

Beer Gutter Press

FOR DISCERNING BEER DRINKERS IN AND AROUND NEWARK · ISSUE 38 · JULY 2009



From the Newark branch of Campaign for Real Ale



CAMRA Hits Membership Milestone

CAMRA is now an organisation with over 100,000 members! CAMRA was formed in 1971 by Michael Hardman, Jim Makin, Graham Lees and Bill Mellor, when an idea of a campaign arose whilst they were bemoaning the state of British beer and pubs. Popularity for the then-named Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale quickly grew, and by the end of 1973, the organisation boasted 5,000 members.

By February 1974, the membership number had risen to 9,000, and in a development of great significance for the future style and operation of CAMRA as an organisation, the first local branches had been formed.

Presently CAMRA has over 200 local branches, holds over 150 beer festivals annually, and is one of the most successful consumer movements in Europe. A past recruitment slogan read: 'It takes all sorts to campaign for

real ale', and to this day CAMRA membership consists of people of all ages and ethnicities, with members including television personalities, musicians and leading Government Ministers.

After a major national celebration at the recent Great British Beer Festival, the 100,000 member celebrations look set to continue with branches organising their own celebrations to fit their busy campaigning calendars.



Yarr! It be International TLAP Day

Avast me hearties! This Septemby 19th be International Talk Like a Pirate Day Yarr! An' to celebrate it, the scallywags from the good ship CAMRA be talkin' like pirates all day. Not only that, we be dressin' like 'em too! YARR! We be settin' a-sail on a Wright's wagon an' goin' plunderin' the locals for dubloons in aid o' charity aroun' the villages o' the shire. An' while we be at it, we be drinkin' plenty o' the local grog too! YARRRR!!!

To join up wi' our crew o' scurvy sea dogs, please

pipe a message to Cap'n Stuie Shortpants on 07804 805 096 or be sendin' 'im an e-bottle at socials@newarkcamra.org.uk. But rememby, if ye ain't bein' dressed like a pirate ye ain't a-boardin' ship an' settin' sail wi' us. Meanwhile, ye can be brushin' up on yer pirateese an' be a-learnin' other pirate stuff at www.yarr.org.uk/

YARRRRRR!!!

Cap'n Philthy Fugpig



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Drink like a Pirate



Arrrrr! It be many a long year since we last be in Penzance, so avin' plundered ye old ATM for doubloons we set sail for Cornwall. 'Pon our arrival we be met by our 'ost, a former scallywag o' Newark now o' Marazion, a man they be callin' Mutley. We be press gangin' 'im into being our drinkin' guide for the weekend an' 'e be acceptin' the role wi' relish!

Day 1 – Aaaaarfter a hearty breakfast we be settin' off on our quest. T' first port of call be ye Star at Crowlas – local CAMRA pub o' the year. 'Ere we be layin' waste (to oursel') wi' lashings o' Crowlas Bitter (brewed in t' pub), Townsend Audley Gold, Titanic Red Ensign, Coastal Sunshine an' Woodlands Mild. The intention bein' to spend the whole day 'ere but due to a cock-up on t' caterin' front (the galley bein' closed) we be endin' up back in Marazion for some vittals and St Austell Tribute in ye King's Arms.

Day 2 – The big 'un, a pub crawl roun' Penzance. The stagecoach be droppin' us off in the centre o' the town and a short walk be bringin' us to ye Crown Inn, a small pub servin'

Timothy Taylor Landlord an' Otter Bitter. Next up, ye Turks Head for a pint o' Hydes Bells an' Whistles an' then just up t' street ye Admiral Benbow where we be eatin' lunch, swilled down wi' St Austell Proper Job, which we all be votin' beer o' the day.

Wi' our bellies full an' our spirits high we be venturin' forth to t' Dock Inn. Here we be drinkin' Spingo's. A 5% cloudy beer bein' brewed at t' Blue Anchor in Helston that has all the alarm bells a-ringin'. There be no takin' this one back t' bar tho' – it's s'posed to be like that. Aaaaar!

