

The Newsletter of  
**THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF**  
**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION**  
**OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD**  
(Issue 390 November 2021)

Founded 1963



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

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles this month.

A bumper issue this month with seven pages of articles, including three which cover our most recent trip to Congleton and Macclesfield.

Please let me know if you hear about any local beer festivals.

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

[graham.cavaye@virginmedia.com](mailto:graham.cavaye@virginmedia.com)

*Charlie Cavaye*

### **New Members**

On behalf of the branch, I would like to welcome the following new members to the West Riding Branch of SPBW:

**Ethan Fairweather**

**Bruce Travis**

**Phillip Forster**

**Matthew Gibson**

I hope that you will all enjoy what the branch has to offer, especially the monthly meetings and the coach trips.

*Cheers!*

*Charlie*

### **Trips Update**

Our final trip of this year will be our annual visit to Whitby on 13th November, departing at 10am from the bottom of Kirkgate.

The 53-seater coach is full, and I have a waiting list, so would anyone who has reserved a seat but is now unable to join us please let me know.

I think it's safe to say that Whitby is our members' favourite destination and warrants a full day.

We'll be reverting to our usual September date next year.

My aim is to fill all the coach seats for every trip and I'm aware sometimes the date I've chosen clashes with other events.

As I have to book the coach several weeks in advance an early warning of such events would be helpful for me to review a selected date.

An example of this would be our first trip this year whose date was dictated by the many-cancelled Beertown Festival in Malton.

Only 35 Members travelled on the August Bank Holiday, yet a fortnight later we had 44 members on our trip to Nottingham.

The coach cost was the same for both trips but the extra bums on seats made the difference between breaking even and losing £100.

Whilst Beertown was sadly cancelled at the eleventh hour I'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank Chris Waplinton of Bad Seed Brewery and Brass Castle Brewery for their Malton hospitality after our sunny day in Scarborough.

Whitby marks the 30th coach trip organised by Gerv and I since we took over the reins from Graham.

It was a tough act to follow but we got off to an interesting start on our May trip to Lincoln in 2016 when, in traffic waiting to enter the city, we were treated to a fly-past by the Red Arrows.

Our AGM will be the first Sunday in November when we'll have the opportunity to discuss our trips and any suggestions members may have for future destinations or ways to improve the days out.

I have some ideas which include trips to New Brighton with Liverpool, the Everards Brewery

Tap with Leicester and Kendal with Kirkby Lonsdale.

I also think it's time to revisit our friends at The Grasshopper pub near Southport who now run the CoLAPS SPBW Branch and I'd like to meet up with the new Manchester SPBW Branch Members.

Unlike West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester has a large tram network so we can choose somewhere that's easily accessible for them and our coach.

The aforementioned Lincoln, Stamford, Chester and Derby are past destinations worthy of consideration.

I'm sure you'll agree that £12 represents good value for a day out but with rising fuel costs the future coach hire will no doubt increase.

I'm not going to pre-empt the AGM but I'm aware the subject of membership fees will be on the agenda.

Our bank balance relies on these fees to fund trips and subsidise the monthly meetings.

Prior to Covid our 2019 trip year broke even, whereas to date this trip year we've lost £384.

There are no plans to increase the cost of trips, but this time next year may be a different story.

However, we remain a non-profit making society with your enjoyment our priority.

**John Dyson**

**Joint Social Secretary**

**Lewes**

On a recent visit to Sussex, we decided to visit the town of Lewes, home of the Harvey's Brewery.

This family brewery was founded on the banks of the River Ouse in 1790.

Lewes is the county town of East Sussex and has a mediaeval castle dating from Norman times which is in good condition and open to the public.

We decided to have a look round first before visiting the pubs.

Lewes has a very long high street with plenty of pubs.

There are also several pubs on side roads.

Beak Brewery has a tap room on a local business park, but I didn't see any of their beers.

Most of the beers on offer in this part of Sussex are dark brown and malty, and they are served flat.

There were some exceptions, and I had a variety of different beer styles throughout the day.

The first pub was the Gardeners Arms, a medium sized micropub with a good choice of beers.

It was quite busy, but we managed to get a seat outside on the "not quite" pedestrianised shopping street, which was quite pleasant, apart from a very noisy motorcycle which did a couple of circuits.

We next visited the John Harvey Tavern opposite the brewery shop, which is named after the brewery's founder and serves as their brewery tap.

Plenty of outdoor seating at this cosy, food orientated pub with an extensive choice of Harvey's beers.

I had the Harvey's IPA, which was fine.

The seat we found appeared to have been made out of a huge wooden barrel.

The Rights of Man is another foodie pub owned by Harvey's which is named after former Lewes resident Thomas Paine's book of the same name published in 1791.

We next visited the Black Horse, a Greene King Local Hero pub with a very good range of beers.

I chose the Dark Star Sunquake 4.8%, a lovely tropical IPA.

