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FOR
REAL ALE

BEER GUTTER PRESS

FOR DISCERNING BEER DRINKERS IN AND AROUND NEWARK ISSUE 45 SEPT 2011



Newark has a Heart of Gold

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BEER DUTY INCREASE



In the Budget in March, the Government put beer prices up by another 7.2% - or 10p on a pint. This takes the typical duty and VAT bill on a pub pint of a standard bitter to 90p.

In many parts of the country and for stronger beers the combined duty and VAT bill is well over £1 per pub pint. The total VAT and duty cost varies depending on the strength of the beer and the price at which it is being sold.

The Chancellor has refused to remove the damaging beer duty escalator introduced by the last Government, so beer duty is set to continue increasing 2% above inflation each year. The duty escalator remains in place despite 3200 CAMRA members contacting their MPs through an email lobbying campaign calling for no further increases in beer duty. Supermarkets can afford to and are willing to absorb beer duty increases so they can continue selling alcohol at rock bottom prices.

However, this option is not open to struggling community pubs meaning continual price rises for pub goers. The difference in prices between pubs and supermarkets continues to widen, which will encourage drinkers to stay at home rather than enjoy a pint with friends in their local. It was also recently announced that beer duty will be halved for beers at 2.8% ABV or below. CAMRA will be calling on the Government to push the EU to increase the 2.8% threshold for beers eligible for the lower duty rate to 3.5% ABV so a wider range of beers can benefit. The good news on a duty cut at or below 2.8% is heavily tempered by tax increases for beers above 7.5%. CAMRA campaigned against higher tax on strong beers due to the potential harm to speciality beers and traditional beer styles.

To find out more, please see CAMRA's tax briefing at www.camra.org.uk/taxbriefing

NEWARK HAS A HEART OF GOLD

As a special fund raising project for our nominated charity, **Beaumont House Hospice**, Rob Neil, owner of Maypole and Priors Well breweries, brewed an ale called Heart of Gold.

Using a recipe from Newark CAMRA member and craft brewer Ron Allison, Rob produced eight casks of 'Heart of Gold' special ale.

50p from every pint sold was donated, from seven of the casks, together with all the proceeds from the eighth that was donated by Rob. This ale proved very popular and at the May beer festival three casks were sold in very good time. Another was sold at the Locale and Weinfest in June, with two at Just Beer, and one each at The Prince Rupert and the Vine, adding to the effort. The project raised £453.00 in total.

This is the second year that Beaumont House has been nominated as our charity. In 2010 we managed to raise £1013.32, but this year we have already more than doubled this

figure with **£2085.38 raised to date**. This has been collected at the beer festivals and also from celebrations at our Pub of the Year, the Prince Rupert.

Beaumont House requires over £800,000 every year to support patients and their families, with only 25% funding received from the local PCT. The hospice cares for people within a fifteen mile radius of Newark. Much fund raising is therefore needed and I know that our cooperation is very much appreciated. Our £2086 is only a small amount but it will go a long way towards the running costs for one day.

Thanks go out to everybody that put their change and unused tokens in the buckets at this year's festivals. Also to Rob Neil, Ron Allison, Just Beer, The Prince Rupert and The Vine. It just shows that simple ideas can raise a lot of money for such a deserving cause.



BGP 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.

BGP welcomes local-interest beer related articles and letters for publication. All material should be sent to newsletter@newarkcamra.org.uk or

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To reach a high proportion of discerning imbibers across East Nottinghamshire, contact our advertising team at Capital Media on 01636 302 302.

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 BGP are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or CAMRA at a local or national level.



THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN DUNC



I hope you enjoy reading this new revamped publication you currently hold in your hands.

The “new look” BGP is just one of many projects with which Newark branch of CAMRA is involved and comes on the back of yet another successful Beer Festival which was held on Riverside Park over the weekend of May 27th - 29th 2011.

For those of you who were there, you will know what an enjoyable event it was.

A dedicated team of organizers spends 9 months putting together the event each year and, each year, it gets that bit harder with new obstacles appearing at every corner, Health and Safety being a huge proportion of the legislation to which we must adhere.

After all the hard work put in by this group of individuals, one criticism that irks is about something over which we have no control, the admission prices for both the general public and CAMRA members alike.