Round t' corner t' ye Dolphin an' St Austell Tinnars, an' then to t' Alexandra Inn for Skinners Bays Revenge. A fish supper be roundin' it all off before we be makin' our way back to ye King's Arms in Marazion to be reflectin' on a brilliant weekend in Pirate country. Yarr!

Bobcat o' Nine Tails

Beer Gutter Press

is published by the Newark-on-Trent branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Newark CAMRA strives to increase consumer choice of real ale by objecting to pub closures and championing high standards of customer service in the area's public houses. We support our local breweries by promoting the diversity they bring to the bar.

Newark CAMRA also brings national issues such as tax and opening hours to local attention. Importantly, we are a social group of likeminded drinkers of all ages and walks of life. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings, details of which can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Beer Gutter Press welcomes local-interest beer related articles and letters for publication. All material should be sent to newsletter@newarkcamra.org.uk or 27 Kingsnorth Close, Newark, NG24 1PS. To reach a high proportion of discerning imbibers across East Nottinghamshire, contact our advertising team on 01536 358670.

An electronic version of this publication is available for download from the Newark CAMRA web site, where you will also find more information on local real ale topics and unabridged versions of pieces that have appeared on these pages. Point your web browser to: www.newarkcamra.org.uk

Opinions expressed within Beer Gutter Press are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or CAMRA at local or national level.



Thoughts of Chairman Dunc.

Back in April of this year I found myself in the picturesque village of Marton-Cum-Grafton, North Yorkshire, in search of Ye Olde Punchbowl Inn for a lunchtime 'sharpeners'. As some of you may be aware this pub was made famous in the Channel 4 documentary 'Neil Morrisey's Risky Business' in which Neil and his best mate, celebrity chef Richard Fox, set about finding a pub to buy and operate along with their own micro-brewery.

I personally found the programme extremely interesting as they set about a complete refurbishment of the pub and kitchen whilst setting up their brewery in the pub's out building, all whilst trying to keep the locals on-side. As I sat there with my pint I got to thinking about the validity of celebrities running pubs. Is it a case of them cashing in and feeding egos or is there a real passion behind the façade?

It is a well known fact that Neil is a member of CAMRA, joining at the GBBF a couple of years ago, and the real Neil Morrisey is a million miles

away from the lager swilling job of his character Tony in 'Men Behaving Badly'. But the man certainly likes his beer and, just perhaps, this is very much a labour of love.

Their first test brew of 40 pints was made in the kitchen and, in their words "turned out surprisingly well". It was, and remains so, a hybrid of something between a lager and a pale ale with a refreshing fruity aroma giving the drinker lager notes initially with a more bitter aftertaste. A successful marketing campaign was implemented with Tesco coming on board to sell Morrisey Fox Blonde in bottles at national level.

I had their Brunette on my visit, a more traditional ruby bitter, and very nice it was too. These recipes and brews are actually developed by the boys although the brewing and bottling for Tesco's is carried out by the Cropton Brewery at Pickering. The cask versions are brewed on site.

This project, according to Neil Morrisey, is the culmination of 40 years of pub crawls, drinking in other people's pubs and a desire to be

involved in the day to day running (filming aside) of his own establishment, drinking his own beers. I for one applaud them and what they have achieved and although their fame will no doubt help them along the way their beers, pub and food will stand up on their own merits and I urge you to take the three mile detour off the A1M and give them a try.



Dom's Ramblings

We visited a couple of outlying pubs this time, the first being the Full Moon at Morton, which I wanted to see as it has had quite a facelift.

It is still a very attractive pub, but now it has a very modern feel to it, which comes as a pleasant surprise after passing the charmingly old fashioned outside. The pub is still made up of small areas, all connected, but it now has a modern, light and lively feel about it. This has also made it feel bigger and more open, a clever effect. The bar has more room for hand pumps and there were five beers on when we visited. Blue Monkey Moonshine, brewed for the pub, Beartown Bearskinful, Bass, Nottingham Rock bitter, and Abbeydale Matins. My official taster said the Blue Monkey was lovely.

