

Newark

Real Ale & Cider Imbiber



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

FREE magazine produced by
the Newark & District branch
of the Campaign For real Ale

Issue 71

Feb-Apr 2018

Shaping
the future

Members Weekend and AGM 2018

Have your say, make your vote count page 17

Also in this issue

Pub & Brewery News page 4

London Heritage Pubs page 6

Meet The Landlord page 11

Dryanuary page 15

Beerheadz Chain page 19

North Devon Dash page 20

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Branch Meetings All start at 20.00

February 1st - The Castle & Falcon, Newark

March 1st - RAFA Club, Newark

April 5th - The Swan, Newark

May 3rd - Castle Barge, Newark

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2 Newark Imbiber www.newarkcamra.org.uk

From the Editor

Welcome to the 71st issue of the Newark & District CAMRA branch magazine, as you will obviously have noticed for 2018 it's got a new name, a new look and new format. We've got ideas for new regular articles all designed to hopefully improve your reading experience and provide you with more relevant and up to date information whilst also aiming to provide more support for our local pubs and breweries.

The branch also has renewed vigour and enthusiasm with new ideas and activities planned, we are looking forward to the year ahead, watch this space and I hope we don't disappoint.

Nigel

Opinions expressed within this publication are solely those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor or CAMRA at either local or national level

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Chairmans Report

May I take this opportunity to wish A Happy New Year to all the real ale and cider drinkers of Newark and District. By the time you read this we will have nominated our seven entries for CAMRA's The Good Beer Guide and have awarded our real ale pubs of the year. More about the way we assess later. Watch out for our Cider Pub of the Year award in early March. Last issue of our magazine explained how we use national criteria to judge this. So, this has been a very busy time for assessors. If you would like to get involved, as long as you are a CAMRA member and belong to this branch you can help out. Just contact us.

Also outlined in this edition are the details of our 2018 Beer and Cider festival. We have been planning since before Christmas to bring you all a new experience. Lots of new drinks, different foods and more chances to be involved as sponsors. We have options from £50 to £500 to get your company involved. Date, time and venue the same as last year. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers. Again, just contact us.

While not a CAMRA event, I hope you enjoyed the BeerMuda Triangle again this year. Three of our most highly rated pubs in Newark with over fifty real ales. A good weekend out?

Cheers

Andrew Birkhead

Chairman Newark and District branch of CAMRA



Pubs within the Newark branch area which always have a Local Ale on the bar

Cross Keys, Upton - Ferry Inn, North Muskham - Fox & Crown, Newark - Final Whistle, Southwell - Real Ale Store, Newark - Roaring Meg, Newark - Staunton Arms, Staunton - Willow Tree, Barnby in the Willows - The Ram, Newark - Castle Barge, Newark

Pubs which usually have a Local Ale on the bar

Boot & Shoe, Flintham - Crown, Normanton on Trent - Full Moon, Morton - Newark Rugby Club - Hearty Goodfellow, Southwell - Old Coach House, Southwell - Reindeer, Southwell - Just Beer, Newark - Vaults, Newark - Sir John Arderne, Newark - Prince Rupert, Newark - Flying Circus, Newark - The Robin Hood Theatre, Averham on performance days



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Pub & Brewery News

Stop Press-POTY Awards

We are pleased to announce that **The Final Whistle** in Southwell is the 2018 Newark CAMRA District Pub of the Year, the Newark Town Pub of the Year was a very close run thing this time with **Just Beer** coming out on top and also taking the overall title so going forward to the Nottinghamshire POTY judging.

The award presentations will be held on Sunday the 18th of February 2018, The Newark Town Pub of the Year award presentation will be at 13.00 at Just Beer, Newark. Then there will be a free bus from here to the Final Whistle at 14.00 with the District POTY presentation being at 15.00, the bus will return to Newark at 17.30.

Acknowledgement

In the last issue we reported that the Roaring Meg was for sale, we would like to make it clear that the current tenant has a long term lease and will remain in the pub should the building be sold. Apologies for any confusion.

Kelham Fox

This is currently closed, we hope it is for the refurbishment we were informed would be undertaken by the new owners, although presently we have not been able to clarify this.

