

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 384 May 2021)



Welcome to the SPBW West Riding Branch Newsletter for May 2021.

Pubs have now reopened for service outside only as from April 12th.

The rule of six and table service are in place.

Provided the conditions set by the UK Government are met, pubs in England are due to reopen indoors on the 17th of May.

The rule of six will once again apply.

All restrictions are due to be lifted from the 21st of June.

If all goes to plan, we may be able to have a monthly meeting on the 4th of July.

Many pubs in our area have now reopened, but obviously, those with no access to outside space have remained closed.

Leeds CAMRA sent out a list of 200 pubs which have now reopened, and other local CAMRA branches have also sent out lists of open pubs.

Some pubs are taking bookings, but many are “walk-ins” only.

One of the reasons for this is that some inconsiderate people have booked tables, only to fail to turn up.

This results in a loss of business to the pub, probably having turned away customers earlier.

I’ve visited a few pubs, including Bridge Inn and Old Kings Arms in Horsforth, Jacob’s Ale House in Bradford and The Hop / Archie’s Bar and Kitchen in Leeds.

The Hop and Archie’s appear to be working as one venue as far as the outside space is concerned.

I’ve been very impressed by the beer quality in all of the pubs that I have visited.

Everything seems to be well organised, and fortunately the weather has been very good.

However, I did have a drink in Harrogate with Roland and got quite wet sitting outside the Harrogate Tap with rain and sleet alternating.

We had a good time, though, and the Starling Café Bar has created an outside space behind the pub which is quite pleasant.

It is necessary to walk through the pub to get to the outdoor area, so facemasks are required.

Thanks to John Dyson for his update on the planned coach trips.

Thanks to Janet Ward and Dave Robinson for the report on pubs reopening in Bradford and Halifax.

Thanks to Malcolm, once again, for setting up the Monthly Zoom Meeting.

If you have any items for next month's newsletter, please e-mail me at:

graham.cavaye@virginmedia.com

Charlie Cavaye

Coach Trips Update

As most of you will know, our monthly trips that Gerv and I organise from April to November were due to commence with a trip to Nottingham and Hucknall on the 18th April last year.

We had ended 2019 on the 16th November with our popular visit to the beer festival at the New Inn in Cropton with a crawl around Pickering afterwards.

Sadly, the pandemic called a halt to proceedings.

Our second trip last year would have been to Scarborough, with a stop in Malton on our return to visit the Beertown festival. The festival was postponed to this May and then further postponed to 28th August.

At the moment I have booked a coach for this August trip and already have 24 names on the list, most of whom have paid a deposit or in full.

However, some who wished to travel may now not be able to do so as it is the Bank

Holiday weekend and other plans may have been made.

I shall endeavour to contact those on the list to verify whether they still wish to proceed and confirm what funds, if any, I have collected.

I was hoping to run a trip in July, but Janet feels this is too early to complete bookings.

I will keep you posted but it is likely to be in September to Nottingham and Hucknall.

Again, I have collected funds for this trip and have 39 names on my list.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and, hopefully, our monthly meetings can recommence in July when we can discuss matters further.

John Dyson - Joint Social Secretary.
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Pubs Reopen – Outside Only

On Monday April 12th we visited the Corn Dolly in Bradford (at the bottom of Bolton Road for those who do not know it).

This is an excellent pub which has been in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide for many years and won many awards for its excellent beers.

They have spent a lot of money making their car park into a large, superb beer garden with 2 different levels of decking, little box type covered areas with separate compartments for tables and seats which would sit 4 comfortably and 6 at a pinch.

The decking areas have a mixture of socially distanced seating and tables for 2, 4 or 6 people.

We went suitably dressed in case of cold weather with layers of clothing on, but as the

weather was so beautiful, we soon started stripping off these layers.

We got there at 12:00 noon when it opened (although it opened early due to there being people waiting), signed in (we haven't got the app so signed in manually) and spent the whole afternoon there.

They had 5 or 6 different beers on - we had a Phoenix beer and Goose Eye Chinook (both were excellent).

We met up with some friends and saw many other friends also who we chatted to at a social distance of course.

This is an excellent pub, and I would advise anyone who can to visit it - it is open every day of the week from 12:00 noon.

On Friday 16th April we ventured into Halifax (there aren't many pubs open here) and visited the Copenhagen.

This was quite enjoyable, and they had a about 4 real ales and plenty of other ones.

We were very boring and again had our favourite beer Goose Eye Chinook.

Then we went to the Grayston Unity which didn't open until 3pm.

This pub has been shut since last autumn when it was mothballed for the winter.

They have seating for approx. 70 people some of it under cover with heaters installed.

Again, it was such a wonderful day that we didn't need our layers of clothing and had another enjoyable late afternoon superb drinking session.

It will be interesting to see the Grayston Unity once we are allowed to go inside pubs as they have knocked a wall out and made it into one large room - there will be more room for seating, and they will be able to let more people in.

This pub is only open at present from Thursday to Sunday (please check the opening times before visiting).

Along with many other pubs, these two pubs are open and have really made an effort to provide an excellent beer garden experience.

Cheers

Janet & Dave (from Queensbury)

May Zoom Meeting

Malcolm Townend is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Malcolm Townend's Zoom Meeting
Time: May 2, 2021 12:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74286460354?pwd=Z0c3VVFhMG12NXdiV09xNEs3QmhhUT09>

Meeting ID: 742 8646 0354

Passcode: cprx03

Malcolm Townend