Food is a very important part of the Moon and there is a new chef and menus, including vegetarian, so all tastes can be catered for. In June they launched a breakfast menu served from 10 to 2.30. Black pudding and bacon from Porters, sausages from Gonalston and bread from Farnsfield supports the theory that

breakfast is the most important meal of the day, no matter what time you eat it.

Landlord Will was still pretty happy at being named by the Guardian as one of the top hundred country pubs in the UK, listed in the family friendly section. This is not surprising. How many other pubs have Toddle Time! The pub is open for young families to enjoy the amenities. Mothers (or fathers) can meet for a coffee while the toddlers can play safely with toys provided by the pub. For information, call 01636 830251 or visit www.themoonatmorton.co.uk

We also popped out to the Packhorse at Beckingham as it has recently changed hands. It is a pity that this pub has not really had anyone stay for a long time since Landlord Andy left as it is a true community pub and it just needs a bit of continuity to make it a great pub. Maybe Valerie and Darren (Daz) Kent are the people to bring it up. They are young and full of ideas and come from the Parklands in Lincoln. They moved in on the 28th of May and are finding their feet. Food will be important and Valerie will be using locally obtained ingredients



for her home made dishes.

Valerie is hoping to have different social evenings ranging from curry nights, through quizzes to bingo nights, but she is also hoping to get a musical feel to the pub. She was a semi professional entertainer and has supported many famous names, so she is keen to have a range of music nights in the pub. The beers here are from John Smiths, Black Sheep and Adnams and the opening times are 12-3 and 5-12 on Monday to Thursday and open all day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The pub is also going to be given a facelift, so it will be bright and welcoming. Give it a try, it's not far out of Newark and you don't need your passport to cross the border into Lincolnshire!

STOP PRESS:

Mark Priestley who ran the Great Northern is now in the Nags Head at Sutton on Trent and the Great Northern at Carlton on Trent has recently re-opened.

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[a]

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Mild in May

On Saturday 9th May Mark and myself set out on the mild trail in Nottingham. After a short walk from the station we arrived at the Canal House where we enjoyed Castle Rock's Black Tailed Skinner (4.2%) at £2.60 a pint. This was a very good start to the trail.

We had decided to try a few pubs which either one or both of us had never been in before, so we bought an all day rider ticket on the number 45 bus for £3 (this covered both the bus and the tram.) and headed out to Mapperley. As neither of us knew Mapperley, we got off the bus a few stops too soon and walked to the first of the three pubs there.

The first pub we tried was The Plainsman. Much to our despair, they did not have any mild but as they said they would give us a sticker we tried Nottingham Brewery's Legend at £2 a pint. Then onto The Woodthorpe Top where we had a another Nottingham Brewery beer, Rock Mild (3.8%) for £1.86. Here we were joined by a work colleague of mine Frank, a lager drinker but he tried all the milds we drank that day. Then onto the Bread & Bitter where we had a Castle Rock Black Gold (3.8%) at £2.20 a pint.

We then caught the number 44 bus back into Nottingham and then the tram (what a great way of getting around Nottingham) out to Basford. Our first port of call was the Horse & Jockey, where we sampled a Theakstons Traditional Mild (3.8%) at £2.20 a pint. This turned out to be our least favourite pub and beer. We then had a short walk to the Fox & Crown, home of the Alcazar Brewery, where we tried a Black Fox (3.5%) at £2.14. A very good pub and well worth a visit (they do Thai food in an evening). As the rain came down we hurried onto the Horse & Groom, selling Millbridge Mild (3.8%) from Ossett Brewery at £2.35. We were now feeling that everything was all right with the world as we headed for our final pub of the day, the Lion Inn at New Basford. All three of us enjoyed our Impey Dark (3.4%) at £2.66. This was possibly our joint second favourite beer of the day. The others were Black Tailed Swallow and Millbridge Mild.

