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Iron Brew
Newsletter of Scunthorpe & District
Campaign for Real Ale

FREE Summer 2011 **FREE**

**HIGHLIGHTS IN
THIS ISSUE**

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OF THE SEASON**

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CLASSIC ALBUM
REVIEWED**

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REDUCE STRENGTH OF
XXXB**

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SOCIAL**

**CENTRE PAGES: 14TH
SCUNTHORPE BEER
FESTIVAL SUPPLEMENT**

**14th Scunthorpe Beer
Festival in September!**

Scunthorpe & District CAMRA are pleased to announce that the 14th Scunthorpe Beer Festival will be held at Campbell's Bar in the Scunthorpe Conservative Club again from 22 – 25 September (Thursday – Sunday). We aim to feature 30 real ales including a Lincolnshire Brewers' Bar plus beers from the North West (Greater Manchester/Merseyside/ Lancashire & Cumbria), Yorkshire and the East Midlands, and cider and perry. Last year Campbell's Bar proved to be a comfortable and popular venue, and we hope to build on the success of our 13th festival. There will be hot and cold food available at all sessions, a tombola with 'beery' prizes, CAMRA products stall and live music on Saturday evening. It should be a great event – we hope you can make it! (*more in the supplement inside*).

IRON BREW

Published quarterly by Scunthorpe & District Campaign for Real Ale.

Edited by Mark Elsome

29 The Dales, Bottesford DN17 2QF
who would be pleased to receive
comments for publication

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mark.elsome@ntlworld.com

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter
are those of the author, and may not
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Branch Chairman: Mark Elsome
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(Tel: 01724 761217)

Branch Secretary: Bev Branton
(Tel: 01724 357009)

Membership Secretary:
Paul Williams (Tel: 01673 818109)

Social Secretary:
Sarah Wullink
(Tel: 07840155637) (m)

Comment

CAMRA has written to the newly re-elected Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond MSP, welcoming his pledge to address the sale of alcohol below cost in supermarkets, and asking him to consider appointing a Minister responsible for Community Pubs in Scotland.

CAMRA has long been campaigning for a ban on the below cost sale of alcohol, a practice which is causing people to shun well-run community pubs in favour of cheap, high strength alcohol available in the off trade.

Written by CAMRA's National Chairman Colin Valentine, the letter highlights the sale of alcohol at below cost as a 'pernicious form of predatory pricing', and a factor severely undermining the Scottish pub sector's efforts to promote the moderate and responsible consumption of alcohol. The last government rejected this approach as 'penalising moderate drinkers', but Scotland is showing the way forward on the issue. [2]

Branch Diary

Saturday 9 July
1000 am

Trip to 'Sunfest' Beer Festival at the Rising Sun, Sheffield. Meet Scunthorpe Train Station

Saturday 16 July
1230 pm

Branch AGM, Scunthorpe Conservative Club. All local CAMRA members welcome

Tuesday 26 July
830 pm

Pub of the Season presentation and Beer Festival Meeting, Chancel, Bottesford

Saturday 27 Aug
Time TBA

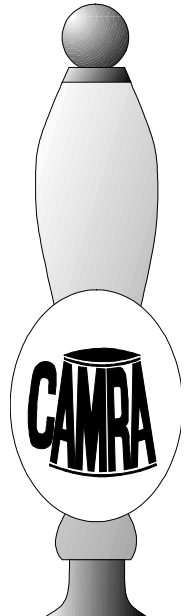
Pub crawl of Hull. Travel by Fast Cat bus service.

