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Iron Brew



Newsletter of Scunthorpe & District
Campaign for Real Ale

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Summer 2012

FREE

STABLES AT BARTON WINS SPRING PUB OF THE SEASON AWARD



CAMRA member Colin Andrew (left, centre), presents Stables manager Martin Gilbert with the Branch's Spring Pub of the Season certificate, surrounded by branch members and staff

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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Branch Committee

Branch Chairman: Mark Elsome
(Tel: 01724 331056)

Branch Treasurer: Chris Lyon
(Tel: 01724 761217)

Branch Secretary: Bev Branton
(Tel: 01724 357009)

Membership Secretary:
Paul Williams (Tel: 01673 818109)

Social Secretary:

Sarah Wullink
(Tel: 07840155637) (m)

E-mail: sarahwullink@btinternet.com

COMMENT

Since the budget invoked the beer duty escalator back in April (or even before in some cases!), you're probably paying £3 or more for your pint in some local establishments. This is a ridiculous situation when we're in a state of deep recession, and for the government a counterproductive measure. It seems likely that beer sales in pubs and clubs will suffer because of the excessive cost of a pint, and the amount of beer duty the government collects will actually fall. Why not at least freeze the duty increase this year, and give our public houses a fighting chance of surviving? This is exactly what CAMRA is trying to persuade the government to do in the 2013 budget with an on-line petition to scrap the beer duty escalator :

<http://saveyourpint.co.uk/>), supported by the British Beer and Pubs Association, the Morning Advertiser, Wetherspoons and



others. 100,000 signatures are required to force a parliamentary debate on the issue, so please add your voice to save our pint!

[2]

Branch Diary

- Sat 7 July 10 am** Trip by train to Sunfest at Rising Sun, Sheffield
- Wed 18 July 8 pm** Summer POTS presentation to the Take A Gander, Burringham
- Sat 21 July Time TBA** Members barbecue at Barton – contact Sarah for details.
- Wed 1 Aug 8 pm** Beer Festival meeting and social, Queen Bess, Ashby
- Sat 18 Aug Time TBA** Trip by train/bus to Elland Brewery. Book places with Sarah.
- Sat 25 Aug 12 noon** Social at George Hogg, Winterton, during the pub's beer festival
- Wed 5 Sept 8 pm** Beer Festival meeting & social, Crown, Ashby
- 20 – 23 Sept (Thur – Sun)** 15th Scunthorpe Beer Festival, Campbell's Bar, Conservative Club, Doncaster Rd 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

Thorne Brewery is no more, having been closed at the end of February. The parent company has sold on the plant to a new venture down in Norfolk, leaving Thorne without a brewery once again. However ex-head brewer Mike Richards is planning to open a microbrewery based at South Park Industrial Estate in Bottesford – see their website:

<http://www.axholmebrewing.co.uk>

Core beers planned include Best Bitter (3.8% ABV) and IPA (4.1%), along with a wide range of guest ales exploring both modern and historic beer styles.



The George Hogg at Winterton will be hosting their annual beer festival over the August Bank holiday weekend with 10 real ales, food & live music.

Gavin Richards, licensee of the **Nelthorpe Arms** at South Ferriby, will be hosting a mini-beer festival at the pub on 6 October 2012, as well as the annual 'Gavfest' music extravaganza on 1 September, featuring six live bands throughout the day. Entry to the latter is free.

Calling all Abbeydale beer fans, the **Rising Sun** in Sheffield, effectively the Abbeydale Brewery Tap, will be hosting its annual 'Sunfest' beer festival between 5 – 8 July (Thur – Sun), featuring a range of Abbeydale's excellent ales plus over a hundred other beers. A Scunthorpe Branch trip is planned for the Saturday of the festival.

With the Euro 2012 football tournament probably over by the time you read this, lots of our local pubs will have been showing the games, particularly when England were playing. **Abacus** in Scunthorpe town centre went the extra mile for footy fans by allowing them to book 'front row seats' for specific games.



Pub of the Season Summer 2012 The Take A Gander, Burringham

Our Pub of the Season for Summer 2012 is the Take A Gander at Burringham. This attractive country-styled pub is located next to the River Trent, and is renowned for its range of tasty home-cooked meals, available from Tuesday – Sunday. Less well known is its commitment to real ale, with up to three rotating draught beers from the Theakston / Caledonian stable available at all times.

At the helm since March 2011 is licensee Freddie Webber. In fact there is a family history of running public houses as Freddie's father also runs the Red Lion in Epworth. The pub comprises a small, cosy bar for drinkers, with a large, comfortable dining room set out for the very popular lunchtime and evening meals. A function room to the rear is available for hire for special occasions, and there's a small beer garden at the back of the pub. Bench tables are also set out on the riverbank for the warmer months.