Finally, we caught the tram back to the train station. We had enjoyed a day sampling many new beers and pubs and possibly changed Frank into a cask ale drinker. The beers were not over-priced and cheaper than we pay in

Newark. All three of us are looking forward to the 2010 trail and possibly some more new pubs. If anyone would like to join us next year they are more than welcome, we are not choosy who buys our beers!

Andrew

Beer Gutter Quiz - No. 11

Welcome to the latest edition of our cryptic Quarterly Prize Quiz.

This time the answers are all games (board games and the like). There'll be a beery prize for the winner. Send your replies along with name, address and telephone number to quizmeister@newarkcamra.org.uk or by snail mail to 'Beer Gutter Quiz No 11', 22 Ringrose Close, Newark, Notts NG24 2JL to arrive by 30 September 2009. The winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries.

1. One goes to university.
2. Anything goes between physicians.
3. Special Constable pursued by disorderly crowd...
4. ...but police follow rebel leader.
5. Knight head-over-heels over knight.
6. Biblical greeting.
7. Where you start to play one.
8. Grass round driving area conceals Zulu.
9. Elephant rider? Not half!
10. Do less in America.

The winner of Quiz No 10 was Paul Murphy of Newark.

The answers to the last quiz were

- 1) Parsons Green 2) Brent Cross
- 3) Maida Vale 4) Barbican
- 5) Mile End 6) Kentish Town
- 7) Rickmansworth 8) Perivale
- 9) Rotherhithe 10) Mornington Crescent



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Ron's Rounds

For this issue, some pubs close to Newark that are impossible to reach by public transport in the evening are featured. The **Willow Tree**, at Barnby in the Willows, is an 18th century building where Kathryn and Brett provide a warm and welcoming environment. Batemans XB is the regular beer and the pint I had for £2.50 was in tip-top condition. The other beer varies and when I visited it was Theakstons Best Bitter at £2.30. In comparison with the XB this was rather bland and noticeably sweeter but also in excellent condition. In warmer

weather at the weekend there is usually a third real ale and often this is locally sourced. Recent guests have included Springhead Surrender and Blue Monkey Original.

The excellent and former Newark Branch Pub of the Year, **The Five Bells** is at the far end of Claypole village. In June there was a 'birthday party' to celebrate the 10th year that Martin and Kay have been in charge and this was attended by 500 people! The regular beers are Tetley Cask Bitter (£2.35) and Greene King IPA (£2.45). At the time of my visit in late June the two guests were Tetley Mild



(being sold off at £1 a pint) and Old Speckled Hen (£2.70). However, more inspiring micro-brewery beers are often to be found. My pint of Tetley bitter was in good condition and so was the Tetley Mild.

I also called in to the other pub in Claypole, **The Woolpack**, to investigate the rumour that real ale was no longer on offer. Sadly, this turned out to be the case and there are no immediate plans to reintroduce any.



Meet the Landlord: Paul Goodman

Kings Road in Fulham, and the Wilton Arms in Thornton Heath. Paul was born in Luton but has lived in Nottinghamshire since the age of five.

He started his career as a landlord in the mid 1980s as a relief manager with Hardys and Hansons before a three-year stint as manager of the Woodman in Ripley. This was followed by a return to full-time teaching coupled with a busy evening and weekend life as a vocalist and keyboard player in pubs and clubs in Nottingham and adjoining counties. After this there were

three years as landlord of the Jolly Farmers in Ruddington before taking over at The Vine in Newark in April 2006.

Paul is a CAMRA member and encourages the sale of real ales at The Vine. There are usually two to three Springhead beers available, plus one from the Nottingham Brewery and one guest from a small brewery. So if you want a good choice of well-kept beers at a reasonable price, then stroll down Barnbygate and say hello to him.

Although Paul has a music degree from the Birmingham School of Music, a PGCE teaching qualification, and has taught music in a number of schools, in a sense he comes from a pub-keeping background. His grandfather kept two pubs during the Second War period – the Hand in Flower in the

Kiwi

Pub Crawl: Stamford

Having dropped my partner at Northgate to enable her to catch a train to see her mate in York, everything was sorted for me to join my beer comrades on a 'fact finding' trip in t'other direction, to Stamford. Don't get me wrong though, Lorna likes a glass of beer or two BUT she would no more relish an all day trip in a mini bus for the prime purpose of sampling fine ales than I would enjoy being dragged around twelve different shoe shops!