Tuesday 6 Sept
815 pm

Beer Festival Meeting, Wheatsheaf, Barton-on-Humber

22 – 25 Sept
(Thu – Sun)

14th Scunthorpe Beer Festival, Campbell's Bar, Scunthorpe Conservative Club, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe



TRADING STANDARDS

If you are concerned about short measures or any other aspects of pub service, contact: -

SCUNTHORPE TRADING STANDARDS

TEL: 01724 297664

Pub & Brewery News

The Magna Charta Inn in New Holland has reopened after being closed for 15 months. New licensee is Pete Smith, formerly of the Yarborough Hunt, Brigg and the New Inn, Great Limber. Initially Pete will be offering two real ales - Greene King IPA and Black Sheep Best Bitter – but intends to feature guest beers once the pub becomes established. Good to see it open again, and well worth a visit. See website for further information and opening times: www.magnacharta.co.uk

The Take a Gander in Burringham is under new ownership, with Freddie Webber now at the helm. The family also run the Red Lion at Epworth. The pub offers three rotating beers from the Theakston and Caledonian breweries. Worth a look!



We understand the **George Hogg** in Winterton, our most recent Pub of the Season, is planning a beer festival at the pub at the beginning of September. Ring 01724 732270 for further details.

Pooleys in Messingham is planning to add a couple of real ales, including a rotating guest beer, to the Batemans XB and XXXB it currently stocks.

DarkTribe Brewery at the **Dog & Gun** pub in East Butterwick have started brewing seasonal ales. The first of these for spring was Dolphin's Joy, a 3.8% ABV bitter. The next beer for summer will be Starfish Delight. We hope to feature the autumn beer at the 14th Scunthorpe Beer Festival in September.

Tetley's Brewery of Leeds has sadly been closed by Carlsberg UK after 189 years of brewing. All production of Tetley cask beer will now be switched to Marston's plant in Wolverhampton.

Pub of the Season, Summer 2011

The Chancel

Bottesford

Our Pub of the Season for summer is the Chancel at Bottesford. This estate pub, owned by Punch Taverns, and leased by the Smith Inns pub company, has been given a new lease of life following a £100,000 refurbishment in March this year.

At the helm are Mike and Vivien Hubbard, experienced licensees of 20 years standing. Mike and Vivien have previously managed local pubs such as the Berkeley, the Horn Inn and the White Horse in Brigg, as well as other pubs in Grimsby, Rugby and London. Their cask ales are Tetley Bitter and two guest ales from the Punch Finest Cask monthly beer list. Usually the two guests comprise a bitter and a blonde ale, and recently the guest beers have included Acorn Barnsley Bitter, Lancaster Blonde, Sharp's Doombur, Shugborough Milady's Fancy and Ringwood Fortyniner.

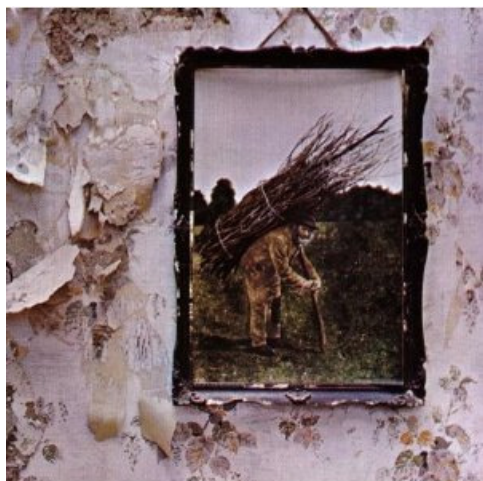
Both the lounge and separate public bar are looking spick and span these days. The lounge has been tastefully redecorated with new lights, curtains and carpets, the perimeter seating reupholstered and the tables and chairs restored. The vintage pictures and prints adorning the walls complete the attractive nature of the room. The bar has a pool table and TV, and is also comfortably fitted out. A beer garden with bench seating and tables is situated to one side of the pub for a spot of outdoor drinking when the weather allows.

The Chancel offers good quality meals on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 12-2 pm and 5-7 pm, as well as Sunday lunch from 12-5 pm. Special meal nights such as steak, fish and pie nights are also staged. All meals are prepared using fresh ingredients.