CAMRA, who underwrite the whole event, have a policy, and rightly so in my opinion, that the set up costs for a beer festival must be covered by the expected amount of paying customers through the door.

What you must remember is that, in our case here in Newark, we start with a grassed area within the park and nothing else. We have to construct the whole festival literally from the ground up. That means marquees, security

fencing, bringing toilets onto site complete with cleaners, getting electricity and sewage connections and employing local cctv and security staff for your safety and comfort. All this before we get any beer!

As you can imagine this is quite an undertaking not to mention cost. It would be much easier to hire some musty smelling hall and hold it there with all the above mentioned facilities already on hand but ask yourself, would you really enjoy that experience compared to the current setting in the shadow of our beautiful Castle? I think not.

I personally think that our festival, along with so many others around the country, offers good value for money. Where else can you go for what is the price of a pint (or two if you are not a member - shame on you!) and have the choice of 160+ different beers plus cider, perry, wine, food, quizzes and live music all under one roof, for up to 10 hours in any one day.

We are very proud of our festival and despite the odd grumblings from the minority, we put this on each year, working voluntarily, for you. So next time just spare a thought to what actually goes into putting on this event and enjoy, as I know most people do, the relaxed, safe pub style atmosphere we have strived to create.

DIARY : Branch Meetings

1st September: Springhead Brewery
Meg's Bar, Laneham

3rd September: CAMramble
*Meet at The Hearty Goodfellow,
Southwell at 11.00am
9 miles, All welcome*

6th October: The Fox, Kelham

3rd November: AGM, The Vine, Newark
Bring Membership Cards

1st December: The Sir John Arderne, Newark

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

www.newarkcamra.org.uk/diary.htm

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Martin Finney FBII & Kay Finney AMBII

MUSICAL NOTES

The Newark Beer Festival, back in May, went with its usual swing with many of the 4000 people who attended the weekend enjoying the entertainment on offer.

Recently re-formed local band True Lies got things off to a rocking start on Friday evening and it was as if they had never been away. Friday headliners Nimming Ned brought an expanded line-up as well as their brand of humour to round off day one in some style.

Saturday saw Treebeard open up proceedings on stage. A festival favourite, they elected to take the opening slot as opposed to missing out due to other commitments. Always well received they got people up and dancing

at a relative early hour (or was it the cider?). Next up was Newark's own Unusual Suspect, supplying their brand of sax lead blues, giving everyone time to grab their breath before the girls had their turn to show how to rock, with headliners Almaboobies ripping the place apart. These girls know how to put on a concert and provided possibly the most successful gig we have put on at the beer festival, no mean feat when you look at what has gone before.

Sunday was a much more relaxed affair with entertainment coming from singer-songwriter Gina Stone, playing many of her electro/goth compositions from her latest release, Woven.

Duncan

THEY LIKED A PINT



No. 59. **Rebekah Brooks** tones up with a glass of Ginger Fix from the Tigertops Brewery



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BYGONE PUBS

A question in a recent pub quiz was “*what was the original name for the Middle Gate pub (that once stood at the opposite corner to Strays) and is now a shop?*” I thought the answer was the ‘Cavalier’ but no, it was the long forgotten ‘Angel’ dating back to 1471.

Pubs are having a tough time at the moment. Over the last few years Newark has lost a good few, mainly for redevelopment.

So I’d like to bring to your attention some of their history that may not be known, or has been forgotten:

Blue Man, North Gate - dates back to 1832 and has now been converted to 7 flats, now called Blue Man Court. Originally owned by successive Dukes of Rutland, of Belvoir Castle, the “blue” would have referred to their allegiance to the Whigs party. Other related ‘blue’ prefixed pubs in Newark town were ‘swan’, ‘goat’, ‘bell’ & ‘sergeant’, all long since gone. The ‘Bluebell’ was on the site of what is now W. H. Smiths in the Market Place. The ‘Rutland Arms’ (*closed for some time recently, but now re-opened*) shows by its name, its connection to the dukedom at Belvoir.

Newark Arms, Appleton Gate (*dating from 1829*) - now a large residential complex.

