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A Little Pub Receives A Big Award

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Newark Camra Pub Of The Year 2012**



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A LITTLE PUB RECEIVES A BIG AWARD

Newark Camra Pub Of The Year 2012



Saturday 18th February saw the presentation to this year's Newark CAMRA Pub of the Year winner, **Just Beer Micropub**.



The pub was packed to the rafters with an excellent turn out from branch members, regulars and even a couple of first time 'beer tourists' from Derby who purely by chance stumbled upon the celebrations.

A buffet of sandwiches, nibbles and a specially made pork pie (donated by Porters of Bridge Street), was provided to soak up the good ale on offer. Five beers were on the bar, one cider and one perry, all beers were priced at £2 per pint between 1 and 5 o'clock. Commemorative polo shirts were produced and are available to buy at £20.

Branch member Ron Allison, who nominated Just Beer for the prize, made the presentation. In his speech, Ron pointed out what a tremendous achievement this is for a pub that has only been open some 18 months, and that the building itself, two years ago, was in fact uninhabited

and more or less derelict. Since it opened for business on the 4th August 2010, 1,018 casks have been served, 937 of them different beers.

Ron, one of a group of nine assessors, mentioned the very high quality of the candidates for this year's award, which included, amongst others, Just Beer's two neighbours, The Prince Rupert and The Castle, and three of the excellent hostelrys in Southwell. The scoring this year was higher than it has ever been in previous years.

For the record, each pub that is nominated is visited twice by each assessor and judged on six different criteria including beer quality, sympathy with CAMRA aims and service and welcome. The marks are then collated, and the winner determined. It goes without saying, that without these assessors, none of this would be possible. A big thank you to them all for their time and effort.

Each of the Four Tapsters, Dunc, Phil, Stuie and Merf, said a few words of thanks to all their supporters since they opened. Their initial target, they said, was to get themselves into The Good Beer Guide. To pick up the accolade of 'Pub of the Year' was the icing on the cake in what has been for all of them, a thoroughly enjoyable experience over the last 18 months, doing what they love, serving real ale to an enthusiastic clientele. They sent out a hearty thank you to all of their customers for making Just Beer a success.

I'm sure we all wish them well for the future; not least of all as they are now proceed to the Nottinghamshire regional competition. Success in that would lead to entry into the East Midlands area competition.

Nominations for next year's Newark Branch Pub of the Year can be submitted at any time up to the AGM in November and any new assessors will be more than welcome! Any questions, nominations or offers to assess should be sent to poty@newarkcamra.org in order of sampling and not any preference.



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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly I hope you all had a very good Christmas and I wish all of you a very good and prosperous 2012.

The last social of 2011 saw 28 people and 4 dogs embark on a ramble around 3 village pubs. My thanks go out to Tracey Moran for the organisation of this and the pubs involved for receiving this motley crew bedraggled from the weather. Full report later in this edition.

The first duty for the branch in the New Year is to announce the Pub of the Year (POTY). This is featured as our cover story but I must add my thanks to all the assessors who took out time over the festive period to visit the 9 pubs nominated. My congratulations go to Just Beer who were deserved winners. However, the differences in overall quality of the pubs and their beers were minimal and it is good to see that we have a number of pubs of such good quality in the area. My thanks also go to Louise who has been POTY coordinator over the past few years and due to various reasons will be stepping down - she will be missed.

In January CAMRA reported that over 1000 pubs have closed in the last two years so we must not become complacent and continue to use the pubs as we will not have anywhere that we can sample the great ales on offer from the numerous breweries around the UK. Once again over 100 new breweries opened in the UK in 2011, but if we don't use the pubs they will be lost.

In late January we had the Beermuda triangle beer festival (a full report can be found elsewhere in this edition). Late February saw the branch's annual trip to Bradford and this year a group of us had a tour around the Saltaire brewery. It happened too late to include

a report in this edition but hopefully, a full report will be in the next edition of BGP.

Work is ongoing to produce the local pub guide and hopefully that will be available to be sold at the beer festival which will take place at the Riverside Park from 25th to 27th May. The cost of the guide should be about £4 and will contain details of all the pubs in the Newark CAMRA area. We will be requiring volunteers to staff the festival and we really would love to see some new faces this year.

