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RAIL AND ALE

The main joke going around in the early seventies about railway refreshment rooms was about the stale sandwiches, but now there are places where good real ale can be sampled in station buildings. On a recent holiday armed with a 7-day North-East Rover ticket I was lucky to try out a few of them. The establishments are listed in order of sampling and not any preference.

Rat Race, Hartlepool

Situated in the station's former newsagent, the Rat Race is a micro pub usually offering four gravity dispensed real ales and real cider. It is accessible from the front of the station as well as from the platform. The ales constantly change and the pump clips of the past products decorate the walls. GBG 2012 listed.

Centurion, Newcastle upon Tyne

The old first class waiting room dating from the Victorian era which was closed in the 1960s and used as British Transport Police cells. The tiling is now estimated to be worth £3.8 million. Regular beers are Black Sheep Best Bitter, Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Jarrow Rivetcatcher and further guest beers are usually sourced from local microbreweries. GBG 2012 listed.

The Sheffield Tap, Sheffield

Opened by the Pivovar Company in December 2009 in the first class refreshment room on platform 1b. The building dates from 1904 and many of the original features have been retained during the refurbishment. 10 handpulled ales are usually used, with beers from the Thornbridge brewery always available. Over 100 bottled beers on offer and imported keg beers from craft breweries worldwide. GBG

2012 listed. Winner of CAMRA's award for 'conversion to pub use'.

West Riding Licensed Refreshment Rooms, Dewsbury

A grade II listed building that has been a mainstay of the Transpennine Rail ale trail. One handpump is reserved from beers from the local Anglo-Dutch brewery. Regular beers include Timothy Taylor Landlord, Timothy Taylor Dark Mild and Black Sheep Best Bitter. GBG 2012 listed. A beer festival is held every June.

Head of Steam, Huddersfield

Part of the Head of Steam group, also with outlets in Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne and previously at Euston. Good ale and food always available.

Kings Head, Huddersfield

Situated at the other end of the platform to the Head of Steam. 10 beers available regulars

include Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Timothy Taylor Landlord. Real cider also sold. Live music on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evenings. GBG 2012 listed.

Stalybridge Buffet Bar, Stalybridge

The last of the triangle featured in the Oz Clarke and James May tour of Britain. Stalybridge has offered a wide range of real ales for many years. Regular changing guest beers are sourced from breweries across the UK. GBG 2012 listed.

The seven bars listed above are not an all-inclusive list of stations that now offer real ale bars, so check before you set off and a journey on the British rail network could turn into a real ale adventure. Personally I am looking forward to visiting the Pivovar Company's newest bar in the old model railway hall at York.

Tom



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

18 Harewood Avenue, Newark-on-Trent, NG24 4BE. 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



By the time you read this I will have stepped down as Chairman and a new incumbent will have been installed into the position I have held with great pride for the last 3 years.

When I set out as Chairman, the target I set for myself was to generate interest and enjoyment within the branch, to attract new members, (especially active ones), and make the whole set up a much more social affair. To a degree this has been attained. The branch membership now stands at more than 500, we have had many successful social events and fundraising days and the beer festivals go from strength to strength. But unfortunately herein lies a problem. Although the membership has rapidly grown in recent years (along with the national figure), there has been little growth in active members within the branch. There is no denying that much of this is due partly to the “Wetherspoons effect” and partly due to people’s lifestyle and other commitments. Many of our members haven’t the time or inclination to get involved at branch level, something that is repeated in many branches countrywide. We are finding it increasingly difficult to attract people to stand as branch committee members or beer festival organising committee members, to the point that without some new members stepping up to the mark over the coming year both the branch and the Newark festivals are under serious

threat. We are very proud of what we have achieved over the years for both the people of Newark and further afield but with an increasing attitude of “something for nothing” by joining CAMRA as opposed to joining to further the campaign, much hard work could be part of a very short lived future locally. Real ale has now become firmly established within our country but there is still work to be done, both locally and nationally so I urge any members out there, that if you feel you can help, get more involved and want to meet more like minded people, please contact the branch or just turn up to one of our monthly meetings. Anyone is welcome, and it would help keep our branch and festivals part of Newark life.

I cannot sign off without saying a massive thank you to all the various committee members I have had the pleasure of working with over the past years, both at branch and festival level and I sincerely hope that it carries on growing and developing for the future.

Thank you for your time. Duncan

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

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

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Branch AGM took place at the Vine on Thursday November 3 and once again thanks must go to Paul Goodman and his staff at The Vine for the excellent ales and food we all enjoyed on the night.

As in all organisations the AGM is time to elect the new committee and thank the previous incumbents who for many reasons had to stand down this year. Many thanks were expressed for the time and effort they have all put in over the previous years.

