

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 394 March 2022)

Founded 1963



Welcome to the SPBW West Riding Branch Newsletter for March 2022.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles this month.

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

Charlie Cavaye

Pub and Brewery News

Magic Rock Brewery up for Sale?

Brauwelt International, the best-informed beer and brewing industry magazine in Europe, reports this month that Australia's second largest brewery, the Kirin subsidiary Lion, has appointed the investment bank Greenhill to conduct a "strategic review" of Lion Little World Beverages UK, the group made up of Bermondsey brewer Fourpure (acquired in 2018), Huddersfield's Magic Rock

(acquired in 2019) and the Little Creatures brewery and taproom near Kings Cross (opened 2019).

This is expected to involve looking for buyers.

This is just the latest example of craft breweries failing to make money for large global breweries, following on from Carlsberg's closure of London Fields in December.

Meantime is thought to be struggling, though Asahi still supports it.

The only big-brewery-owned or dominated craft breweries in the UK that appear to still be doing well are Camden (AB-InBev), Brixton (Heineken) and Beavertown (49% Heineken, 51% independent), all of which benefit from the parent group's ownership of, or massive deals with pub chains.

The last two may be wondering about their futures though, as Heineken's Affligem brewery has been flagged for closure in the summer, with production shifted to Alken and breweries in France.

This is further proof, if proof were needed, that craft brewing is not an area when the big business brew-it-cheap, sell-it-high way of doing business works.

Forwarded by John Rowe, from Beer Writer Tim Webb

Black Sheep Seasonal Beers

Black Sheep Brewery has released a calendar of seasonal beers to celebrate their 30th anniversary.

The limited-edition ales and craft beers represent a variety of styles.

Old favourites Velo and Blitzen will be featured.

The March beer is Black Sheep IPA and the April one is Refresher, a blonde ale.

John Dyson (via the PubPaper)

Amity Brew Co. Crowdfunder

A Farsley brewery and bar which launched during the pandemic has launched a £15,000 crowdfunding appeal to help expand its offering.

Amity Brew Co is asking people to support its bid to take over additional mill space in Sunny Bank Mills for oak barrel storage.

This will enable the owners to age their beer in port, rum or whisky barrels and produce new and bold flavours bottled in premium glass bottles to sell online or in the taproom.

The funds will also go towards new brewery equipment, including an additional 1,000-litre tank to create more beer as part of their Spinning Mill Barrel Project.

Forwarded by John Rowe (via West Leeds Dispatch)

Cricketers, Keighley to Close

The Cricketers Arms on Coney Lane in Keighley is to close for good "with great reluctance" next month.

They have recently announced that they will close on the 12th of March.

It revealed the news in a post on its Facebook page (below) and cited the reason for closing is the pub is "no longer being a viable business".

The pub will be running a fundraiser for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice on its final day and urged people to visit the premises in the coming weeks and attend that event.

Dear customers, it is with great reluctance that we make this announcement.

Unfortunately, the Cricketers Arms will cease trading on the 12th of March, we have not taken this decision lightly but unfortunately, we are no longer a viable business.

We'd like to thank all our customers past and present for all the good times had between these walls.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming weeks and that you can all attend the fundraiser for Manorlands on the 12th.

Thanks for the fun

John, Helen, Jack, Brad, Makeala, Jo, Emma, Liv, Charlotte, Jackie and of course Bridie! — 🥲 feeling devastated.

Dave Sanders (via Bradford CAMRA)

Beer Festival Update

The number of beer festivals is picking up, and we are seeing less cancellations.

There are quite a few that I don't yet have many details for, and the phrase "More

details to follow” appears much more than I would like in the attached list.

As always, please check before you travel, as it is possible that some of those on the attached list may yet be called off.

In particular, I’m a bit concerned whether Hull Beer Festival is going to happen as I can’t find any further details.