Bridge Inn, Lincoln Road. Built in 1936, but on the site of the ‘Walnut Tree’ (*which in turn was presumably on the site of a walnut tree*) that dates back to 1853. It has now made way for a branch of Lincolnshire Co-op.

Swan & Salmon, Swan and Salmon Yard. There’s been a hostelry there since 1521, although the current occupants describe the building as “*dating from 1770, when it was a coaching inn*”. At one stage part of the building subsided into the swollen Devon brought on by flooding. During the 1990s, having been unoccupied for a while, it was bought by Okells, the Isle of Man brewery. It was remodelled in a very curious and individual style - with little success - partly due to the indifferent way the

beers were kept/dispensed. However it has recently been refurbished, at great expense, to a magnificent building now housing ‘**The Moorings Restaurant and Bar**’. The ‘Swan’ in the original name, being a regal bird, was probably a reference to the Sovereign of the time. It’s hard to imagine now but the Steam Packet Boat was a regular caller to the pub in the 1820s, betwixt Nottingham and Gainsborough.

Robin Hood Hotel, Lombard Street - dates from 1781. What a bad press the remains of this once grand hotel has been getting lately. Despite the Grade II listing for the cottages no one seems to have a positive word to say about it. It now forms part of a huge redevelopment to build a supermarket, bus station, doctors’ surgery and shops. It was once a thriving coaching inn, with stabling for 30 horses plus accommodation (*perhaps partly in the cottages*), in the bustling coaching days of the early 1800s. It had its own water supply in the form of a 200’ deep well.

The Prof.

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:

- Boot and Shoe, Flintham
- Bramley Apple, Southwell
- Castle, Newark
- Crown, Normanton on Trent
- Ferry Inn, North Muskham
- Fox and Crown, Newark
- Full Moon, Morton
- Hearty Goodfellow, Southwell
- Just Beer, Newark
- Nag’s Head, Sutton on Trent
- Old Coach House, Southwell
- Prince Rupert, Newark
- Sir John Arderne, Newark
- Spread Eagle, Hockerton
- Vine, Newark
- The Chequers Elston
- Newark Rugby Club
- The Real Ale Store
- The Final Whistle, Southwell

Also near by:

- Bridge Inn, Dunham on Trent
- Old Red Lion, Wellow
- Staunton Arms, Staunton

Pubs wishing to apply for accreditation should contact Newark CAMRA. More information at: www.newarkcamra.org.uk/locale.htm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JUST BEER

On August 5th, Just Beer celebrated their first year of pulling pints. To celebrate this, Sleaford Brewery brewed a one-off ale called "ONE", a robust 5.5% stout with a hint of vanilla. Although I couldn't taste the vanilla, it was delicious!

This was served alongside four other beers while I was there: a 7.2% Double IPA from Redwillow, Acorn Barnsley Bitter as requested by regulars (lasted an hour and a half), and a couple of locales. A real cider and a real perry were also available for those of that persuasion.

To soak up the beer there was a huge pork pie donated by Dave Moore from Porters of Bridge Street, a cheeseboard and mountains of cakes donated by Polly and Penny.

A raffle raised money for Beaumont House Community Hospice. All the prizes were

donated by locals.

One of the pub regulars, Mr Simon Grocock, said: *"It has been years since there has been somewhere like this in Newark. Just Beer has an eclectic clientele combined with superb beer and a warm, friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Let's hope it's here for many a year to come!"*

Tapster Phil Ayling thanked all their customers for supporting Just Beer in their first year of trading. He said without them it wouldn't have been the success that it has been.

During their first year the tapsters have served 668 casks of which 622 have been different beers. Quite an achievement, I'm sure you will all agree!

During their first year Just beer also achieved the Newark CAMRA award of Merit. Merit Awards can be given for a variety of reasons but they are all connected with promoting cask beer. Other things that prompted this award are that they have created a cosy environment where anyone can enjoy a beer and a friendly chat. As the place is so small, complete strangers seem to feel at home and get drawn into conversation.

Just Beer is also helping put Newark on the beer map as people are appearing from all over the country to seek this place out.



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WHEN YOU'RE DYING FOR A DRINK...

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The Mug House is a traditional public house located in the village of Claines, Worcestershire, that dates back to the 15th century.

