
After BBC Reality Show
- **Plus much more...**



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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

WELCOME

What makes a great pub? Some longer articles to follow in the next edition but here are some personal views to spark the debate off.

A great pub needs a great landlord/lady who knows the business and the customers. Order is kept alongside a good range of products and a clean environment. Personal dislikes are very loud music, very loud co-drinkers and bad language.

What makes for a great beer festival? With summer on the way the beer festival season will be as busy as ever with lots of organisations having events lined up.

That said I am not a fan of some fund raising beer festivals. The product is generally expensive and the glass 'concession' can be a bit of a rip-off. On the other hand CAMRA beer festivals are run by very experienced volunteers who know the product and prices are kept competitive.

What makes a great pub and/or beer festival for you? - let's be hearing from you!



Mike Sayers

Chairman, Scunthorpe & District CAMRA

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Mark Elsome, Mike Sayers, Beverley Branton, Campaign for Real Ale



SPRING PUB OF THE SEASON

THE BRITANNIA, BRIGG

Our Spring Pub of the Season award goes to the Britannia in Brigg. Following a complete refurbishment of the premises, the Britannia has reopened as a restaurant/pub serving an array of drinks including four cask ales.

The pub is owned by Marstons Brewery, three of the beers will be from the Marstons range plus one featured guest ale. The food is good quality pub grub with emphasis on the chef specials to provide additional



Former mine hosts at the Britannia, Dawn & Phil Clipson (left & right), with Tabatha Johnson and Calvin Dow who are now at the helm

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interest to the menu.

The landlord is Calvin Dow, whose parents once ran the Britannia themselves, so this for him is like owning a piece of his past. He also runs a pub in Skipton, so when Calvin's not in Brigg he has his appointed landlady Tabatha Johnson (who has moved from Skipton to live in the area), to take the helm.

The pub has two drinking/eating areas - the main bar area serves the largest room with its tables, nooks and armchairs, and there is a separate room that can also be used to host functions and smaller parties, as well as being an additional area to drink/eat.

Opening times at the Britannia are:

Mon-Thurs 11am-11pm; Fri/Sat 11-12.30am; Sun 12 noon-11pm

Times for food time are: Mon-Fri 12 noon-3pm and 6-9pm; Sundays 12 noon-8pm

We congratulate Calvin and Tabatha and all staff at the Britannia on their award which will be presented on Wednesday 4 May at 8pm.

Beverley Branton



PUB & BREWERY NEWS

- > The previously closed Black Bull in Brigg has been thoroughly revamped and opened up in March as a **Dexter's Alehouse & Kitchen**. Although there's a strong emphasis on food, the pub offers three changing real ales plus a house beer brewed by Caledonian, as well as a selection of craft bottled beers.
- > The **George Hogg** at Winterton has been taken off the market after mine hosts Dave & Jacquie Hogg had second thoughts about selling up, and it's now business as usual!
- > New licensees at the **Malt Shovel** in Ashby where Mike and Angela Ellery, previously of the Wheatsheaf in Louth, have taken over the helm.
- > The **Horn Inn** at Messingham has introduced a Cask Ale Collectors Club on Monday evenings – buy 6 pints of cask beer at £3 a pint and get the 7th free.



Does your pub qualify? If so then let us know...



Neil Poole (centre) receives a branch Pub of the Season award from Scunthorpe & District CAMRA in 2011

BRANCH PUB OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

POOLEYS, MESSINGHAM

Every year CAMRA runs a national Pub of the Year competition and invites branches to nominate a local pub of their choice. Lincolnshire CAMRA branch choices undergo a county judging round during May,

and the winner then goes forward into the National competition proper.

Our Pub of the Year nomination for 2016 is Pooleys of Messingham. This free house owned and run by Neil and Sharon Poole, is a traditional village pub in every sense of the word. Initially opened as a tearoom selling local produce, the customer demand for locally produced ales to also be available persuaded Neil and Sharon to transform Pooleys into a pub. Only open in the evenings from Tuesday to Sunday, Pooleys offers five changing real ales drawn from customer favourites and requests such as Batemans XXXB, Everards Tiger & Original, Greene King Abbot and Marston's Pedigree, supplemented by occasional guest beers from the likes of Charnwood, Hydes, Lacons and Oakham among others.

The interior is rustic in style with three separate drinking areas free from unnecessary piped music to allow conversation to flow – in short, everything that a traditional local should be – and Pooleys is popular both with local Messingham residents and visitors from the surrounding area.