It just remains for me to wish you happy drinking in the next 2 months until my next report which will be in the beer festival programme.

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:

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

- 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
- 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

DIARY : Branch Meetings

5th April 2012: Hearty Goodfellow, Southwell

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

www.newarkcamra.org.uk/diary

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GETTING LOST IN THE BEERMUDA TRIANGLE

The last weekend in January saw hundreds of discerning beer drinkers descend on three of Newark's best pubs to take part in the Beermuda Triangle Winter Beer Festival. Newark CAMRA has, for the past three years held a very successful winter event in the Town Hall but because of uncertainties surrounding its availability due to renovation works, it wasn't possible to hold it this year. Luckily three of our most respected hostelrys got together to fill the breach and the Beermuda triangle was formed, consisting of Just Beer, The Castle and The Prince Rupert. With their combined pedigree we knew we were in for a treat but the event surpassed all expectations. There were some 40 beers available across the three pubs - the Castle supplemented their wide range with an eclectic collection served direct from the cask and Just Beer continued with their tradition of finding new brews from micros and brewpubs. The Prince Rupert, along with their typical range, featured Magic Rock and Fat Cat Breweries, and commissioned an India Vanilla Ale from Rob Neil at Maypole especially for the Festival. This was not just a festival of seasonal brews though; all beer styles were well represented.

From the start it was obvious we were in for something special. As Phil Ayling of Just Beer commented - *"I was astounded to see people queueing outside the pub at opening time on the Thursday lunchtime. There were lots of new faces over the weekend, including discerning drinkers from Birmingham, Northampton, Peterborough and further afield"*.

The Prince Rupert had planned to have their extra beers served in the courtyard but the

chilly weather soon put paid to that. However, landlord Tony Yale turned this to his advantage. *"Fantastic result for us after a bit of a false start"* he commented. *"Outside didn't work due to extreme weather but it did super chill the beer so we could set up in the Orangery without the usual mess of wet wraps to cool it! Lots of new faces and the type of people you expect to see at full beer festivals, so word definitely got around and we had some great beers to make it worth their effort. Massive thanks to everyone that attended."*

The festival went from strength to strength over the weekend, with beers constantly changing, making it a good reason to attend as often as possible! Staff at the three pubs coped marvellously as numbers swelled. On Sunday lunchtime Just Beer tweeted *"Wow - That was some party! Four festival beers and one pork pie left!"*

The last word goes to Hel Telstvedt of the Castle: *"My most enduring memory of this festival will be racing up and down the stairs to change casks every hour and the wonderful, interesting people we have seen this weekend, some who have travelled for miles to enjoy our town's beers. Thanks for inviting us to take part, and here's to the May festival, and next year's winter beer fest!!!"*

Editor



CELEBRATING THE GREAT BRITISH PUB

Community Pubs Month -
April 2012



In April 2012, CAMRA is to launch a new national pub campaign in a bid to get more people than ever involved in championing the importance of the community pub.

Community Pubs Month is a new initiative similar to past CAMRA national pub campaigns such as Local Pubs Week. The main aims are to increase footfall in pubs, to encourage more publicans to organise and promote events to attract further trade, and to spread awareness in the media of community pubs.

It's hoped that by extending celebrations to a month of activity it will allow CAMRA branches greater flexibility to organise their own events, whilst still a set period to co-ordinate activities.

Community Pubs Day will commence on Monday April 2nd (*the day after CAMRA's Members' Weekend & AGM in Torquay*) with regional and national press stories, circulated by CAMRA, highlighting the campaign aims and the major issues facing pubs.

It is hoped around a half of all CAMRA branches will be organising events to promote their local pubs during the Month, and will be working in the lead-up to April to ensure this first year for the campaign is a big success.