At the time of my visit the real ales were Caledonian Dutchman (4.5% ABV) and Double Czech (4.5%), the latter being an unusual cask lager, and both were very good.

Another unique feature is the fact that the Take A Gander doesn't offer packaged snacks, but instead produces its own crisps and pork scratchings, which can be ordered at the bar. I tried the crisps, and very nice they were too! A wide variety of coffees are also offered to complement the meals or just to be enjoyed by themselves.

The pub is open from 12 – 2 pm and 5 -11pm from Tues to Friday (closed Monday), and is open all day (12 – 11 pm) on Saturday and Sunday.

The presentation of the award has been scheduled for Wednesday 18 July at 8 pm. We hope you will be able to join us and support one of our best local pubs.

Mark Elsome

Classic Albums No. 40 : Brothers – The Black Keys (V2 – coop)

The Black Keys are a duo from Akron, Ohio, featuring Dan Auerbach on guitar and Patrick Carney on drums. They originally made their name with modern blues based songs, which drew unfair comparison with the White Stripes. However with this classic album released in 2010, they threw off the shackles and included other musical styles alongside their trademark blues tinged swamp rock. Embracing pop influences from producer Danger Mouse (real name Brian Burton, one half of Gnarl Barkley), on previous record *Attack & Release*, and also fleetingly involved

on *Brothers*, they extended their range and expanded their sound with the addition of other instruments. It all added up to a fresh, new approach which saw them reap the benefits with increased album sales. Opening track *Everlasting Light* has a falsetto vocal slightly reminiscent of the Bee Gees, but is none the worse for that, and is followed by the very catchy, radio friendly *Next Girl*, bizarrely used to advertise TV's *Hollyoaks!* Throughout the album they reel off excellent songs such as *Ten Cent Pistol*, a cautionary tale of a wronged woman taking revenge, and a

superb cover of the Jerry Butler soul classic, *Never Gonna Give You Up*. Auerbach coaxes some varied sounds from the guitar to keep the music interesting, and Carney provides a solid rhythm accompaniment on the drums. Taking a lead from the early Beatles, the songs are punchy and in the main don't hang around too long, almost flowing effortlessly into each other. If you like blues-based rock music with a commercial edge, then the Black Keys at their creative peak on *Brothers* could be for you – why not give your ears a treat? It will be worth it!

Mark Elsome

[4]

Featured Community Pub – the Queen Bess, Ashby

In this issue we have a new topic, where we feature a local community pub which you may not have visited before, but which we in CAMRA feel has a lot to offer. The Queen Bess is situated on Derwent Road at the heart of what was once called the Grange Lane Estate; the Bess has the look of a typical pub built in the late 50's. It's large and square and utilitarian to look at, is multi-roomed and still has an off-sales window situated at the front of the pub, nestled between separate bar entrances. It was conceived at a time when estates were being built to house the growing population in the area, and were constructed on a set model of having amenities that would suit a new community. As some communities have moved on or died out because of changing economic factors, many of the country's community pubs have been forced to close.

Happily the Queen Bess is not one of them. Around fifty years on and the pub is still catering for the local community around it.

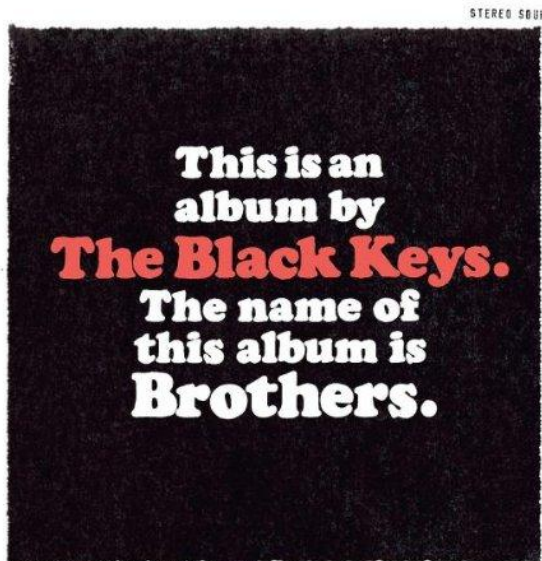
A Sam Smiths pub, it's now run by manager Kevin Dent who has served here for six and a half years, having previously managed the Open Hearth and Highfield House in Scunthorpe. He told CAMRA that, "It has its own football club in the town's Sunday

league, its own interpub darts and dominoes team and two pool teams in the pub pool leagues". The pub itself also has snooker tables available to use. The Bess regularly hosts its own Winner Takes All pub quiz and has a meat draw. CAMRA members visited the pub in support of Community Pubs Month this April and were impressed by the handpulled Old Brewery Bitter (OBB) on offer, as well as the friendly welcome from staff and regulars.