We congratulate Neil and Sharon on their award, which will be presented on Wednesday 6 July at 8pm. We hope you can join us.

Mark Elsome

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CAMRA URGES LICENSEES

CAMRA is urging licensees to charge fairly for half pints of beer after a survey discovered almost 50% of licensees who overcharge are adding between six and 20p to the cost of a half.

CAMRA branches across the country responded to a request asking them to report pubs in their area which were charging more for a half pint than half the proportional cost of a pint. Of the 59 pubs reported, almost one in 10 were charging between 41p and 50p more for a half pint compared to the cost of a full pint. In some reported cases this saw pubs charge £2 for a half pint, where a pint of the same beer would cost £3.

In the most extreme case one pub added 82.5p to the proportional cost of a half pint, with a half costing £2.95 and a pint costing £4.25.

CAMRA volunteers also reported back on pubs which displayed price lists - out of 28 pubs surveyed, 60% did not display a price list.

Chief Campaigns Officer Jonathan Mail said, "This feedback from our branches shows how confusing it can be for drinkers. If you buy a half pint in a pub you might be expecting to pay a price broadly in line with the proportional cost of a pint, but in fact you might end up paying 20p more per half pint than you expect."

The lack of clear information and pricing for consumers adds to this confusion and we'd call on licensees to be as clear and transparent about their pricing to help consumer make an informed decision. CAMRA recognises that there may be a need for pubs to round up to the nearest five pence. However, the wide difference in premium added suggests that some pubs are unfairly penalising customers trying to drink responsibly by choosing half-pint measures and in some cases obscuring this mark up by not clearly displaying prices".

Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)



BEER FESTIVAL DIARY DATES

Please check websites/Facebook etc for event opening times

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12-14 May (Thurs-Sat) <i>Brigg Lions Beer Festival</i> Nelthorpe Arms, Brigg | 17-18 June (Fri-Sat) <i>Caistor Lions Beer Festival</i> South Street Park, Caistor |
| 26-28 May (Thurs-Sat) <i>Lincoln Beer Festival</i> Drill Hall, Lincoln | 29 Sept-2 Oct (Thurs-Sun) <i>19th Scunthorpe Beer Festival</i> Royal Hotel, Scunthorpe 25+ Real Ales from Greater Manchester, the North West, the East Midlands & Yorkshire + Cider & Perry |
| 3-4 June (Fri-Sat) <i>Barton Lions Beer Festival</i> Baysgarth Park, Barton | |

BRANCH DIARY

For further information on any branch events please check out the website www.scunthorpe.camra.org.uk

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 4th May | 8pm | Pub of the Season presentation to Britannia, Brigg |
| Saturday 28th May | Time TBA | Newark Beer Festival, Riverside Park, Newark |
| Friday 10th June | Time TBA | Trip to York races and later tour of York pubs |
| Wednesday 6th July | 8pm | Pub of the Year presentation to Pooleys, Messingham followed by branch meeting |
| Saturday 9th July | 11pm | Trip by train to Sunfest, Rising Sun, Sheffield |
| Saturday 23rd July | 11pm | Trip to Grimsby by train for pub crawl of Grimsby pubs |





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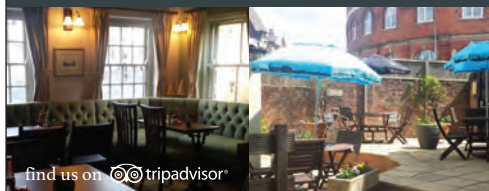
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The Nelthorpe Arms, Brigg

LANDLORD INTERVIEW

RICHARD REVELL, NELTHORPE ARMS

Richard has been in the pub business on and off since 1988 and moved to the Nelthorpe two months ago. Previous experience has seen him and his wife at the helm at the Marquis of Granby, Waddingham, the White Horse, Brigg (prior to the Wetherspoon makeover), and the Bridge Hotel, Scunthorpe. If and when Richard finds spare time he likes to play golf and the occasional game of poker.

What prompted your move to Brigg? We both love Brigg and when we left we left behind some great friends and loyal customers, most of whom still visited us at the Bridge, but it is great to be back in a traditional English country pub getting my teeth into looking after a wide range of real ales and craft beers.