Standing down this year are Chairman, Duncan Neil who leaves the branch in good shape after 3 years at the helm, Sue Neil as Secretary and Dom Heneghan as editor of the Beer Gutter Press and Milestone Brewery Liaison Officer (B LO) and many years in other posts on the committee. I am sure we all wish them well for the future and hope to see them when possible at meetings and other socials. I have also have to thank Justin Ward for his time as BLO for Copthorne which due to the relocation of the brewery has meant this post has been passed to North Notts branch.

I have the honour of following Duncan as Chairman and hope I can take the branch forward in my time in the post. The first thing to achieve is the publishing of a local pub guide which is a project that I have inherited and hope to see to completion.

Other new faces are Les Hooton as Social secretary, a job I had been doing for the last year, Steve Darke as Secretary, Derek Graham as BGP editor and a late volunteer Ian Dobbs as PR officer - a post which still needs verifying by the branch. I am sure they will put 100% into maintaining - and hopefully improving - the branch.

I must also thank all the other people who have pledged the time to continue in the following posts:

Bob Smith - Treasurer

Sarah Smith - Beer festival organiser

Louise Harrison - POTY and GBG

Phil Ayling - Webmaster

Bobby Dobbins - Membership Secretary

Lee Reynolds - Pubs Officer, LocAle and BLO for Funfair

Malc Scrimshaw - BLO for Mallard

The post of BLO for Milestone at present remains vacant so any volunteer for this post would be welcome.

The sad thing to report is that due many circumstances the committee felt it would not be possible to run the 4th Newark Winter Beer Festival next year. However, we are in preliminary discussion with local pubs to hold a combined festival in these locations. So please leave the weekend of 28th and 29th of January free in your social diary. Full details will be released as soon as they are finalised.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that the Branch have once again elected Beaumont House Hospice as our chosen charity for the coming year. I trust you will all join us in supporting this worthy cause.

I wish you all the best for the forthcoming festivities and hope to see many more members at our meetings and socials in the New Year.

**Tom Carrington,
Branch Chairman**



THE NEW BREW IN TOWN

Handleys brewery is situated at the rear of the Willow Tree pub in Barnby-in-the-Willows. Brewing started in September and is the latest project in the life of landlord Brett Handley. Brett and his wife had decided they wanted to run their own business and quit their jobs in the telecoms industry and moved to Barnby in November 2007. Their intention was to find a place they would like to live in and raise a family and in December 2010 their daughter Kate was born.

Brett, not to be deterred by late nights and nappies, decided there was still time to brew beer to sell at the pub. So in the summer a building at the back of the pub was converted to house a half barrel brew plant. After a few early teething problems the brewery was ready to supply the pub with beer. The first two beers off the production line were Barnby Bitter at 3.8% and Wash Sparky a peat smoked porter at 4.1%. However further minor problems were encountered and in mid-September a beer called Unrepeatable appeared. Further beers are planned for the future. Brett's intention is to have two beers on at all times to replace

the Batemans XB and guest beers previously stocked.

The Willow Tree is open: Monday to Thursday - 7pm - 11pm, Friday - 5.30pm - 11pm, Saturday - 12 noon - 2pm & 7pm - 11pm and on Sunday 12 noon - 2pm & 7pm - 10.30pm. Food is available 7pm - 9pm each evening but Sunday and on Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes. All food is locally-sourced and freshly prepared. So if it is LocAle and good local food you desire The Willow Tree is the place to visit.



BEER GUTTER QUIZ 2011 - NO 19

Welcome to the latest edition of our cryptic Prize Quiz.

This time the answers are all African countries. 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 19', 22 Ringrose Close, Newark, Notts NG24 2JL' to arrive by 31 January 2012. The winner will be selected at random from the highest scoring entries.

The winner of Quiz No 18 was Andrew Walsh of Newark.

1. Not for eating in.
2. Queen overthrown, then beheaded.
3. Found hanging after American election.
4. Just over a pound in old money.
5. King over fish.
6. Surrounded by Afghan army.
7. Keep jabbering.
8. Large peninsula.
9. Crazy – an alternatively fuelled vehicle.
10. William – diminutive and confused.

The answers to the last quiz were: 1) Cambridge Folk 2) Isle of Wight 3) Three Choirs 4) Festival 5) V 6) T In the Park 7) Cropredy 8) Proms 9) WOMAD 10) Aldeburgh.

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18th- 21st January 2012

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If you're looking for any excuse in January to shake off the cold and damp of winter, pay a visit to CAMRA's National Ales Festival from 18th - 21st at Manchester's Sheridan Suite.

With a whopping selection of over 300 winter warmers, as well as foreign beer and real cider/perry options, the festival is the biggest showcase of its kind in Britain. During the four-day festival, thousands of stout, porter, strong mild and old ale drinkers are expected to come through the doors, and with recent research showing that 52% of alcohol drinkers in Britain have now tried real ale, the festival is welcoming newcomers to see what all the fuss is about.