However, this is a pub with a difference! It is the only pub that stands on consecrated ground. A one time church brew house that was built at least 600 years ago and perhaps sometime beyond, it has an history that goes back to the time of the Plantagenets and the House of Lancaster.

Brew houses were an essential form of income for the church because there were 75 feast days to celebrate and, as someone had to provide the ale for the celebrations, it meant money for the coffers of the church.

As with all church ale-houses, it came under the scrutiny of the evil Cromwell who closed most the ale houses because of the drunken and lewd behaviour of the populace at the time.

The Mug House pub is owned by Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and offers several Banks's beers along with one or two other guest ales that rotate every few weeks.

When we were there, there was Banks's Original, a mild and called Original as it was their first ever beer! There was also Banks's Bitter, Jennings Cocky Blond, three other beers and at least one real cider.

The current landlady is Judy Allen, who has chosen to maintain a traditional atmosphere by not introducing games machines or music to the pub. They do a very good range of pub

food, and the ham, egg and chips is to kill for. The ham, home cooked, could convert a life long vegetarian!

The Mug House has won a Jubilee Heritage Award in a national competition to find Britain's prettiest pubs. The competition was launched to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and the role pubs and landlords play in safeguarding natural heritage. The garden, that's described as a stunning blaze of red, white and blue blooms by all that have enjoyed it, helped secure the award. The Mug house has also been a regular entrant in the GBG.

It's not far away. Go and visit it. The Mug House is one of a kind!



BARFLY WHISPERS

Pub News



The Sunday Mirror and CAMRA have joined forces to launch a campaign to “**Support your Pub**”. Window stickers encouraging you to support your pub will be distributed around the branch area. Stick them in any window where you think people will see them!

On a more local note **The Broadway**, which closed earlier this year, is to be demolished. Ideal Care Home Ltd. of Leeds, has had planning permission agreed by Newark & Sherwood District planning committee to demolish the pub and build a care home with 50 bedrooms

on the site.

The Horse & Jockey has been bought by a Local businessman and although it will, all being well, remain as a pub, he is not sure exactly what direction he is going to go in.

The Rutland on Barnbygate re-opened in June after refurbishment and is selling 3 cask ales, Fullers, Black Sheep and Pedigree. The pub layout is not drastically different but it has been smartened up without losing character.

Our own Pub Of The Year, **The Prince Rupert**, came second in the Nottinghamshire regional heat, narrowly missing out on top spot to The Crown at Beeston. Well done to Tony & Heidi Yale.

In the wake of **Just Beer Micropub** celebrating its 1st year trading, the owners have decided to tweak their opening hours. This is to mirror their customers’ usage of the pub and new hours are:

Mon/Tues 1pm - 10pm, Wed 12 midday - 10pm
Thurs 12 midday - 11pm, Fri 11am - 11pm
Sat 11am - 12 midnight, Sun 12 midday - 9pm

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NOTES FROM THE MASH TUN

MAYPOLE

Bob Neil has installed bottling plants for Maypole and the sister brewery at Prior's Well. He has now had his bottle labels printed for both and will be bottling soon at both plants. The Charity beer Heart of Gold was very well received

COPTHORNE

At the start of this quarter everything was ticking along nicely. Dean had a new beer called Finest Hour, which was a good session beer at 3.4% abv, and had just got into the Final Whistle.

Then, on the 4th of August, Dean's brewery site, the Nag's Head was closed and he was homeless! Dean is moving the brewery to the Woodcoates / Eastcoates area, which will not only take it out of our branch area but also out of our Locale area. Dean says he has enough stock to carry him through the move.

I and all the branch wish Dean well and hope that we will still see his beers in this area.

FUNFAIR

The brewery is moving to The Chequers in Elston and planning permission is now granted. It's all systems go to get the brewery building finished and the equipment moved and installed. Dave is confident of being up and brewing by December.

MALLARD

At the start of the quarter, Steve was happy as he had produced a new beer called Hearty Goodfeather. It is a 3.9% golden ale using 4 different hops and is an exclusive "house beer" at the Hearty Goodfellow in Southwell. Later on, in July, Steve decided that Hearty Goodfeather

is to go into normal production and be supplied to other pubs and festivals under the name of Golden Duck!