The presentation is scheduled for 830 pm on Tuesday 26 July. We hope you can join us. Mark Elsome

Classic Albums, No. 36: Led Zeppelin – Led Zeppelin IV (Atlantic)

After the folk leanings of their third album, Led Zeppelin roared back in 1971 with their next opus, an album based on hard rock, but still finding time to include light and shade in their songwriting. The album opens with two heavy, riff-driven rock songs right out of the top drawer – *Black Dog* and *Rock and Roll* – which became staples of their live act. Robert Plant's banshee wailing combines perfectly with Jimmy Page's driving guitar and John Bonham's thunderous drumming and marks the high point for hard



rock music, which all other contenders for the crown had to try and emulate. Next up is *The Battle of Evermore*, reflecting their folk influences with mandolins and Tolkien-esque lyrics sung by Plant and guest vocalist Sandy Denny. They close side one with their eight minute magnum opus, *Stairway To Heaven*, which starts off with some gentle new age folkiness, before accelerating into an electric guitar and drum frenzy. A superbly

constructed classic, which has possibly been devalued slightly by over familiarity. Side two struggles to match such high standards, but still contains some great songs, from the hippyish *Misty Mountain Hop* to the country-tinged *Going To California*, before ending in fine fashion with a lengthy workout of the Memphis Minnie blues classic, *When The Levee Breaks*, which includes some excellent blues harp playing by Plant himself. This best selling album marked the ascent of Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones and John Bonham to the rock aristocracy, and ushered in the advent of stadium rock for the band. They successfully mined the hard rock stylings in their music to the maximum in the years following *IV*, but for me this was their standout album. Mark Elsome [4]

Mild in May Social

May is CAMRA's 'Mild in May' month, in which CAMRA branches up and down the country try to promote mild beers. Many brewers who would not otherwise brew a mild, do so during May, and it's thanks to them and CAMRA's efforts, that mild beers are making a bit of a comeback. Slowly milds are losing their unwarranted image as an old man's drink, and they comprise a vibrant style of beer with tastes and strengths to suit all palates.

We did our bit by persuading the Blue Bell in the centre of Scunthorpe to host a mild social, and they did us proud! Manager Paul Ferguson arranged for four milds to be available on the day - these were Banks & Taylor Black Dragon, Banks's Ruby Mild, Otter Mild and Cotleigh Nutcracker. All were in excellent condition, and proved a hit with the members who attended. We would like to thank Paul and his staff for their generosity and willingness to help out. We presented the pub with a branch mild award and this is shown in the picture below.

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12/10

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More Beer Jokes!

A snail goes into a pub and orders a beer. The barman says, "Sorry we don't serve snails", and throws him out. A couple of weeks later the snail goes into the bar again and says..."What did you do that for!"

A neutron walks into a bar. "I'd like a beer please", he says. The barman promptly serves up a beer. "How much will that be?" asks the neutron. "For you", replies the barman, "no charge."



A termite walks into a pub and says "Is the bar tender here?"

Branch Social Activities

We've been pretty busy on the social front since the last issue of Iron Brew, so here's a quick summary. Ahem ... in April we visited the 21st Doncaster Beer Festival in the Hub at Doncaster College. A good time was had by all, particularly when the brass band was on – just like Last Night of the Proms when they played *Land of Hope & Glory!* We also enjoyed the Cask Corner bar in the town centre, owned by the local Toad Brewery.

In early May a group of us attended the mini-beer festival at the Nelthorpe Arms at South Ferriby, and sampled three very nice bitters, a real cider and a lunatic 10% brew from Naylor's Brewery! (only a half each though – there was still a return bus journey to attempt afterwards). Licensee Gavin Richards also cooked up some delicious home-made pie and peas. After the excellent mild social at the Blue Bell (*reported on page 13*), a few of us went to the Abacus on the High Street and partook of some excellent Thornbridge Jaipur, one of our favourite beers. And on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend some of us took the service bus to Lincoln to visit the Lincoln Beer Festival at the Drill Hall. We also did a mini-crawl of city centre pubs including the Jolly Brewer and the Dog & Bone. [5]



Spring Pub of the Season



Branch Treasurer Chris Lyon presents the Spring Pub of the Season certificate to George Hogg licensees Dave Hogg & Jacqueline Whitfield