Brigg has quite a few pubs for its size. **What will make the Nelthorpe a long term survivor?** We have something unique to offer in Brigg - alongside five rotating real ales we only serve fresh, locally raised and grown home-cooked food, nothing frozen, not even the chips!

What are the pubs best features? Undoubtedly our customers! Sadly a lot of the great old pub

characters seem to have disappeared, but we are lucky in having more than our fair share of them! We're also on the river, a great location, and at the end of the day people can always come in, even if it's only to talk to our resident parrot Jack.

What is your career highlight since you have been in the business? Having customers becoming friends and following us from pub to pub, that's all the pat on the back I need, and means we are obviously doing something right.

The Nelthorpe Arms was awarded a CAMRA Pub of the Season award in 2015 and is still serving a range of cask beers. **Which is your personal favourite and do you have many requests from regulars for their favourite?** Robinsons Trooper is my personal favourite. We actively encourage our customers to suggest beer choices. They should be given a say in what they want to drink. At the end of the day it is their pub after all.

How would you like to develop the pub? We are on the river front with mooring rights, so events around the river are one thing we are looking at. We have also got a large free standing function room that will be finished by the end of January, so bands and big events will be put on. Mostly the foundations are here, it's just a case of carrying on the good work that has been done by previous landlords. **Mike Sayers**

WWW.SCUNTHORPECAMRA.ORG.UK



Landlord Richard Revell behind the bar at the Nelthorpe Arms, Brigg

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WHY NOT TRY A MILD IN MAY?

CAMRA'S MILD MONTH

May is the month when CAMRA promotes the enjoyment of mild beers and we urge you to give milds a try. It beggars belief that in the current climate of everything craft, mild still struggles to increase its share of the beer market. Thanks to the craft brewing revolution, mild's bigger brothers porter and stout seem

to be thriving, and while the most innovative craft brewers will resurrect niche European beer styles like Gose and Berliner Weisse, they largely choose to ignore mild, an historic UK beer. Is it because milds are associated with the past industrial heritage of the North and Midlands

as a low strength beer to slake the thirst of manual workers after a hard shift at the factory, and therefore not seen as being trendy enough? Who knows?, but we believe there are some great milds out there, so don't accept the hype and give them a try yourselves. A few examples like Rudgate Ruby Mild, Moorhouses Black Cat, Fernandes Malt Shovel Mild, Acorn Darkness and Thwaites Nutty Black are all you need to know to start sampling some great milds. Wetherspoon outlets may be your best bet to find draught milds, but other local pubs may also feature milds in May. See you at the bar!

Mark Elsome



NEW DRINKING GUIDELINES

AMONG TOUGHEST IN EUROPE

New government guidelines on alcohol consumption mean millions of drinkers who consume more than seven pints of beer a week are now considered "at risk".

Men and women should drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week – the equivalent of six pints of average strength beer or seven glasses of wine – in order to keep health risks low, the guidelines recommend. Under the old guidelines the recommended levels for men were 21 units a week and women 14.

England's chief medical officer Sally Davies

defended the guidance, insisting the updated advice is not scaremongering but based on "hard science". Critics have questioned the advice which means the United Kingdom now has some of the strictest drinking guidelines in the world.

CAMRA

chief executive Tim Page questioned the legitimacy of the advice. He said, "The best kind of health advice is that based on clear and undisputed evidence. We are uncertain whether there is sufficient agreement among experts to support these new guidelines".

British Beer and Pub Association chief executive Brigid Simmonds said there was a real danger consumers would just ignore the advice.

Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)







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Nook Beers



BEER OF THE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

NOOK BREWHOUSE, HOLMFIRTH

In late January a small band of intrepid Scunthorpe & District Branch members made the trip to Nook Brewhouse at Holmfirth in West Yorkshire, to present them with a beer of the festival certificate for the 18th Scunthorpe Beer Festival last year, won by their beer Orange Choco Stout.

After catching three trains and riding possibly the world's slowest bus, we pitched up in Holmfirth around midday, and quickly found the Nook pub in the centre of town. We were greeted by Sheila Sutton and brewer Ian Roberts from Nook, who made us very welcome

and immediately provided us all with complimentary glasses of the winning beer, which was just as delicious as it had been at the festival. We were also able to sample some of Nook's other fine brews such as Cherry Stout, Rescue Red and Sky Blue Blonde, and Ian showed us around the onsite brewery and told us a little of what made Nook tick.