You don't need a CAMRA directive to visit this pub; it really is a true community pub continuing to serve its regulars since the day it was built. The beer and the company were great. Its community spirit still thrives as the football, pool, darts and quiz teams testify. This is exactly the kind of pub everyone should be supporting all the time. Pubs are at the heart of any community and if they disappear than that community spirit is lost forever.

Beverley Branton

[13]



More Beer Jokes!

A couple of nights ago I was out for a few beers with some friends and had a few too many as occasionally happens. But knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before - I took a bus home. I arrived back safely and without incident, which was a real surprise since I'd never driven a bus before!



A snake slides into a bar and the barman says, "I'm sorry but I can't serve you."
"Why not?" asks the snake.
The barman says, "Because you can't hold your beer."

After a session in the pub a guy takes his mates back to his new flat for a few more

beers. One of them asks him, "What's the big brass gong for?"

The host says, "It's my speaking clock"

"How does it work?"

"I'll show you", and he hits it full pelt with a large hammer.

A voice from next door yells, "For christ's sake you idiot, its twenty to three in the morning!"

What happened to the lady who spilled some beer on her stove?

She got foam on the range.

How do frogs make beer?

Like everyone else, they start with some hops ...!



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welcome old & young
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Anchor, Scotter
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Good Cheer
Welcoming
Atmosphere
Beer Garden**

**NO FOOD, JUST A PUB
WITH GREAT
REAL ALES!**

New National Pub Closure Research

New national pub closure research released by CAMRA has shown that community pubs have been hit hard as over 300 permanently closed between September 2011 and March 2012. 12 pubs now close across Britain every week – 8 in suburban areas, and 4 in rural areas, with only the nation's high streets showing resistance in the current economic climate.

New county breakdown figures show Lancashire and West Midlands as among the hardest hit areas - targeted figures show how in the 6 month period above, Lancashire lost 68 pubs, whilst the West Midlands lost 37. Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive, said, "Whether situated in a small village, city high street, or on the edge of a housing estate, pubs are so central to our society that whole communities can grow around a particular pub. A threat to the future of traditional pubs is therefore also a threat to countless social groups within Britain that thrive because of their local. Unsustainable beer tax increases by the Government are ripping the heart out of communities, but with over 33,000 consumers having recently signed the beer tax e-petition, beer drinkers and pub goers are actively voicing their discontent." [5]

A Campaign of Two Halves

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Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. 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 Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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 Email address _____ I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association
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- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Join CAMRA today - www.camra.org.uk/joinus

Blue Bell Mild Social

During a balmy May evening, a small, but select group of members gathered at the Blue Bell in Scunthorpe for a Mild social during CAMRA's Mild Month campaign. Arranged in conjunction with the pub, two excellent draught milds were on offer -



these were Naylor's Velvet Mild and Rudgate Ruby Mild. Both were delicious and packed with those appealing liquorice and chocolate flavours characteristic of the dark mild style.

The pub had used the CAMRA mild publicity pack to advertise the

presence of two milds on the bar, and other customers were enthused enough to give the milds a try. With other great beers on the bar from Bradfield and Thornbridge, there was a great selection for even the most discerning real ale fan. Thanks to Alan, Kyle and all the gang at the Blue Bell for an enjoyable evening. [6]

The Bird in the Barley

Northfield Road, Messingham: Tel 01724 764744

Email: birdinthebarley.messingham@virgin.net

Traditional Country Pub serving traditional home-cooked food, made from the finest ingredients from local suppliers

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Bar Hours:

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Food Served:

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Menu from Snacks to Full Menu:

Lunchtime/Teatime Specials

Tues-Sat £5.45

Cask Pedigree, Jennings Snecklifter
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1/3 pint cask ale
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£3.99 or £5.99 for 2 courses

Quiz nights Tues & Thurs – win beer & loose change
Live music every other Saturday from 8.30pm/check press
& blackboards

Next Beer Festival 12 – 15 July

Community Pubs Month Pub Crawls

Over two consecutive weekends in April, Scunthorpe & District Branch undertook pub crawls of Barton and Scunthorpe in support of CAMRA's national campaign to promote Community Pubs. Each pub on the crawl was provided with a Community Pubs Month publicity pack, comprising campaign posters, leaflets and beer mats to help promote themselves. In Barton we visited the Volunteer Arms (see above), the George and the Wheatsheaf, as well as presenting our Spring Pub of the Season award to the Stables Bar & Kitchen (see cover photo).