As well as CAMRA branches ordering promotional material to maximise exposure for this new campaign across Britain, pub licensees can also order packs direct from CAMRA. Available from early 2012, **Community Pubs Month packs** will include posters, beer mats, leaflets and pump clip crowners. **To find out more visit www.camra.org.uk**

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CHRISTMAS CAMRAMBLE



The precipitation held off long enough for 28 people and 4 dogs to embark on this year's Christmas Camramble. Following a bus journey from Newark to Sibthorpe the first leg took us to Flintham. The footpath was due to take us through a horse paddock but to avoid possibly being trampled we took an alternative path. The horses still came to greet us but with a fence between us it was all friendly. A few yards further on we were greeted by some guard guinea fowl but we finally arrived at the **Boot and Shoe** in Flintham safe and sound.

On sale we found 2 cask ales, both from Belvoir. **Star 3.9% ABV and Beaver 4.3%**. After enjoying the liquid refreshment on offer all too soon we had to start the second leg of our journey from Flintham to Elston.

This took us through the village of Syerston and behind Eden Hall. The Weather Gods had stopped favouring us now and light rain was beginning to fall. The views were still very good and we received a warm welcome on our arrival at the **Chequers**. Many took the opportunity to



restore their energy with baguettes and pizzas which accompanied the 6 ales on offer. **Funfair Ski Jump 4.0%, Funfair Freak Show 5.2%, Funfair Christmas Cake Walk 6.5%, Marpool Scraty Ratty 4.4%, Milestone Donner and Blitzed 5.4% and Magpie Humbug 4.9%**.

The rain had become steadier as we left Elston, much more waterproof gear in evidence! After a brief visit to Elston Chapel, the intrepid ramblers passed through Thorpe village then skirted the new A46 in the adjacent fields before finally scaling the bank that leads into Farndon and our final destination the **Rose and Crown**. Ales on offer were **Everards Beacon 3.8%, Everards Tiger 4.2%, Everards Original 5.2% and Castle Rock Preservation 4.4%**.

Those with some energy left completed the final leg of the ramble along the river bank to **Just Beer** to complete a very successful day.

Despite the weather, everyone enjoyed the opportunity for a good get together and to work off some of the festive excesses. Many thanks to Tracey for organising the route and to the pubs for the warm welcomes despite our bedraggled state.

A provisional date of the **21st of April** has been set for the next adventure. Please come along as it is a great way of visiting some of the more remote pubs - fingers crossed for some better weather!



CODDINGTON BREWERY

Unfortunately not the latest LocAle brewery in Newark, it is actually situated in Middletown, Newport, Rhode Island. The name comes from the founder of Newport, Mr William Coddington, who migrated to Massachusetts from England in 1630, but was forced to leave and established Newport in 1639. The brewpub was opened in 1995 and all beers are handcrafted on the premises. An extensive lunchtime and dinner menu can be washed down by a choice of seven beers, which are available to try as a sampling tray if you cannot make up your mind which one to have. Regular beers are the Golden Ale 4.3% ABV a typical American lager style beer, Blueberry Blonde (4.1%) with real blueberries added,

an India Pale Ale (5.0%) and a Stout (3.5%) with three seasonal beers also available; on my visit these were the Maibock (6.2%), Pub Draft Mild (4.1%) and ESB (4.9%). Sixty-four ounce growlers are available as take away if you are just passing through with your car. The usual souvenirs are available to purchase so you will probably see me wandering around with a Coddington Brewing Company baseball cap on my head. Further information can be found at www.coddbrew.com.



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NEWS ROUNDUP

Following their relocation to Laneham in early summer 2011 the Springhead Brewery has plans to take the next step in expansion and have applied for planning permission to convert the Victorian house on the site into a pub.

The Crown and Mitre in Newark has reopened after a refurb with one handpump.

Congratulations go the Full Moon at Morton for winning the Customer Service award at the

Newark Business Awards 2011 and to Just Beer who were among the finalists in the Successful New Business category.

On 24th January the Fox and Crown took part in the Castle Rock celebrations to mark the company's 35th birthday. To mark the event all Castle Rock beers were discounted by £1; there was a free quiz featuring questions about the pubs and events of 1977, a buffet and music provided by Richard Howell. Beers on offer were Castle Rock's Harvest Pale, Sheriff's Tipple, Preservation and Midnight Owl, with guest ales from Batemans and Everards. A large crowd enjoyed the night which was mirrored in all the pubs of the Castle Rock portfolio. Thanks go to manager Jemma Mankin and her staff.