Springhead Brewery

Springhead have just launched a new range of beers named "Amplified Ales", with the first one called "Resolution" now available.

The Castle

This remains closed, as it has been for 18 months now. One possible reason for this could be the sale price, where the owners are looking for offers over £250,000!


Oscar's

A planning application has been submitted for two single story extensions to provide a larger dining area and bigger kitchen, they are also looking to convert the first floor into two residential units.

Royal Oak, Collingham

A packed meeting was held in Collingham's Memorial Hall where residents voted in favour of supporting proposals for the creation of the Royal Oak Community Pub. A steering committee has been formed and they have applied for a bursary of £2,500 from the Plunkett Foundation, this is a charity set up to help community led stores but also helps save rural pubs. The money will go towards funding the initial stages of the proposal.

Should anyone know of anything newsworthy from the pubs and breweries around our area please let us know by e mailing editor@newarkcamra.org.uk



CAMRA's Key Campaigns

- Stop tax killing beer and pubs
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- To raise the profile of pub-going and increase the number of people using pubs regularly

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GBG and POTY selection processes for 2018

How we select our Good Beer Guide entries and Pub of the Year

Invariably every year, when our pub of the Year is announced or the Good Beer Guide is released, there are enquiries as to “why isn’t XXX pub included? And shouts of “Fix” or allegations of nepotism, This is both unfair and disrespectful to the volunteers that give hours of their time to survey the pubs and couldn’t be further from the truth.

The selection processes involved have been documented many times on our website and in our magazine but, in order to be as transparent as possible, the entire selection process is documented here for all to see. This process is ongoing throughout the year and is openly discussed at every branch meeting. All branch meetings are open to non-members and anyone is free to attend meetings and have their say.

Good Beer Guide.

There are around eighty pubs in our branch area, and the branch allocation for the Good Beer Guide is only seven. GBG entries are judged on QUALITY OF BEER alone. No other factors are considered.

The selection process is ever on-going with monthly online voting with everyone having the opportunity to list up to seven pubs where they are consistently drinking good quality beer. The lists are handed to the GBG/POTY coordinator who then collates the list into a table with the most listed pub at the top. This gives the basis for a shortlist.

At the branch AGM in November the submitted results are collated to produce a table and the highest scores are finalised by the branch committee and become GBG nominations. The seven pubs are then surveyed once and a GBG nomination form filled in with all the information which will eventually appear in the guide.

These forms are then sent to the Regional Director for checking for the end of February before going through to the editorial team at HQ.

The process then starts all over again for the next year’s guide.

Pub of the Year.

The CAMRA Pub of the Year is a National award that starts at branch level.

Anyone can nominate, in writing, a pub in our branch area for the Newark CAMRA Pub of the Year award. Multiple nominations will have no effect on the competition – one nomination is as good as one hundred!

At the October branch meeting the nominations are closed. The nominees are then individually surveyed over the next three months, to a set list of criteria (such as customer service, décor, community spirit, value for money, and of course the quality of real ale), by a number of volunteers separately and on two different occasions. So, for example, if there are nine surveyors, the pub will be visited and scored on no less than eighteen different occasions. If a surveyor fails to visit all of the pubs twice for any reason, that surveyor’s results form any of the pubs do not count.

The results are collated into a table and the pubs ranked 1 to n. These ranking scores are totalled and the pub with the highest score is declared branch Pub of the Year.

If two or more pubs are tied on the same whole number score then the assessors and branch officers at the meeting shall determine the POTY based on the beer scores.

Each of the 200 CAMRA branches can enter a POTY into the National competition. The branch winners are entered into 16 regional competitions and then the 16 winners battle it out to reach these final stages. Four finalists go head-to-head in a National final. The winner is announced in February.

If you would like to get involved and become a surveyor for GBG or POTY please email us.