The following Saturday another small, but select band of local members took on the Scunthorpe leg of the crawl. We began at the Chancel where we sampled the Hobgoblin, before boarding a passing bus to visit the Malt Shovel and the Crown (see picture below), with the latter again featuring



Hobgoblin in good form. We then went onward and upward to Harry's bar to sample the Westons cider, before a short walk took us to the Queen Bess, a welcoming Sam Smith's pub on Derwent Road, dispensing handpulled Old Brewery Bitter (see feature on page 13). Finally on the bus again to reach the Clamart for Black

Sheep Bitter, Abacus for Greene King IPA Gold and the Blue Bell for Acorn and Thornbridge, I think (started to get a bit hazy by now)! All in all, both crawls were good, and we visited some less well known gems of community pubs, where the beers and ciders sampled were almost all in good nick. Reaction of some licensees to CAMRA's initiative we found was muted at best, but overall we judged the event a success. M Elsome [10]

Scunthorpe Beer Festival 2012

The 15th Scunthorpe Beer Festival will be rolling into town again this September. The venue will be Campbell's Bar at the Scunthorpe



Conservative Club on Doncaster Road, and the festival is due to take place between 20 and 23 September (Thur-Sun). We have adopted a regional theme for the beers, and will be featuring 25+ real ales from the South West, the Heart of

England, the East Midlands as well as a Yorkshire Brewers Bar. Look out for beers from Abbeydale, Ilkley, Magic Rock, White Rat, Dark Star, St Austell, Vale, Concrete Cow, Flipside and many more including, we hope, the new Axholme Brewing Co. in Scunthorpe, plus draught cider and perry. There will be hot & cold food at all sessions, courtesy of Campbell's catering, a festival tombola and the chance to purchase a souvenir festival glass. We hope to see you there!

Opening Times & Admission

Thur 20 Sept 530-11 pm (£2)
Fri 21 Sept 11am-4pm (Free);
6am-11 pm (£2)
Sat 22 Sept 11am-11pm (£2)
Sun 23 Sept 12 noon-4pm (Free)

[7]

NELTHORPE ARMS

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Gainsborough CAMRA Page

Hi once again to all our Scunthorpe friends. We now have two pubs in our area that offer 10p per pint discount to CAMRA members. These are The 'R' Bar and the Half Moon at Willingham. The branch is trying to encourage other town pubs to follow suit but it is a difficult job, with one establishment suggesting he will put beer up 10p a pint to members (guess who?). Since your last issue our town has lost two more pubs, the Lords closed in May and it's rumoured that the Peacock is to follow suit pretty soon. But to soften that blow the Horse & Jockey now serves real ale at £2.50 & £2.60 a pint. Now selling two beers, with the house beer being Doombard and one guest, Viv says if the beer keeps selling like it is doing, he will add another pump to the bar.

Although there are several breweries within our branch's Locale area (30 mile radius), we only have one in the branch boundary, Grafters Brewery. The Jubilee gave the brewery a chance to launch a new brew to add to its already popular portfolio. Aptly named Luvley Jubilees (to be re-named Luvley Jubbily's when it's brewed after the celebrations.) Brewed at 4.2% ABV, it's a nice summer brew, with refreshing tropical hoppiness, giving a fine balance to the bitterness right to its moreish end. The beer will be the June special and one of the eight beers always on sale at the brewery tap (The Half Moon). If you like Grafters beer, suggest it to your local to order some. In August (16th—19th) the brewery will be holding its annual Midsummer Micromadness Beer Festival with 30+ beers, ciders & perrys available, live music every night, and BBQ and food available at all sessions. Overnight camping in the back pasture is now available so there is no need to rush away, and I'm sure you will be able to book a Tracy-style breakfast for the morning.

The planned brewery expansion has now commenced. The idea is for the brewery to leap from a mere 2.5 barrel plant to a nicely sized 10 barrel plant. This will not only give Phil the chance to develop different brews, but also brew larger quantities of his already successful beers at any given time. Talking of beer festivals, plans are well and truly advanced for our 4th festival. The theme this year is The War of the Roses. Lancashire breweries versus Yorkshire breweries. The festival will once again be held in The Old Hall and will run from the 18th to the 21st of October so we hope to see you all there. Well that's my allotted space used up once again, so until next time I wish happiness and good cheer to one & all.

Kev

[8]



Any more rises in beer duty will increase the pressure on pubs already struggling to survive and damage the long term viability of the beer and pub sector.

We realise that it's the third time in this issue that we've mentioned it, but we think it's important! So please register your opposition to further duty increases at the internet address shown on the beermat (right). Ta very much!



The Wheatsheaf

Twice local CAMRA Pub of the Season and listed in the Good Beer Guide

Traditional pub dating from the 18th century
6 cask ales always available, all kept in excellent condition
Excellent value quality home-cooked traditional food



Opening hours

12.00 to 11.30pm
12.00 - 12.30 pm Friday & Saturday

Food Served

12.00 - 2.45 pm, 5.30 - 8.30 pm, Monday to Saturdays; 12.00 - 2.30pm & 6.00 - 8.00 pm Sundays

Holydyke

**Barton-upon-Humber
DN18 5PS**

01652 633292

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