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& 6-8pm

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£3.25 or £5.50 for 2 courses

Quiz nights Tues & Thurs – win beer & loose change

Live music every other Saturday from 8.30pm/check press & blackboards

Don't miss our mini-Beer Festival 21 – 24 July

Great British Beer Festival

The 2011 Great British Beer Festival taking place at Earls Court from 2-6 August, is Britain's biggest beer festival, and brings together a wide range of real ales, ciders, perries and international beers. CAMRA bars at the festival will offer beer from all regions in the Good Beer Guide. In addition to the CAMRA bars a number of breweries from around the country will be represented at the festival with their own bar, including Brewdog, Fullers and Thornbridge. These brewery bars will stock favourite beers during the five day period, and a number of these will be selling new beers and running



competitions. Bières Sans Frontières Bars at GBBF continue to provide a showcase for the best beers from around the world, including beers from Germany, Belgium, Italy, USA, Czech Republic and The Netherlands. As well as the beer, there's plenty of other activities to occupy you at the festival; you can play on traditional pub games, enjoy live music, sample some food, including good traditional pub snacks, and also attend tutored beer tastings

Not content with being one of the biggest and best beer festivals in the world, GBBF 2011 is continuing the tradition of making sure it presents a musical line-up worthy of any of the summer festivals, including classical music with the Chaminade String Quartet, folk with PJ and Peggy and rock with the Chris Jagger Band. Tickets for this year's festival are now available to purchase online through See Tickets (<http://gbbf.camra.org.uk/tickets>), or by calling 0844 412 4640. A party of Scunthorpe & District members are planning to meet up at the festival for a London social on the Wednesday lunchtime session, and a write-up of the event will appear in the next *Iron Brew* (provided we can remember what occurred!). Why not try the festival for yourself?

[10]

Batemans Reduce Strength of XXXB

Batemans have reduced the strength of their iconic premium beer XXXB from 4.8% to 4.5% ABV because “pubs no longer want to stock strong

beers”. Really? They say that they have made every effort to match the original, but have they succeeded? Well, Kev Taylor from Gainsborough CAMRA thinks not. Writing in the branch newsletter *Gains Brew*, he says, “When I heard Batemans were reducing XXXB from 4.8% to 4.5% I took little comfort from the words of their head brewer, who stated that he couldn't tell the difference. I was able to try a pint (or four) of the new brew at a local pub. There was nothing wrong with the beer I tried, except that it was a different colour, and no longer had that deep ruby colour. It also didn't have that wonderful full flavour long associated with XXXB, and yet even though it's now in a different excise duty bracket, it was more expensive! If they had changed the name to XXB, this would be more suitable, because it's a brew between the two. I'm sorry, but if Batemans head brewer can't tell the difference, I suggest he gets his taste buds relined!” In fact I agree with Kev – the new XXXB is a decent beer, but it doesn't reach the heights of the original. Can Batemans please bring back the original version of XXXB? It doesn't deserve to be downgraded to an inferior, weaker brew.

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[7]

Gainsborough CAMRA Page

Hi all! Well it's been a bit of a busy time fourteen miles up the road, and we're into our third planning session for this year's beer festival. The theme is an A-Z of East Midlands beers. We have a well balanced lexicon of beers of all strengths and varieties. We will also be having five beers from Grafters brewery and four festival specials as well as ciders and perries. Branch members have visited quite a few beer festivals by rail over the past few months. Back in April, twelve of us went to the regular beer fest at The Mallard pub, the station bar at Worksop, where nineteen beers were on sale. The following week was our yearly pilgrimage to Elsecar, a cracking little set up in a local village hall with a lot of local beers and a good selection of ciders and bottled foreign beers. The last bank holiday brought us a veritable cornucopia of festivals, what with Lincoln and Newark, Worksop's Mallard's birthday beer fest, Cleethorpes Signal Box real ale, cider and folk fest & the Royal Oak at Snitterby even having their own, what a dilemma! What disturbs me though is the growing number of beer festivals that are charging extortionate fees for entry even for members. I vetoed Nottingham last year and will do the same this year if they continue to charge. The same applies to Newark festival. I will not pay £3 to go in. It's robbery with violence to expect members to pay that amount; also it's not encouraging Joe Public to come along and revisit. I thought King John and his Nottinghamshire bully boy, the Sheriff, were dead and gone, but no, they have been reincarnated in the guise of Real Ale tax collectors, and it's about time a limit was put on entry fees. I don't object to a donation of up to £1 for members and £2 for non-members, but NO MORE. Also beer prices should be kept to a reasonable level – let the quality and variety of the beer be the main selling point! On a brighter note The Canute recently held its own beer festival with a selection of nine ales on. All were in excellent condition and to add to the atmosphere they even had an indoor beer tent along with a fiddle band on the opening night. Well done Neil and his team. In town, The R Bar (still the only pub in town to give discount to CAMRA members), is closing for a re-fit from June 13th till the 23rd. The Xtra is still selling real ale, from the Marston's catalogue.