Heritage Pubs of London

A walk around some of the finest

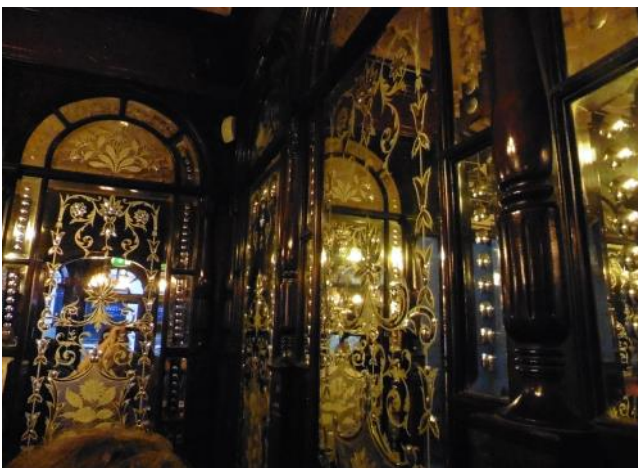
For quite a few years now I have been meaning to visit some of the magnificent heritage pubs that London has to offer, but somehow never made it, until now.

With a trip to London and a visit to The Pink Floyd exhibition, "Their Mortal Remains" booked, here was the perfect opportunity to combine the two and I thought it fitting to start around Westminster and St James, home of The Division Bell (The name of Pink Floyd's 1994 album named after the bell used to call MP's to Parliament)

First stop was The Red Lion, on the corner of Derby Gate and Parliament Street, a stone's throw from Downing Street. Long and narrow with a bar running down much of one side we started with Beachcomber by George Gale, a 3.7% pale costing £6.98 for a pint and a half- Welcome to London! The Red Lion houses the aforementioned Division Bell behind the bar and has welcomed serving Prime Ministers, up to and including Edward Heath, in for a drink. Both Clement Atlee and Winston Churchill were regular customers here during their time in government.

Next up was St Stephens Tavern, next to Westminster tube facing the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben. A pint of Badger ales, Fursty Ferret was purchased from the public bar, a refurbished counter with some very fine mirrors and Victorian chandeliers offset by the dark wood panelling.

Moving onwards we made our way, with the help of CAMRA'S London Pub Walks guide to The Speaker on Perkins Rents, tucked away behind Westminster Abbey. Caricatures of passed political figures adorn the wall in this traditional back street boozer, and at £5-80 for a pint and a half of Adnam's



Pleasure Principal we were heading in a more pleasurable direction!

The next two pubs on the trail, The Sanctuary House, a big bustling corner pub and The Red Lion in Crown Passage offered much from the outside but sadly disappointed from within, in both service and quality of beer, although I must say the interior of the Red Lion was stunning, it was let down badly by the staff. So, moving quickly on, the next stop was the Golden Lion on King Street, a bow fronted building and housing a magnificent interior of panelled wood, cut glass panels and mirrors along with Victorian lamps. A

pint of Gales Seafarer was enjoyed whilst one of the locals chatted to us about how Noel Redding first met Jimi Hendrix in this very bar.

Moving on the following day to the Smithfield area around the market, navigation was somewhat more difficult due to construction of Crossrail at Farringdon and with many of the roads closed it was a case of follow your instinct and hope for the best, plus hoping that Google maps worked. Out of the 5 pubs on this particular walk there were two standout pubs, the first was the Olde Mitre,



hidden away down a passageway off the gated Ely

Place, it is very much a step back in time, seemingly total separated from modern day London. Beautiful hanging baskets, planters and old wooden hogshead beer barrels adorn the exterior of the pub whilst inside cosy multiple rooms, on two floors, give a lovely olde world feel to this hidden gem. The second outstanding hostelry on this walk was The Jerusalem Tavern on Britton Street. Built around 1720 it has various small drinking areas and is the only London outlet for St Peter's Brewery in Suffolk, well worth seeking out.



Our trip also included a selection of Central London heritage pubs around Fleet Street and Holborn, the most impressive being the Princess Louise on Kingsway by Holborn Tube. A Sam Smiths pub it is breath-taking in its interior, especially the tiles walls upstairs. Special mention should also go to The Cittie of York, another Sam Smiths Hostelry along with Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese on Fleet Street. We finished this particular visit at The Blackfriar, opposite Blackfriars tube, a magnificent wedge shaped building with some amazing wooden carved walls on the interior, finishing with a Titanic plum porter at £7-75 for a pint and a half we bade farewell to London for now, richer in knowledge poorer in pocket.