To complement the beer, the Festival promises an unbeatable food buffet including English and Indian dishes, as well as live music on the Saturday.

The National Winter Ales Festival is also home to the Champion Winter Beer of Britain competition, and on the opening day (*January 18th*), all eyes will be on who wins the top prize after Hop Back brewery of Downton, Wiltshire took the overall title in 2011 for their Entire Stout.

Graham Donning, NWA Festival organiser, speaking in anticipation of the 2012 Festival, said: "Considering the positive growth we've seen over the last couple of years in terms of the

number of brewers opening up across Britain, let alone those producing winter beers, we're gearing up for another great year and welcome drinkers old and new to come along and enjoy a pint. I can't remember the last time there was so much choice available to drinkers in terms of stouts, porters, old ales and other winter beer styles on the market, so it's an exciting time to be organising this festival."

For more information, please visit www.alefestival.org.uk

Festival opening times & admission prices:

- Wednesday 18th January - 2:30pm – 5:00pm
Trade Session, invitation only
- Wednesday 18th January - 5:00pm – 10:30pm
£2 (£1 for CAMRA member, £1 for Concession)
- Thursday 19th January - 12:00pm – 10:30pm
£2 (free entry for CAMRA member, £1 for Concession)
- Friday 20th January – 12:00pm – 4:30pm
£3 (£2 for CAMRA member)
- Friday 20th January – 4:30pm – 10:30pm
£5 (£4 for CAMRA member)
- Saturday 21st January – 12:00pm - 10:30pm
£4 (£3 for CAMRA member)

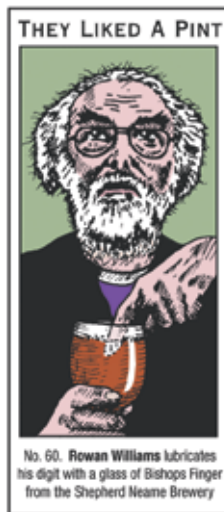
DIARY : Branch Meetings

1st December:
The Sir John Arderne,
Newark

17th December:
Christmas Social,
Greek Steakhouse,
Newark (*pre-booking
only*)

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

www.newarkcamra.org.uk/diary.htm



COPTHORNE BREWERY -

An Apology & Explanation

Our apologies are due to the Copthorne Brewery. Our previous edition stated that since their move the brewery is no longer in our LocAle area. This is of course not the case. While it may not be in the branch area, the brewery is based at Majors Farm, Woodcotes Lane, Darlton, Newark NG22 0TL, which is just 16 miles from the centre of Newark and therefore very much within the scheme for the town centre pubs.

It's probably worth taking this opportunity to reiterate what LocAle is about. As Steve Westby, who devised the scheme, has written:

"There is no such thing as a LocAle area for a branch. To be LocAle accredited the pub door has to be within 20 miles of the brewery, by the shortest route. Branches cover significant distances so a brewery can often be LocAle to one pub in a branch area but not to one ten miles away. Even in Nottingham branch area, which is geographically tiny, we have numerous examples of this, all the Grantham breweries are LocAle to my local in Radcliffe for example but the city centre pubs are not, and you get the opposite for breweries in Derby. Remember drinkers have no concept of branch boundaries, nor should we expect them to have, but they can understand pub and brewery locations."

Once again, our apologies to Dean at Copthorne for this error, Editor.

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NOTES FROM THE MASH TUN



MAYPOLE

Cascade hops are now available so Gatehopper and Kiwi IPA will be able to be brewed again, however the alternatives, BXA and Kiwi Pale both sold well.

The brewery has managed to get some Mittlefruh hops, so plans are to brew Mittlefruh light and Mittlefruh Alt in the near future.

Currently doing Little Weed and Maybee for a wholesaler in Birmingham.

Bottles selling well, Wonkey Donkey will be the next to be bottled in time for Christmas and we will be attending two Christmas fairs in December.

COPTHORNE

While the brewery remains a LocAle Brewery after re-location from the Nags Head at Sutton-on-Trent (see apology on previous page), the brewery has now been handed over to North

Notts branch in terms of BLO duties.

FUNFAIR

The site is still under construction.

MALLARD

The latest brew Specduckular was received well. Steve and Alison held a beer festival at the Hearty Goodfellow during the week commencing November 7, 2011 with all beers featured at £2 per pint.

MILESTONE

A new golden hoppy - 4.5% beer Green Man - is now being produced.

Milestone has diversified to supply malt to other breweries on a wholesale basis. Bottling for Christmas has now started.

A new one off beer, English Rose, was brewed for the Rugby World Cup. This was based on St George's Legend, but was beefed up with the addition of extra malt. Pity the English team wasn't beefed up as well!