The Blues Club also keeps a very good selection and CAMRA members can get in by showing their membership card at the bar. Well that's all for this time. Yours Kev T.

CAMRA Turns 40

CAMRA turned 40 in March this year, and a number of celebratory events are planned up and down the country. CAMRA was founded in 1971 when four young men from the north west of England, Michael Hardman, Graham Lees, Bill Mellor and Jim Makin were on holiday, and fed up with the increasing bad quality of beer. 40 years later CAMRA has over 100,000 members and still campaigns strongly for UK drinkers everywhere.



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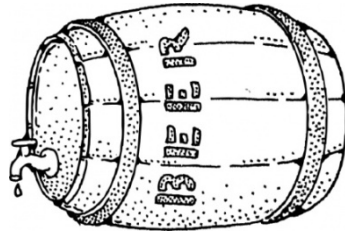
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SCUNTHORPE & DISTRICT CAMRA

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The 14th Scunthorpe Beer Festival

**at Campbell's Bar, Scunthorpe Conservative Club,
Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe;
22 – 25 September 2011 (Thurs – Sun)**

**30 selected real ales from Lincolnshire, Greater Manchester, Cumbria, the
East Midlands & Yorkshire + Cider & Perry;
Hot & Cold Food all sessions
CAMRA Products/Tombola/Souvenir glass available**

Sat Eve; Live Acoustic Blues with the brilliant Chris James

OPENING TIMES & ENTRY:

THURS 22 SEPT 5.30–11PM (£2);

FRI 23 SEPT 11AM–4PM (FREE); 6–11PM (£2)

SAT 24 SEPT 11AM–11PM (£2 BEFORE 6PM, £3 AFTER 6PM);

SUN 25 SEPT 12NOON–4PM (FREE)

Free entry to CAMRA members with valid membership card

14th Scunthorpe Beer Festival Supplement

Well, it's getting towards that time of year again, when the Scunthorpe Beer Festival rolls (staggers?) into town. This year's event is our fourteenth, and takes place once again in Campbell's Bar at the Scunthorpe Conservative Club in the town centre. The inaugural event at Campbell's last year drew lots of praise for the venue, as well as the beer quality and entertainment from those attending. This year's dates are Thursday 22 – Sunday 25 September.

A beer festival of course showcases real ale as an enjoyable, quality drink, as well as in this case, promoting membership of CAMRA. Local CAMRA members set up and staff the festival, and although it's very hard work, in the end, usually well worth it.

This year's beers will follow a regional theme once again, with a Lincolnshire Brewer's Bar having a selection of handpulled beers from our own county, and beers from the North West of England including Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria, plus new beers and old favourites from Yorkshire and the East Midlands. Cider and perries will also be available to complete the lineup – **see the provisional beer/cider list overleaf.**

Hot and cold food will be available at all sessions, provided by the Conservative Club itself, and the menu will comprise good quality beer festival staples such as pie and peas, burgers and a selection of filled rolls. A festival pint glass can be purchased as a souvenir, or glasses can be hired at each session. Tombola, CAMRA products and membership stalls will also be present. On the Saturday evening we have music from Chris James, a talented blues singer and guitarist from the Carlisle area, who's likely to get you singing along!