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Volunteers Needed

Every year the Newark & District branch of CAMRA hold the Beer & Cider Festival here on the Riverside Park and every year the event is run totally by volunteers who very generously give up their spare time to come along and help out, without this help it would not be possible to have the Festival. We are again appealing for volunteers to come forward and help out. It's not just serving behind the bar we need help with, we also need help setting up the Festival and taking it all down again. We will be setting up from Monday the 21st May and taking down on Mon the 28th. Can you spare as little as a few hours to a few days to help, if you can please contact us by e mailing staffing@newarkcamra.org.uk or any branch official you may know



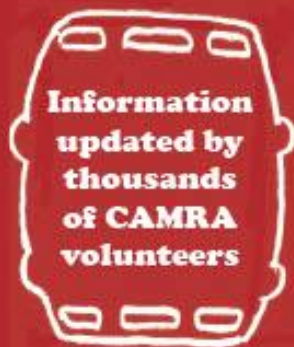
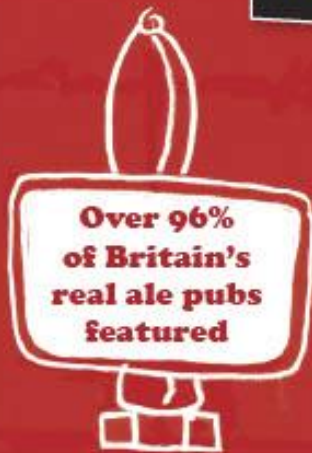
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Meet The Landlord



Joe Mastin of The Plough, Coddington

In our new feature article we would like to introduce you to Joe, Landlord of The Plough at Coddington. He is a local chap who was born, and grew up in Coddington. His early experience in the trade came from working part time in local pubs including the Inn on the Green in the village, going on to hold the position of restaurant manager at The Ram when it re-opened after a major refurb. After the Plough was bought and refurbished by a local family, Joe was offered the position of Landlord, a position he has been in now since The Plough re-opened on the 21st of December

2016. The pub is firmly focused on providing a good range of real ales in excellent condition, along with various other beers, wines and spirits, an excellent menu is also available. They are very community focused, warmly welcoming all who call in for refreshment including any passing trade. Along with regular food availability a quiz is held every second Sunday in the month, there are also plans to move the car park across to the pub side of the road and extending the beer garden, providing an improved outdoor area for use in the better weather. It is good to see a local pub, run by local people undergoing such a positive change of looks and fortune which is well worth a visit.