The manager recommended the Lewes Arms, to which he directed us via a "twitten", which is Sussex dialect for alley, ginnel or snickleway.

The pub was fairly empty on our arrival and there were only two beers to choose from. I had the Gales HSB (Horndean Special Bitter), a dark malty beer, which used to be a favourite of mine.

The pub was originally owned by Beard & Co Brewery of Lewes, who sold their 43 pubs to Greene King in 1998.

The manager told us a story about when the pub was run by Greene King, and they decided to stop selling the popular Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, which led to a 133-day long boycott of the pub by the locals, from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006 to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

Tactics included a 1,200-signature petition and a vigil outside the pub to deter casual visitors from entering.

The local MP became involved, and it received lots of coverage in the national press.

Sales dropped by 90% before a climbdown by Greene King resulted in the beer being reinstated.

The pub is now owned by Fullers of London (or Asahi of Japan, if you prefer).

The manager suggested we visit the Brewers Arms and gave us directions.

The Brewers Arms is a genuine free house with a good choice of local ales.

We both chose the Dark Star Hophead.

We next went to the Royal Oak, and then on to the Lansdowne Arms.

The Lansdowne Arms was very good, a bit quirky with a decent choice of ales, mainly from Long Man Brewery, which is based in Litlington, near Polegate, East Sussex.

We had a good day out and everyone we met along the way was very friendly.

The pubs in the town are, as you would expect, dominated by Harvey's beers.

Most of the beers were in good condition, but I think my tastes have changed significantly over the years, and I now prefer either the light hoppy beers or the stouts and porters.

## Charlie Cavaye

### Hull

It was a sunny Tuesday in September when I and fellow SPBW member John Butterfield took a trip to Hull, taking advantage of the £1 Northern Rail ticket offer.

After lunch in a local cafe, we took a walk out to the Whalebone Inn, a traditional old pub with walls adorned with old photos, many of bygone pubs and local rugby memorabilia.

The beer choice here is always excellent with a mix of pale and dark ales.

We tried a few including Vocation Heart and Soul and my most memorable was the Cherry Bakewell Porter, can't remember the brewery.

Walking back into town the next pub we

found was the Scale and Feather, previously known at Walters.

Nothing much has changed although the loos are now upstairs, and an outside drinking area has been created where they used to be.

A good selection of ales from which we had Turning Point Wavelength that hit the spot.

At the other end of the street is Fretwells, formerly a printing shop, it has a collection of many old items adorning the walls and the low beam ceiling gives it the old pub feel.

Six beers were on the pumps and we sampled a couple including Red Raddle from Wantsum, very tasty.

After years of asking for an OAP discount at bars around the country without any success John was amazed to see a sign offering 15% discount to over 65s and indeed they did.

This was also the case in its sister pub over the road, the Lion and Key so again a couple from the extensive range were sampled including the Naughty Hooker Marshmallow Chocolate Stout from Front Row brewery, delicious.

We had hoped to visit the Olde Black Boy, but it was closed for filming, so the Old White Harte was the next stop for a nice drop of Dark Star Hophead.

Time for tea at the Three John Scotts, a nice mixed grill for me but the beer choice from the limited range, of Bradfield Cherry beer was a bit too sweet and just didn't work at all for us.

Just around the corner is Vintage, a one room bar with 3 pumps on and decorated with vintage items including many Playboy magazine front covers from many years ago.

The White Rat from Ossett was my choice, and it was tops.

A couple of minutes' walk to The George Hotel with its Georgian interior still looking good.

The Purity Gold was in good order and at only £2.30 a pint, the bargain of the day.

Time was ticking by so time for one more at the Admiral of the Humber, another spoons with a limited choice of ales available.

The Brains S.A. Or Skull Attack as I remember it being nicknamed was a decent way to end our day.

Of course, there are many others that we did not have time to visit so a return trip may be on the cards before too long.

Cheers!

Graham Hewitt

### **Twitter Update, Success at Last**

@SPBWWESTRIDING was set up pre the pandemic with a view to hopefully getting some response from the pubs who would benefit from our coach trips.

It hadn't been successful in getting any response from the destinations but a few retweets from followers.

However, a direct hit on @thecheshirebrew resulted in Shane Swindells the owner and award-winning brewer putting on a beer in wood and a new brew.

All the beers were excellent and many of us remained there for a couple of hours.

Win win!

Shane even opened the last tin in the World of Gibraltar Porter, an 1889 Heritage Porter recipe, and distributed it amongst us.

The tin was entrusted to John Dyson who unfortunately failed to protect it from

damage, and it has been declared an insurance write-off!

Shane has written some great articles for CAMRA, and he shared his brewing knowledge and experiences of canning during the pandemic.

I doubt Whitby contact will provide much response, but I will give it a go.

You never know!

Nigel Latimer

### **Congleton**

The first stop on the last SPBW trip was Congleton, a place I had only visited on one previous occasion and that was quite a few years ago.