Just a short trip down the A1 from Newark, Stamford is certainly a good choice of town for our purposes. Did I say Stamford? I think I was a little misled by our social secretary, what he really meant to say (in good train announcer's voice) was "Stamford, calling at Bourne, Greatford, Barholm and Belmesthorpe"! Not that I was complaining though.

First stop, Smith's at Bourne, an excellent pub and former grocery shop. It would have been so easy to tarry for a while, supping outside in the sunshine, but a few more pubs awaited our patronage. The Hare & Hounds at Greatford certainly looked the part from the outside. It even had its own little camp site at the bottom of the garden,



within easy staggering distance from the pub.

We entered the hostelry confident and full of anticipation, but we left a little sheepishly. Black Sheepishly to be precise. Just the half though, responsible drinking of course and also down to the fact that the beer choice could have been a little more imaginative with just Black Sheep and a Greene King incarnation (Speckled Hen) to choose from.

Never mind, next stop, Barholm. What a pretty little village, and so well cared for. Even as long ago as the English civil war, money was being splashed to give the church a new tower. "Was ever such a thing since creation?" "A new steeple built in the time of vexation" reads the inscription. I was all enthusiastic and ready to share this knowledge with my companions but as I looked around, they were nowhere to

be seen. To my dismay they had all headed straight to the Five Horseshoes!

There was just one more stop, The Blue Bell at Belmesthorpe, before arriving at Stamford. With the bus parked up for the duration, four more pubs followed in fairly quick succession. The Otter's Pocket, a reasonable choice of beers but perhaps a little too sports bar-ish. Having said that though, it does have the bonus of having a TV in the toilets, presumably so you don't miss any of the action (I suppose you have to watch the dribbling) and the football commentary is in Finnish!

The Green Man was the second pub in Stamford that we visited, excellent pub, excellent choice of beers, followed by the Jolly Brewer and the Periwig, also a couple of good un's! Back to the mini bus for about 7-ish before heading back home, via of course, just one more pub. Well it would be rude not to wouldn't it? The White Swan at Barrowby being the choice.

Needless to say, a very enjoyable day and a big thank you has to go to Stu for organising it and last but certainly not least, Dom for driving us all to drink!

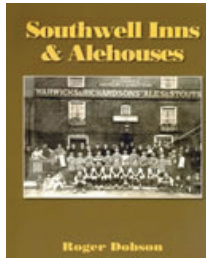
Philk

Quick Review: Southwell Inns & Ale Houses

by Roger Dobson

First published in 2008 this publication tracks the history of Southwell's public houses from its early beginnings to the present day. It is a factual interesting account of why there were thirty pubs in Southwell. This insight into an age gone by with pictures, maps, facts and figures.

Sponsored by Nottinghamshire County Council, it is available from Notts CC



Libraries or Southwell Minster shop, price £6.95p. I can definitely recommend this publication with the map and details to follow the ten pub crawl.

Woolpack Update

As you may have read in the local newspapers, the Woolpack on Stodman Street is in the process of being refurbished.

Two and a half years ago the pub was bought by Michael Thurlby who owns, amongst others, the Tobie Norris in Stamford. He shut the pub after just six months, due to lack of trade. But now he has plans to keep all the little cosy rooms, and open up the previous living space upstairs, to the public.

Mr Thurlby is trying to get townfolk to rename the pub. I think that there is nothing

wrong with the current name, but he would like to have a name that brings it back to its roots when it first opened, which is believed to be in 1452.

I will be keeping you up to date on the progress throughout the coming months and talking to Mr Thurlby about what he plans to do when he opens the pub.

Si



Diary

Branch meetings

Thu, 13 Aug - Green man (formerly St. Vincent's Arms), Norton Disney.

Thu, 10 Sept - Lord Ted, Farndon.