The Editor

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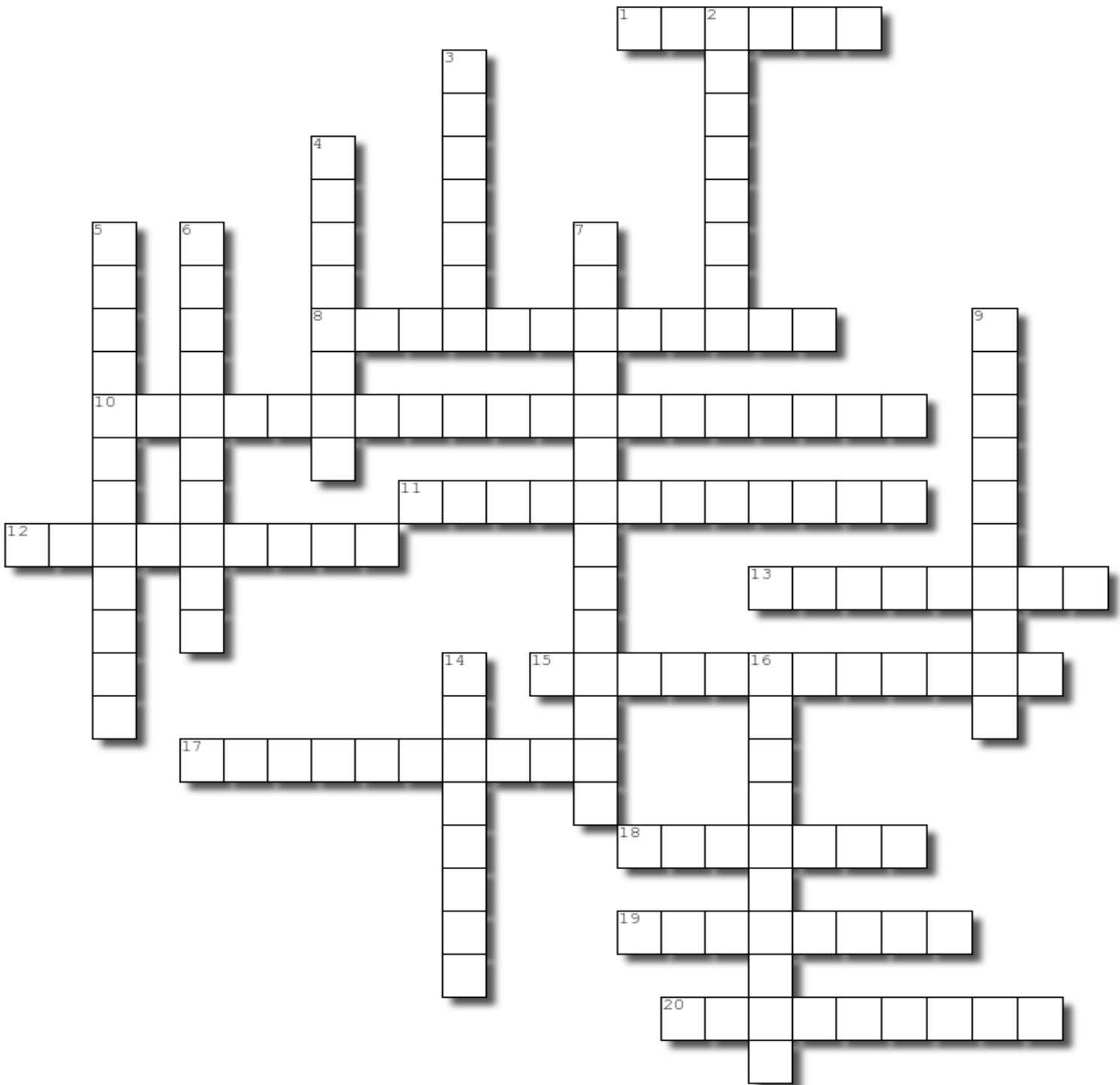
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Crossword - Notts Pubs All Listed In The 2018 GBG



Across

- 1/ Will we find movie awards here (6)
- 8/ A courageous woodman (4,8)
- 10/ Is this taker of game to be found East of the Notts border (12,7)
- 11/ Perhaps better talking to this person than the monkey (5,7)
- 12/ Is this king of the jungle albino (5,4)
- 13/ Famous example of what became the Shorthorn breed of cattle (6,2)
- 15/ Commemorative flower with an imperial measure (5,3,4)
- 17/ Is mans best friend unkempt (7,3)
- 18/ Mythical horned horse (7)
- 19/ This hotel may be heard stating "we are not amused" (8)
- 20/ Are these piano ivories possibly a little angry (5,4)

Down

- 2/ Traditionally roasted on an open fire at Christmas (8)
- 3/ Common breed of duck (7)
- 4/ This Inn might also be a brightly coloured springtime woodland carpet (4,4)
- 5/ Signifying the end of a football match (5,7)
- 6/ To be found inside her majesties crown (5,4)
- 7/ Used to cultivate farmland before the tractor (5,3,5)
- 9/ Earthworks to hold a river at bay (10)
- 14/ Does from a little acorn grow this might regal tree (5,3)
- 16/ Is this micro Considering this to renounce the throne (10)

Answers in the back

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Dryanuary? I Think Not!