We hope to see you there.



Provisional Festival Beer/Cider List

These are the beers we've ordered from our suppliers. They may change slightly before the event due to the vagaries of brewing schedules, but we hope the majority will be available on the day:

*Abbeylea, Yorkshire, Seasonal ?%**
Anglo Dutch, Yorkshire, Tabatha The Knackered 6.0%
Barnegates, Cumbria, Cracker Ale 3.9%
Batemans, Lincolnshire, England Expects 4.0%
Beartown, Cheshire, Peach Melbear 4.4%
Blue Monkey, Nottinghamshire, Ape Ale 5.4%
Brewsters, Lincolnshire, Decadence 4.4%
Brown Cow, Yorkshire, Thriller In Vanilla 5.1%
Coach House, Cheshire, Ginger & Lemon 5.0%
Cumbrian Legendary Heroes, Cumbria, Dickie Doodle 3.9%
DarkTribe, Lincolnshire, Honey Mild 3.6%
*DarkTribe, Lincolnshire, Seasonal ?%**
Derventio, Derbyshire, Troll 4.3%
Frog Island, Leicestershire, Natterjack 4.8%
Grafters, Lincolnshire, Darker Side Of The Moon 4.2%
Hawkshead, Cumbria, Lakeland Gold 4.4%
Hawkshead, Cumbria, Red 4.2%
Holts, Greater Manchester, Humdinger 4.1%
Hornbeam, Greater Manchester, Lemon Blossom 3.7%
Liverpool One, Merseyside, Mersey Mist 4.0%
Millstone, Greater Manchester, True Grit 5.0%
Moorhouses, Lancashire, Old Boss Bitter 4.3%
*Newby Wyke, Lincolnshire, Seasonal ?%**
Nutbrook, Derbyshire, Bitlyke 4.2%
Phoenix, Greater Manchester, White Tornado 4.3%
Summer Wine, Yorkshire, Barista Espresso Stout 4.8%
Thornbridge, Derbyshire, Jaipur 5.9%
Thornbridge, Derbyshire, Sequoia 4.5%
Toad, Yorkshire, MIB (Malted In Black) 4.2%
*Yates, Cumbria, Seasonal ?%**

* to be announced

Cider/Perry

Gwynt-Y-Ddraig, Wales, Black Dragon Cider 7.2%
Hecks, Somerset, Port Wine Of Glastonbury Cider 5.0%
Gwynt -Y-Ddraig, Wales, Two Trees Perry 4.5%

We hope the list whets your appetite, and we make no apologies for going for quality rather than rarity value. Some seasonal beers have yet to be announced by the breweries concerned, so the full listing will not be available until nearer the festival. Also remember that we'll be repeating our Dark Beer Trail for the milds, stouts and porters, where you can drink at least a half of each of the five on offer, get your festival programme stamped, and then claim a free half of your favourite. Cheers!

Chris James

Our musical act for the Saturday evening of the festival is Chris James. Chris has played blues music for the last 25 years in and around Carlisle. On the way he has supported many of the finest live acts around from John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, Nine Below Zero, The Hoax and The Nimmo Brothers to acoustic acts such as Clive Gregson, Boo Hewerdine, Kristina Olsen, Maddy Prior and Paul Jones. Chris is regularly booked for the Brampton Live Festival, the Carlisle Folk and Blues Club, and Penrith Plug and Play. He's becoming a regular performer further afield and is now actively seeking gigs throughout the country to promote his new album *Angel InThe Mirror*. This brings to the fore the quality and energy of Chris's guitar playing, and draws on his inspiration from the great bluesmen of the past such as Robert Johnson, Reverend Gary Davis and Big Bill Broonzy. We saw Chris play at the inaugural Scunthorpe Blues Festival earlier this year, and he was superb. We look forward to another great session of acoustic blues, with every chance of a chorus or two for the audience!