Woodstock ‘22

Not sure that this is actually a beer festival, but yet another interesting event from our friends over the Pennines:

Another Greater Manchester S.P.B.W Branch Social to put in your diaries:

Woodstock at The Flying Horse 37 Packer St, Rochdale OL16 1NJ

19th March meeting at 13.00pm

Locally brewed beers served “from the wood”

Live entertainment

Food Specials

Real Ale

Real Cider

Advised by Nigel Latimer

SPBW National Woodfest

Posted on SPBW Facebook Group by Rob Shacklock:

The 3rd SPBW Woodfest is definitely going to happen (Covid permitting).

From Thursday 26 – Saturday 28 May at the Turk’s Head, St Margarets, Twickenham.

Further details will be announced in due course.

If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact Angela Aspin, email angelaapsin@manx.net.

Guisseley FWC Beer Festival

The beer festival at the Guisseley Factory Workers Club returns in April.

Admission by ticket only.

Tickets available from the club or ‘phone 01943 874793

Paul will be bringing some tickets to the next SPBW Meeting at the Exchange in Bradford.

More details in the Beer Festival list attached.

Paul Titley

Coach Trips Update

Gerv and I have almost compiled our trips calendar for this year.

I knew the cost of coach hire would increase substantially so, as instructed at the AGM, I obtained quotes from five companies for our first three trips.

Initially I’d obtained four quotes and Hunter’s, our present coach provider, was the cheapest.

However, our member Sharron Haigh kindly suggested I contact her friend who owns TS Travels in Altofts and his quotes were slightly cheaper.

We’ve decided to hedge our bets and will use Hunter’s in April and June with the new kid on the block in May.

If all goes well, I’ll then obtain quotes from both companies for our remaining trips.

Just to give you an idea, the total cost is £1,665 which, with drivers’ tips, equates to an average of 49 bums on seats.

Sadly, therefore, it has been necessary to increase the trip cost to £15 which reduces the average required number to 39 per trip.

A £5 deposit is now payable to secure your seat.

The most expensive quote was £2,200!

The dates for your diary are as follows:

April 23 -- Durham and Richmond

May 14 -- Chorley and Clitheroe

June 18 -- Everards Beer Hall and Leicester

All trips depart at 10am from the bottom of Kirkgate in Leeds to return by 9pm.

Please support us if you can.

Payments can be sent on-line to the Lloyds Bank account:

30-96-26 47324560

quoting the trip destination as the reference, or payment can be made at our meetings.

If you require any further information either text or phone me.

Preference is always given to members, but friends and family are welcome if spaces remain available nearer departure.

**John Dyson, Joint Social Secretary,
07843 898986**

Belgium Open Invite

Gerv and I have booked a five-day coach holiday to Bruges with Shearings, departing Monday May 16.

Sadly, the cost is far greater, at £389 each, than SPBW members were used to paying on the annual National Holidays January excursions to Ostend, and single supplements will apply.

For those who may wish to join us the tour code is W5BRG/1 titled 'Bruges – Venice of The North'.

The B&B accommodation is at the Hotel Academie.

For those familiar with Bruges, it is close to the De Halve Maan brewery and next door to the wonderful Bieratelier bar.

Monday evening and Tuesday are free to explore with inclusive trips to Ghent on Wednesday and Ostend on Thursday.

At least it'll be lighter in May!

**John Dyson, Joint Social Secretary,
07843 898986**

Branch clothing and badges

Graham now has a small stock of badges, and these will be available at the meeting on Sunday.

Anyone wishing to order branch clothing can also order at the meeting.

Details of what is available can be found at:

www.hudsonsports.co.uk

and look at the embroidery clothing range.

There are loads to choose from in all sizes.

Prices are shown excluding VAT so please add 20% to those shown.

If you could let Graham have the product code, size and colour he will order items for you.

You can order by e-mail

graham-hewitt@tiscali.co.uk

or phone me on 0113 2624574 /
07890208314.