Well that was yet another month where a charity was tugging at your conscience, did you succumb? Did you give up your tipples for a month? I sincerely hope not, given that January is probably the worst month of the year for the already struggling pub trade. We have only just had a campaign by Macmillan Cancer Support named "go sober for October" and now the "Dryathlon – Go dry in January" from Cancer Research UK. These events are not new by any means but given the continued peril of our pubs is it time to say enough is enough to these heart and conscience tugging charities.

One of the points used in these campaigns to convince us to join in and hand over our hard earned is the old chestnut, the "health benefits". Oh dear, is it not enough with big brother telling us how we all drink too much without the charities joining in and using it as leverage. They tell us how much better we will feel if we give up for a month, the campaign in October even went as far as to tell us how much better we would feel not waking up with a hangover! I agree with that one, however as any discerning real ale drinker will tell you it's not something they are afflicted by because with real ale being a natural product free from brain bashing chemicals it just doesn't happen. Whilst on the subject of hangovers, if people are waking up with them, perhaps they may be overindulging a little and should drink more in moderation which is something we definitely promote. Any knowledgeable drinker out there will probably also be



aware of the huge amount of proven research that has been done that firmly concludes, drinking in moderation is good for the mind, body and soul, a fact you will rarely hear mentioned.

I know, even with that first paragraph and comments since, some of you will be priming yourselves to fire off a letter of objection to this piece, before you do please believe me I totally support the outstanding work that charities do and will happily give up my time and take part in events where I can to raise money. But I also strongly believe that this fund raising should not be at the expense of others and especially people's livelihoods, which sadly asking our pub going faithful to give up drinking in order to give money to charity is, in my opinion, doing just that. I would have hoped that given the amount of money that is raised in pubs each year for charities they would have given a little more thought to the people directly affected by what they were asking the public to do.

It is, of course a personal choice whether or not you have chosen to support these charities, if you did, I hope you still went to your local as you normally would if only to have a soft drink. Unfortunately, most people don't though, and simply stay at home instead.

The Editor

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(Closing date for postal & online registration is Tuesday 3rd April 2018)

Members Weekend & AGM 2018

Have your say, make your vote count

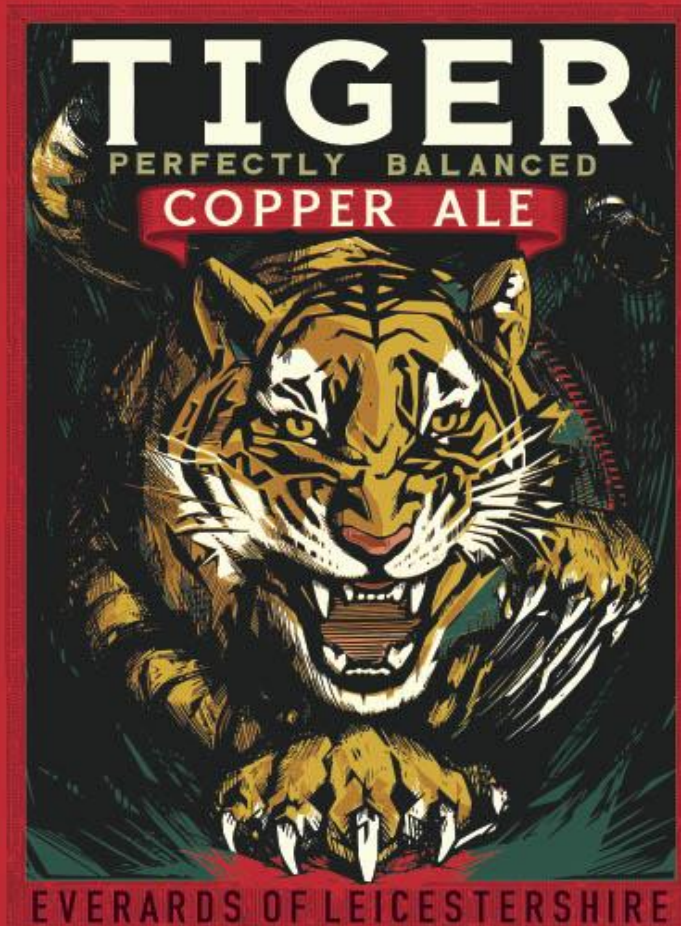
It has been asked more than once in the press, “is this is the AGM that will make or break CAMRA”, a sentiment I am somewhat in agreement with. At this years meeting which is to be held at the University of Warwick, Coventry the 20-22nd of April the final vote will be held on whether or not CAMRA adopts any or all of the proposals from the much, discussed Revitalisation report. I believe these proposals are vital in safeguarding the future of CAMRA in the changing world of today, whilst the original key campaigns of CAMRA are still to a large degree relevant today, it can also be said that the battle to promote the availability of a diverse supply of Real Ale in our pubs is pretty much won. However, drinking trends and practices within the industry are changing, we need to get on board with these changes in order for us to remain relevant in the future, to maintain and grow our membership from the new generation of drinkers today.