Thu, 1 Oct - Old Malt Shovel, Newark.

Thu, 5 Nov - Vine, Newark. This is the AGM, please make every effort to attend. You will require your membership card if you wish to vote.

Meetings commence 8pm, all welcome.

Socials

Thu 13 to Sun 16 Aug - Grantham Beer Festival, Railway Club, Grantham.

Sun, 23 Aug - Charity games day, Crown, Bathley (POTY). Start 2.30pm.

Thu, 27 Aug - Visit to Peterborough beer festival.

Fri, 4 Sep - London Heritage pub crawl.

Sat, 19 Sep - Talk Like a Pirate Day charity pub crawl around local villages.

Fri, 25 Sept - Beer and coffee charity morning, Fox & Crown. Start 11pm.

For full details, please call Stu on 07804 805 096

Details of all meetings and socials can be seen on our website:

www.newarkcamra.org.uk/diary.htm



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

LocAle Update

LocAle accreditation is awarded to pubs which pledge to always offer at least one locally brewed real ale (within a radius of 20 miles from the pub's door) on their bar. The following pubs in our area are currently in the scheme:

- Bramley Apple, Southwell
- Castle, Newark
- Crown, Normanton on Trent
- Crown & Mitre, Newark **NEW**
- Ferry Inn, North Muskham
- Fox & Crown, Newark
- Full Moon, Morton
- Hearty Goodfellow, Southwell
- Old Coach House, Southwell
- Sir John Arderene, Newark
- Spread Eagle, Hockerton
- Vine, Newark

Also near by:

- Bridge Inn, Dunham on Trent
- Staunton Arms, Staunton

Withdrawn from last issue:

- Boat House, Farndon

Look out for the LocAle window stickers and font crowns on hand pumps!

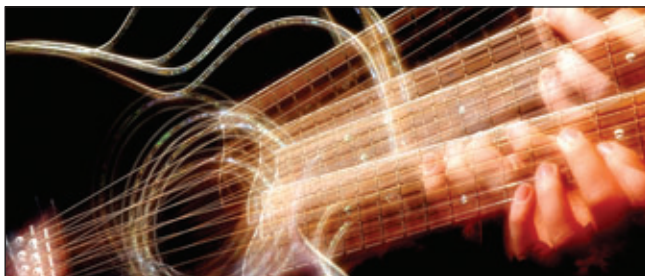
Pubs wishing to apply for accreditation should contact Newark CAMRA.

More information at:

www.newarkcamra.org.uk/locale.htm



Musical Notes



With another successful May Beer Festival under our belts, we managed to give you all some glorious weather to go with the beer and music. Highlights of a musical kind at this year's festival included Friday night headliners Treebeard, returning after a break of some five years with their unique take on songs such as Motorhead's 'Ace of Spades' and a stomping version of Jethro Tull's 'Living in the Past'. Complete with the flute player on one leg, a la Ian Anderson, they soon got the crowd up and jiggling.

Saturday teatime threw up one of the surprises of the weekend with a tremendous performance by rock covers band The Framed. In fact I would go so far as to say they were probably the best received band of the whole weekend. Check them out next time they play the Fox & Crown in Newark, August bank holiday weekend.

I personally think that

most of us still enjoy classic rock covers, when performed well they still manage to stir nostalgic feelings of our youth. It's just that some of us never really grow up and settle into middle age! You work out which category you fit into, - I know mine!

I recently went to see American prog metal band, Dream Theater, in Leeds and wow! what a gig. A personal favourite of mine, they perform not so much songs as pieces of music, and to the highest calibre. I must say that not everybody 'gets' them, but I urge you to at least check them out if you like quality metal music.

On a more local note some up and coming gigs in Newark include, in August at the Fox and Crown: Sat 15th - Natural Born Boogie, Sat 22nd - Booba Dust, Sat 29th - Hot Club, Sun 30th - Framed. Then on Fri 11th September, - Kelly's Heroes. Happy rockin'.

Duncan

COMPETITION: The end of the BGP?