As I will not be able to attend the April meeting the off date for orders is Monday 4th April and items should be available for collection at the meeting on May 1st.

Thank you.

Graham Hewitt

Sheffield Suburbs

I recently had a day out in Sheffield, and for a change, I didn't visit the fine pubs around Shalesmoor and Kelham Island.

I made use of my senior bus pass to get free tram travel to Hillsborough tram stop.

The Rawson Spring Wetherspoons is right next door.

A nice pint of Nethergate Augustinian 4.5% Premium Bitter to start the day.

I quite often have my first pint in a Wetherspoons pub, mainly because I know that they are going to be open, whereas these days some pubs don't open until 3pm or even 4pm.

Sheffield is a city built on seven hills, and it is very steep in some places.

I took the tram to Malin Bridge and set off walking down the Rivelin Valley Road.

A combination of my quite old Sheffield A-Z and Google maps took me up the very steep hills up to Bole Hill Road and the Walkley Cottage Inn at Walkley Bank, a former Gilmour's house.

Quite a large pub, but beer choice was limited, and I had a pint of Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

I usually prefer to have a beer that is brewed closer to the town or city I am visiting than to my own house, but unfortunately the Bradfield Farmers Blonde had just run out and the barrel was being changed.

The next pub was the Raven, formerly the Palm Tree in Walkley.

This is now run by nearby Loxley Brewery, and five of their real ales were on offer.

The pub has been refurbished to a good standard and only reopened in November 2019.

I chose the Loxley Revill, a 4% blonde ale, which was very good.

I thought I'd been in a pub in Sheffield called the Raven before, but it was in fact, the Crow at Kelham Island.

Previously called the Old Crown, the letter N dropped off the pub name sign and they decided to keep the name as the Crow.

Onwards to the Blake Hotel at Upperthorpe, part of Sheaf Inns, including the Wellington at Shalesmoor and the Sheaf View in Heeley.

I have been here several time before, but I'm sometimes put off by the thought of climbing up Blake Street, reputedly the third steepest residential street in the country – handrails provided.

Fortunately, my route took me to the top of Blake Street, right to the pub.

This is a lovely pub which was extensively refurbished after seven years of closure.

Five real ales available including Neepsend Blonde 4%, which was my choice.

The next pub was the Hallamshire House at Crookesmoor, a Thornbridge pub with eight real ales.

I had a pint of Yacht Rock Extra Pale 3.8% from Only with Love Brewery from Uckfield in Sussex followed by a pint of Thornbridge Astryd 3.8%.

Both beers were in excellent condition and the staff and customers very friendly.

Just opposite is the Closed Shop which is run by Stancil Brewery with a total of ten handpumps.

I had the Stancil Barnsley Bitter 3.8%.

Next, a short walk to the Cobden View on the outskirts of Crookes where I had a pint of the Bradfield Farmers Blonde 4%.

In the centre of Crookes, I visited the Ball which is a Greene King pub with 14 handpumps including one cider and 10 guest beers.

It is mainly a sports bar which majors on food but has an excellent choice of ales and offers a 10% CAMRA discount.

I had the Blue Bee Reet Pale 4%.

My final pub was a new one for me, Two Sheds, a micropub which mainly sells craft keg beer, but they did have one real ale. which was Thornbridge Lord Marples, a 4% Bitter.

I just had a quick half in here as it was very busy with a pub quiz about to start.

Another great day out in Sheffield, and a bit of a change from my usual route.

Charlie Cavaye

SPBW West Riding Branch Events

Sunday 6th March 2022

Branch Meeting

Exchange Craft Beer House
14 Market Street
Bradford
BD1 1LN

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Sunday 3rd April

Branch Meeting

Hooper Micropub
209 High Street
Wibsey
Bradford
BD6 1JU

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 23rd April

Branch Trip to Durham and Richmond

Saturday 14th May

Branch Trip to Chorley and Clitheroe

Saturday 18th June

Branch Trip to Everards Beer Hall and Leicester