Members attending the AGM and Conference will be able to take part in the proposals debate and vote in person, everyone else will have the opportunity to vote via e mail. CAMRA will be sending out these e mails prior to the members weekend so it is of the utmost importance that you have an up to date e mail address registered with HQ in order you receive your opportunity to vote.

My greatest fear is the dinosaurs among our membership that cannot accept change, will get the upper hand and vote down the proposals if too many forward thinking members fail to take this opportunity to safeguard our future by casting their vote.

The full revitalisation report along with the list of the proposals can be seen by logging into your members dashboard at www.camra.org.uk where you can also easily update your contact details.

The Editor



A local favourite, Tiger is perfectly balanced thanks to carefully selected British hops and premium Maris Otter malt.

The Tiger is synonymous with Leicestershire after the Royal Leicestershire Regiment were nicknamed 'The Tigers' in 1825 following long service in India.

It's also the name of our local rugby club, the Leicester Tigers. This is their Official Beer as it is for the many local teams and that's why our Tiger is roaring!

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H N F D E B A Z D H B U X T O N A Z L J
C Q R A W H N D C N U J G N J D B O K A
I Q E N S A I R E P P O H S S A R G Q A
R J M C P M R O O O R E T A G L L O T D
T J N I A B C T R H A G F A L S T A F F
N C Q N P E Q J B Y T R E K C A J P O H
E G M G I R T T R C R E V O H S A R K F
P G L D L L I M D A E L F L X E D X H J
E J X U Q F R A J U O Z T P Y T K A E P
E G H C F W U B T T O C Y A R D F K Z N
L L X K G E X E T R T K N M H Z J T V D

RAW

PENTRICH

BADBUNNY

FALSTAFF

SHINY

PEAK

GRASSHOPPER

TOLLGATE

HOPJACKER

BUXTON

LEADMILL

THORNBRIDGE

ASHOVER

DRAYCOTT

WHIM

AMBER

DANCINGDUCK

MIDDLEEARTH

ROWDITCH

BRUNSWICK

The Beerheadz Chain Continues to Grow

At the end of November, I was privileged to be invited to the “soft” opening of the latest addition to the Beerheadz micro pub portfolio in Nottingham prior to the official opening on Friday the 1st of December. The building itself is the grade 2 listed, former cabman’s shelter right next to the entrance / exit of Nottingham train station.

Even though its location is somewhat out of our branch area it is still great to see new pubs opening wherever they might be, especially ones committed to new and exciting beers being available and constantly changing. Although we don’t have one, Beerheadz does have strong ties to Newark with Phil Ayling, co-owner of Newark’s multi award winning Just Beer being a founder and director of the Beerheadz micro pub chain.

Having travelled to Nottingham by train, I reached the station exit,



turned left and there it was literally just outside the doors. The pub is a rather quaint looking wooden structured building and the party looked to be in full swing on my arrival, upon entering first impressions were very good, although extremely busy at the time I could still see and was suitably impressed by the décor and layout. The colour scheme is of subtle pastel colours in keeping with its listed status, the bar and furniture are all bespoke and have what I would describe as rustic character with a modern touch. The layout has been very cleverly designed to maximise the relatively small floor area as you can see in the accompanying photo’s.