The pub itself was very traditional, but comfortable and relaxing. After a hearty meal and a couple more beers, we bade our farewells and made our way to Huddersfield (by taxi this time), to visit the Magic Rock Brewery Tap, the Sportsman and the King's Head before the return journey home. With thanks to all at Nook for their welcome and hospitality – we had a very enjoyable visit.

Mark Elsome



Nook exterior



Scunthorpe & District CAMRA member Paul Branton (centre) presents the Beer of the Festival certificate to Ian Roberts (right) and Sheila Sutton (left) of Nook Brewhouse



The Nook interior (above) and brewing facility (below)

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BREWER SCORES OWN GOAL IN REALITY TV APPEARANCE

NASTY HANGOVER FOR BREWDOG

Punk craft beer brewer and vocal critic of CAMRA, Brewdog, spectacularly came unstuck when appearing as one of the featured companies in the recent BBC TV programme, 'Who's the Boss?'. The premise of the programme was for the company staff to secretly view the interviews and tasks set for candidates out to secure a position with Brewdog – in this case for a Regional Sales Manager – and for the employees to decide who gets hired.

The process began to unravel when the manager and co-founder of Brewdog, James Watt, decided that none of the three middle-aged candidates were hip enough to work for his company and didn't have any

marketing experience (although two of them had this written in their CV), and decided to stop the whole process and offer them a lesser job. He berated the recruitment consultants over the phone and told the workforce from on high that he wasn't having any of it (although presumably he must have signed up for the procedure in order to participate in the programme).

When informed of the change to their employment prospects, two of the candidates turned the new job down almost immediately, and the third candidate who had got the job by default, declined it soon afterwards.

The programme caused a storm on Twitter, with Watt being called a 'nasty man' and Brewdog labeled as 'an obnoxious and pretentious company'. Watt himself tweeted, 'That could have gone better'. Several beer suppliers also decided to de-list Brewdog as a result of the programme. Who'd have thought it? If you haven't seen it, check it out on BBC i-Player.

Mark Elsome



Founders of Brewdog - James Watt (left) and Martin Dickie (right)

CHOCOLATE MARBLE WINS NATIONAL WINTER ALES GONG

Scunthorpe & District CAMRA members attended the National Winter Ales Festival at Derby in February, and had a thoroughly good day out. The festival was very busy, even on the Thursday, particularly in the Roundhouse section. We tried in vain to sample the festival champion beer – Chocolate Marble from Marble Brewery in Manchester – it had proved so popular that stocks had temporarily run out. Not to worry though as this fabulous dark beer 'with a chocolatey aroma and flavours of marmalade, mocha and raisins', should make an appearance at the 19th Scunthorpe Beer Festival in September. **Mark Elsome**





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CAMRA CONSULTS ON REVITALISATION PROJECT

SHAPING THE FUTURE

In a rapidly changing world, most successful organisations will regularly take stock of where they are and what, if anything, they should be doing differently. CAMRA is no different and recently launched a consultation exercise with its members and other interested parties, which has been termed the Revitalisation Project.

CAMRA was formed in 1971 as a group championing real ale, and although its focus has broadened over the years, the pub and brewing landscape has changed hugely. CAMRA is now asking who they currently represent and who they should represent in the future to help secure the best outcome

for the brewing industry and pub trade.

Of course one of the main drivers in all of this is how the brewing industry has developed in recent years and the rise of so-called craft beer. One of the most important outcomes from this consultation will be how CAMRA responds to 'craft keg' beers – does it embrace them or continue to pretend they don't exist?

Although I haven't sent in my response to CAMRA just yet, I believe they should stick to their guns with promotion of real ale as their main core value. Some members point to the wide availability of real ale in pubs these days and say the battle has been won. However I believe if we take our focus away from real ale it could wither and die – some of the new wave of craft brewers such as Brewdog have already abandoned any commitment to real ale and others may follow unless CAMRA maintains its position. By all means promote craft keg beers, but do it separately as CAMRA already does with cider and bottled beers for example. It makes no sense to simply say CAMRA is not against craft keg beers or those who wish to drink them, as they risk losing touch with younger, enlightened drinkers who seek out good beer and are not too worried about the container it comes in. The results, as they say, should be interesting!

Mark Elsome

CAMRA's Key Campaigns
CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

- Stop tax killing beer and pubs
- Secure an effective government support package for pubs
- Encourage more people to try a range of real ales, ciders and perries
- To raise the profile of pub-going and increase the number of people using pubs regularly

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Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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