Well, yes and no... Sad to say that last issue almost saw the resignation of our newsletter editor and with that, in my opinion, the end of the Beer Gutter Press. Anybody that has attended a branch meeting in the last year or so will know the reason – a lack of articles once again, despite constant reminders and countless ideas for subject matter. The BGP is published quarterly and requires 14 articles of circa 200 words. Not really a big ask for a

branch with some 300-ish members is it? Anybody that has a view or a story, ideally relating to things local and of a beery nature, can submit their piece. So come on, let's have a flow of articles to stop the Editor turning into (more of) a grumpy old man! After all, he does a good job for us, and we all like reading the newsletter don't we? You can send your articles electronically to webby@newarkcamra.org.uk or by mail to the address printed on page 3.

We are also changing the title of the newsletter to something a little more ...erm, politically correct. Ideally we would like to keep the initials BGP, suggestions so far include 'Beer Goes Public' and 'Beer Glass Periodical', neither very inspiring! If you can think of something more clever or witty, even if the title doesn't keep the BGP initials, please submit your idea to the above addresses. The winner will receive a beery prize.

H

Pub Fumes: Kids

Kids in pubs - let's ban them! Nah, not really but at least it got your attention. Although I don't want to ban them I do have a beef about trainee adults in hostelryes, please read on to learn more...

Today's pub is a very different animal to the pub of yesterday when it was pretty much the domain of the working class male, when children were often left outside with a bag of crisps and if they were lucky, a lemonade, whilst waiting patiently for Dad to sup up.

I'm not suggesting for one minute that we go back to those days. The pub of today is undoubtedly a more welcoming and inclusive place to enjoy a pint, soft drink or

even coffee, not to mention pub grub. Pubs have had to diversify simply to survive and I think most will agree that they are generally better places for doing so. In my view though, pubs are still pubs, not crèches!

I find it most annoying when I'm enjoying a pint to have to put up with kiddies who's parents let them do their own thing that often involves running around unchecked, annoying other customers, whilst funnily enough they enjoy a pint with their friends. Then of course there is the toddler, bawling and crying. It's not the children's fault, it's the responsibility of the parent to reign their young ones in and at the very least to

be aware of other pub users.

I also think there is a part to be played here by the publican. Of course they don't want to lose Mum, Dad, junior, a pint of lager, a medium Chardonnay, two steaks and chicken nuggets, but are they in danger of losing so much more?

Am I a parent? No. Now before you jump down my throat and accuse me of a selfish self interest, surely even parents of kiddies deserve a night down their local free of unchecked juniors in a predominantly adult environment? So then, children in pubs? Under the supervision of a responsible adult, not a problem but most importantly a pub should be a pub and not a kindergarten.

I.M. Bitter

Pub Spotlight: Fox & Crown

Part of the Castle Rock empire (formally Tynemill) the Fox & Crown has established itself as Newark's premiere live music venue as well as regularly appearing in the Good Beer Guide, offering up to ten real ales on hand pump at any one time.

Regular beers from the Castle Rock portfolio on offer include Sheriff's Tipple, Harvest Pale and Hemlock along with Everards Tiger and Batemans XXXB plus up to five guest beers, one of which is usually a mild or stout/porter. Manager Simon

Elvridge and his staff also offer a large range of continental bottled beers and nine different Polish vodkas plus Stowford Press Cider.

The pub itself is airy, modern and welcoming, having a touch of a continental feel to it. Split into several areas, the main three-sided bar sits centrally with a dining area to the rear and two other smaller snug areas off to the right.

Food is served Monday Thursday noon - 1.30pm and 5pm-8pm, Saturday 11am-8pm and Sunday noon - 3pm. All produce is locally sourced and prepared on site, cutting

down on food miles, so along with their commitment to LocAle this could be said to be very much a 'green' pub.

As well as the regular live music, most Sunday nights there is a quiz for those who want to stir the old grey matter before returning to the working week and I can recommend the old early doors session (5 'til 7pm-ish) when this pub really comes into its own, offering one of the most convivial places in which to forget about the working day. Happy drinking!

Duncan

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