With the aesthetics taken in and hellos all round it was time for the next important matter on the agenda and head to the liquid dispensing point, the bar is adorned with four real ale handpulls, four craft beer taps and a well stocked fridge of beery delights from around the globe. I could list all the beers available at the time but there wouldn’t be much point given they are going to be constantly changing, I did however start the evening with an excellent pint of Abbeydale pale session, the rest as the saying goes is history.

Just to add to this little success story, Beerheadz Grantham has for the second year running been awarded Grantham CAMRA Pub of the Year. Also, after a lengthy, drawn out battle against a local objector, Beerheadz have now got the full go ahead to open their next micro on Eastgate, in Lincoln. When asked about this Phil said, “it’s been a frustratingly long process with a lot of expense, but now we have permission we



have to be positive and look forward to opening as quickly as possible to serve the discerning drinkers of Lincoln with quality cask and craft beers from all over the globe”. A further outlet in Melton Mowbray is in the planning, let’s hope the process to open is a little smoother for them here.

The editor

North Devon Dash

On a brief trip to Lynton in North Devon, undertaken as much to give the car a good run, as a desire to re-visit old haunts, I was informed that a couple of the local hostelrys had undergone significant transformations, so I decided to check them out in the company of a local resident.

As I was down for two nights I thought we could try Lynmouth on the first night. As the Cliff Railway closes early in the off season, I knew we would have either a steep walk back up the hill after a few beers, or more likely a car ride, now that there was an efficient local taxi service.

First port of call was the old Bath Hotel bar. Now known as the Ancient Mariner, and set up much more like a traditional pub, this really was a massive change from the old hotel bar which used to have noisy machines and a pool table, all of which have now gone. The bar was offering Exmoor Ales and both Wildcat and Gold were in fine form. From here I wandered up to the Village Inn, this was a friendly pub but sadly the owners dog was very keen to beg from diners tables and bark a lot so I didn't stay for more than one beer, which, if memory serves was Old Golden Hen and in good form.

We took a taxi back uphill as I fancied eating at the Oak Room tapas restaurant in Lynton, sadly it was closed. My hunger was assuaged however round at the Vanilla Pod, where Ronnie was open and serving excellent food, as always.

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The following afternoon we took a drive out to Barnstaple calling, on the way back, at the Kentisbury Grange Hotel, the location for the Coach House restaurant from Michael Caines, a Michelin award winning chef. The location, menu, wine list etc, all seemed very attractive but it really needed pre-booking (and a credit card) both for the table and the taxi back, so we mentally filed it for a future date. Moving on, we visited the Cottage Inn at Lynbridge, midway between Barbrook and Lynton. Here our host, Gary, was a well known local electrician who changed direction by taking on this riverside pub. His wife Nartnapa is an accomplished Thai chef and serves absolutely fabulous Thai food, with just the right amount of heat for a wimp like me, and with oodles of flavour. Responding to local demand, the food is available in both



the pub and restaurant area as well as takeaway. Not to be outdone by his wife's catering skills, Gary has started Fat Belly Brewery and had three of his own beers on the bar that evening. I only tried two, but they were both mighty fine and worth repeating on my next trip down. The pub also has three letting rooms and hosted a music / beer festival in both 2016 & 2017, so look out for an announcement in 2018.

RAS



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Crossword Answers

Across

- 1/ Oscar's - Newark
- 8/ Bold Forester - Mansfield
- 10/ Lincolnshire Poacher - Nottingham
- 11/ Organ Grinder - Nottingham
- 12/ White Lion - Kimberley
- 13/ Durham Ox - Orston
- 15/ Poppy and Pint - West Bridgford
- 17/ Scruffy Dog - Sutton in Ashfield
- 18/ Unicorn - Worksop
- 19/ Victoria - Beeston
- 20/ Cross Keys - Upton

Down

- 2/ Chestnut - Radcliffe on Trent
- 3/ Mallard - Worksop
- 4/ Blue Bell - Lound
- 5/ Final Whistle - Southwell
- 6/ Queens Head - Watnall
- 7/ Horse & Plough - Bingham
- 9/ Embankment - Nottingham
- 14/ Royal Oak - Car Colston
- 16/ Abdication - Arnold

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