17TH NEWARK BEER FESTIVAL - Volunteers Required!

The beer festival takes place this year from the 25th to 27th May at the Riverside Park, Newark. As well as needing volunteers to serve at the bars, help is also required to set up before and to take down after.

I would be delighted to hear from anybody that would like to volunteer for any of the following:

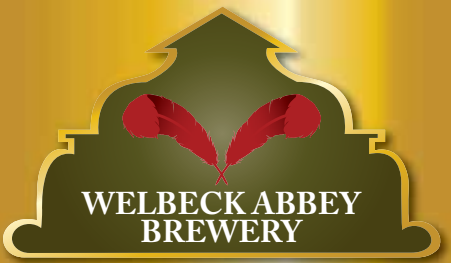
Wednesday 23rd May - PM from about 1.00pm - loading the vans in Grantham and unloading them on site. Transport to Grantham and back is provided.

Thursday 24th May - All day (any time appreciated) - setting up in the marquee.

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th May - serving at the bars in 2 hour slots (as many slots as you want).


Sunday 27th May - from mid afternoon - dismantling and packing away into the vans and loading back into the container at Grantham.

For further info please contact Lou on poty@newarkcamra.org.uk or **07946 435821**.




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'SPOONS

Seeing as Wetherspoons has been so supportive of CAMRA's recruiting drive, by offering free beer to new members, I thought I'd give them a mention by way of thank you. So here's a potted history.

Tim Martin is the founder/chairman of this PLC. His father worked for Guinness and so the family moved around a great deal. Tim apparently went to 11 schools in both Northern Ireland and New Zealand and then studied law at Nottingham University. He never completed the degree instead, in 1979, he acquired a North London pub. This was the start of a pub chain, named after one of Tim's many teachers - a Mr Wetherspoon.

In 1938 George Orwell* wrote an essay in The London Evening Standard entitled The Moon Under the Water. The article listed all the attributes that the perfect London public house should have. Tim wanted his pubs to incorporate some of these points of perfection :- Victorian architecture/fittings; quiet enough to talk, so neither "a radio nor a piano"; you can get a "good solid lunch". Some Wetherspoons pubs were named after the article and to date there are 14 called "Moon under the Water".

If you look through the Northern Ireland section of the Good Beer Guide the majority of the entries seem to be either Wetherspoon pubs or their Lloyd No 1 bars. Having lived over there myself I can imagine how putting a JDW into a market town or city will have transformed the drinking scene and introduced cask ale in to an otherwise real ale desert. Previously Guinness had a monopoly - ironic, seeing as Mr Martin Senior would have helped maintain that monopoly. There are currently 9 JDWs in the province - pioneering stuff from a man who spent some of his formative years over there. I looked on the JDW website for pictures of the N.I. pubs and was particularly impressed by the washrooms in The Spirit Merchant, Newtownards. Belfast sinks have been incorporated into the design - that is real authenticity!

Northern Ireland has now been converted to the delights of cask ale, courtesy of JD Wetherspoons, perhaps Mr Martin should now turn his eye towards New Zealand - another area he is familiar with.



* Eric Blair (real name) took his pen name from the River Orwell in Suffolk, where his parents had a house in Southwold - home of Adnams Ales.

BEER GUTTER QUIZ 2012 - NO 20

Welcome to the latest edition of our cryptic Prize Quiz.

This time the answers are all Novels by Charles Dickens.

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 20', 22 Ringrose Close, Newark, Notts NG24 2JL to arrive by 30 April 2012. The winner will be selected at random from the highest scoring entries.

The winner of Quiz No 19 was Jane Davidson of Balderton.

1. While Shepherds Watched.
2. Select Scottish town has independent guardian?
3. Midsomer inspector has chip on his shoulder after tip-off.
4. Stone and Iron Ages?
5. Crazy giant expectorates.
6. This one rings a bell?
7. Note keen policeman has discipline.
8. A dutiful mourner is distraught.
9. Or live.
10. To finish – unfinished.

The answers to the last quiz were: 1) Togo 2) Niger 3) Chad 4) Guinea 5) Rwanda 6) Ghana 7) Gabon 8) Liberia 9) Madagascar 10) Mali.

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