Christmas brewing for cask ales is underway and things look pretty merry for the future.

HANDLEY'S BREWERY

See article elsewhere in this edition.

BARFLY WHISPERS

Pub News



First up this issue is the news that **The Navigation Waterfront** on Millgate is up for lease. After a large increase in rent, current manager Karen is calling it a day. As we go to press, no-one has taken the lease, so the pub closes when Karen and her staff leave on December 23rd.

The Crown and Mitre closed in October for a re-fit and is due to open in November with cask ale on sale over the bar. Watch this space!

Enterprise Inns are advertising the tenancy at a guide rent of £17,500pa.

Amid much conjecture about **The Moorings**, the manager informs me that all is well and they are still stocking Milestone Beers.

The Old Malt Shovel is getting new tenants again - we find it hard to keep up with them these days.

Springhead has introduced a loyalty card scheme at their pubs, which include **The Vine** in Barnbygate and **The Bramley Apple** in Southwell. Upon presentation of your card the customer receives 30p off their pint of Springhead ale.

The Reindeer at Southwell has asked to become part of the LocAle scheme bringing the total in our branch area to 20. If you would like your pub to join please contact pubsofficer@newarkcamra.org

HAVE A SAFE FESTIVE PERIOD

Coming up to the Christmas season, I would like to remind all readers of some of the dangers that can occur during - or following - a drink or two.

The Police run their drink drive campaign across the festive period - this is to help keep Nottinghamshire roads safe and to reduce the number of serious injuries or fatal collisions.

Any amount of alcohol affects your ability to drive. There is no fool-proof way of drinking alcohol and staying under the legal limit. If you get behind the wheel after a festive tipples, you risk wrecking your own and other people's lives. The consequences of a conviction for being drunk behind the wheel can be enormous;

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE

Leamington-based microbrewer Springhead, have responded to the call of local man Stuart Murray to help raise money for Beaumont House Community Hospice in Newark. Stuart, along with 48 others, including a reporter from the Newark Advertiser, will endure 35 degrees of heat as they trek for six days across the Sahara desert. The motivation for this group, and for Springhead as the sponsor of Stuart, is to raise money for a charity that is close to the hearts of many local people, and to help them celebrate the 25th anniversary of providing palliative and respite care to the local community. £600,000 needs to be raised each year to enable the hospice to carry out their

it is not just the mandatory disqualification to consider but the adverse effects of being banned from driving.

Be responsible - When you go out for a drink, whether it be a liquid lunch, an afternoon staff get-together or a night out plan how you are going to get home safely - do not drive.

If you want to drive then consume soft drinks. If you want to drink alcohol then use public transport, a nominated driver, a taxi or better still, walk.

This year Newark has seen the introduction of the street pastors, who can be seen walking along the streets wearing high visibility vests and carrying black bags. They offer assistance to revellers who may have had too much to drink, offering drinking water, flip flops to those who are struggling to walk on their high heels, advice on how to get home and also administering first aid.

My message is clear - Have a merry Christmas, a happy new year and most importantly, stay safe.

Sergeant Tracey Moran, Newark Police Station

good work. No mean feat when you realise that all the services they provide the community are free of charge.

In order to raise the money, Springhead - in conjunction with Stuart - will be organising an event at Meg's Bar, the brewery tap. **'A night with Meg!'** will be held on **Saturday January 14, 2012** and offers ticket holders the chance to tour the brewery, try the fantastic range of Springhead brews, enjoy a bite to eat, as well as partaking in a fundraising auction and raffle with some super prizes.

To purchase tickets and for more information see **www.springhead.co.uk**. Alternatively tickets are available from any of the three Springhead pubs or from Stuart Murray - email **stuart@saharatrek.co.uk** or call **07515 487613**. Stuart is also planning to organise coach transport from Newark on the evening.

For further info see www.saharatrek.co.uk and www.springhead.co.uk

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- **5 litre mini-kegs, 17 pint & 34 pint Beer In a Box:** Roaring Meg, The Leveller, Maid Marian, Robin Hood, Drop O' the Black Stuff, Bramley Bitter & Fallen Angel, over the Christmas period. *Contact Angie on 01777 228020.*
- If the event requires an **outside bar** then Springhead could be your answer. *Just call Phil Owen, sales manager extraordinaire, on 07901 006165.*
- **Meg's Bar** – the brewery tap, is an **ideal place for your Christmas party**. *Contact Andy on 01777 228090 to discuss what packages are on offer.*



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Scan the code with a smart phone or visit www.springhead.co.uk or one of the 3 Springhead pubs (Meg's Bar - Laneham, The Vine - Newark, The Bramley Apple Inn - Southwell) to register for your card and see the range of benefits offered as a cardholder. These include discount off pints in Springhead pubs and free use of Meg's Bar.

www.springhead.co.uk

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