Quite a few including myself decided to walk out to the furthest away pub first.

This walk through the lovely Congleton Park took us to Cheshire Brewhouse in an industrial unit with a large drinking area and bar next to the brewery.

Shane the owner made us most welcome and had put some Beer from the Wood on for our visit.

It was Bramling X a 4.3% ABV pale ale, with the wood notes certainly present.

I also had the Crystal Citra 3.8% and Elephants Breath ESB 6.5%.

All were top class and quite a few others were available too, but I didn't have time to linger though.

My next planned visit was to have been the Beartown Tap but due to a recent change of hours it was closed as I passed so onwards to the Young Pretender, a single room within a listed building with décor that created a comfortable pub feel.

On the bar was a choice of 4 interesting cask ales from independent brewers, from which I chose Rufus from Marble Brewery, a 5.1% red ale that was delicious.

The friendly barman said it was the sister pub to the Treacle Tap in Macclesfield, and I saw him again in there later in the day when he was off duty.

Next up was the Prince of Wales a Joules Brewery pub with lovely stained-glass windows and a very traditional interior.

Four beers from their range adorned the bar and my choice of Pure Blonde a 3.6 light and refreshing ale was excellent.

The Old Kings Arms was just a few yards along where the dilemma of Draught Bass or Titanic Plum Porter had to be decided and the former won out on this occasion as it is rare to find these days.

Other beers from the Marston's range were also available.

Straight over the road to the White Lion, a striking Tudor style building now owned by Beartown Brewery where I think four of their ales were available.

I opted for Skinful a 4.2 hoppy bitter that hit the spot with me.

Time was running out, so the last call was to Barley Hops, a micro bar with four cask ales available.

I chose the house beer a 4.8% pale beer named Not Just Cards and wasn't disappointed.

There were about another ten pubs on the list that I didn't have time to visit, so a return visit will certainly be needed before too long.

**Graham Hewitt**

## **Macclesfield**

May I start by saying a thank you to the organisers of the SPBW trips, for yet another cracker.

I'm putting some words together for the Macclesfield part of the Congleton and Macclesfield trip but am compelled to mention the Cheshire Brewhouse Tap, in Congleton, for me the best call of the day and one that prevented me from making my planned visit to the Antiques Centre!

Macclesfield is a market town in East Cheshire.

It has a history in, amongst other things, the silk industry.

The River Bollin flows through Macclesfield and provided power to a number of mills along its way.

It eventually flows into the Manchester Ship Canal.

Perhaps the best-known mill, on the River Bollin, is Quarry Bank Mill, a National Trust property near Manchester Airport.

My first stop off, in Macclesfield, was the Jack in the Box.

It's located inside the Picturedome, an interesting example of upcycling in what would have been a good old fashioned flea pit.

A good selection of beers and for me, an easy choice, a pint of Breakfast Stout.

A good traditional strong flavoured Stout, drunk out in the Beer Garden.

My second call was the Wet Led Bar.

No dark ales so I settled for a half of Storm Brewing's Downpour.

A pleasant little bar.

The Castle is close by so that became my third visit.

A lovely building with lots of historical features and good character.

Unfortunately, no dark ales again so I settled on a pint of Storm Brewing's Silk of Amnesia.

I figured that the building was worthy of a pint's duration!

Now a bit of a trek to the Wharf.

This one is fairly close to the Macclesfield Canal and has a lot of canal-based features, including canal artwork with flowers and castles, etc.

Strangely, it's near to the canal but not actually on it and that's because Hovis bought a large plot of land there, for their operation, by the canal and a part of the deal was that they rebuild the pub, down the road.

It was a bit of a climb up to the pub, but it wasn't the hill in the Hovis advert!

My reward was a pint of Rudgate's Ruby Mild.

On the way back down the hill was the Silk Trader, number five.

Nothing to write home about but it did refer to Silk and that was a thread that I tried to follow!

A pint of Trooper and then down to the Noodles bar, on the corner, for a pot of Chicken Noodles.

Number six was the Red Willow, card only and as someone who has been the victim of card fraud, that's not to my liking.

So, a quick half of Breakfast Stout and I was off.

It was a pleasant enough pub but looking round, I felt my age!

My last call was the Fountain.

Again, card only!

However, the establishment was agreeable, and timings were about right for a pint before the coach time so a pint it was, of Bollington's Oatmill Stout.

Looking forward to Whitby!

**Doug Skinner**

### **SPBW West Riding Branch Events**

**7<sup>th</sup> November Branch Meeting and AGM at Guiseley Factory Workers Club, 6 Town Street, Guiseley LS20 9DT**

**Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start**

**Number 27 bus from Leeds stops nearby**

**13<sup>th</sup> November Branch Trip to Whitby**

**10am departure from bottom of Kirkgate, Leeds**

**5<sup>th</sup> December Branch Meeting at Hullabaloo, 37-41 Westgate, Shipley BD18 3QX (venue TBC)**

**Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start**