A new light beer, at 4.2% is to go on trial with a view to adding that to the portfolio.

MILESTONE

Kenny and Fran are pretty happy at the moment. At the start of the quarter, they brought out new beers Cool Amber, 6%, Little John, 5.5% and Fletchers Ale, a hoppy I.P.A at 5.2%. They were also doing a lot of bottling of different beers, so much so that they are taking extra premises so that they can increase their bottling capacity.

Kenny decided to bring Harry Porter out of retirement to coincide with the release of the last film of the Harry Potter story.

Milestone's Raspberry Wheat Beer has won the Champion Speciality Beer for the East Midlands at the Derby Beer Festival. This means that it goes forward for the CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain for next year.

HANDLEY'S BREWERY

A new ½ barrel plant has just been installed behind the Willow Tree, Barnby in the Willows and is currently test brewing. Brett Handley, brewer and landlord of the Willow Tree has given the brewery his name. This has a link back to Newark's brewing history as the original Handley's brewery was in existence before Warwick and Richardson's brewery.

We've just been to the Willow Tree and tried Brett's trial brew. It's a mid brown beer, not over hoppy but leaving a final taste of toasted malt on the tongue. Damn good for a first go!

BREWERIES ON THE BOUNDARIES

THE first new brewery in central Doncaster for 20 years, Toad Brewery, has closed after just a year in operation.

Ufford Ales, the brewery owned by Michael Thurlby, owner of The Prince Rupert, has now re-located into Stamford. It is now to be known as The Stamford Brewing Co., but the new brewery is unlikely to open until early next year. Brewing of their three core beers will continue at the existing brewery.

MEET THE BREWER



The word on the street was that one of our Locale producers was in town and about to “pitch up at Spoons” on the night of 26th May.

With this in mind, Brian and I decided to go down to “The Sir John Arderne” to find out about Oldershaw brewery.

Kathy Britton, the new owner of Grantham based Oldershaw, together with Gary Gooch, her main sales guy, were there to chat about their beers.

I wanted to know what it was that she thought set Oldershaw above the rest of the competition.

To which she replied “At Oldershaw we go to great lengths to find quality ingredients, much of the malt is locally sourced and we use a range of hops, both English and from around the globe, to pack flavour into our beer. We just love what we do and like to think that this comes through in what we drink.”

But does it? I had to ask.

Kathy didn't really have to answer that one because there was really only one way to find out and that was to get supping!

After all, asking these searching questions was thirsty work!

The beers on offer that night were Heavenly Blonde, a pale blonde stunner at just 3.8%, Blonde Volupta, her big sister at 5.0%, Alchemy, an elegant and refined golden premium beer at 5.3% and Summerdaze, brewed for summer, a pale gold wheat beer at 4.0%

I have to say, I didn't really need the “big sister”, nice as she was, because Heavenly Blonde ticked all the boxes for me and got a thumbs up all round. Very quaffable too, at just 3.8%!

Sadly the trad mild, Grantham Dark, 3.6%, and their best selling Newton's Drop, 4.1%, didn't put in an appearance that night, but that didn't really detract from a very enjoyable and informative night.

So, thank you very much Kathy and Gary, we would just like to wish you every success and keep brewing the good stuff!



BEER GUTTER QUIZ 2011 - NO 18

Welcome to the latest edition of our cryptic Prize Quiz.

This time the answers are all music festivals. 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 18', 22 Ringrose Close, Newark, Notts NG24 2JL' to arrive by 31 October 2011. The winner will be selected at random from the highest scoring entries.

The winner of Quiz No 17 was **Carole Duxbury** of Carlton on Trent.

1. People of Fenland city
2. 'I adore black.' Just the opposite, I've heard.
3. Deck, arm and Bath - not advanced, just ordinary.
4. British festival - not loud
5. 5
6. Central
7. Time for harvest, reportedly
8. Englishmen in Australia harbour Queen.
9. Lady (unnamed) has daughter.
10. Opera (classical) played live - Fab! You hear Grieg, Bach at last.

The answers to the last quiz were 1. Radish 2. Samphire 3. Punpkin 4. Endive 5. Chitony 6. Cassava 7. Jerusalem artichoke 8. Kohlrabi 9. Courgette 10. Radichio.

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