

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 397 June 2022)

Founded 1963



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

Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles this month.

Articles this month on our recent coach trip to Clitheroe & Chorley, Belgium and WoodFest 3 in Twickenham.

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:

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Charlie Cavaye

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Free Bus Travel

The Mayor of West Yorkshire has decreed that bus travel in West Yorkshire will be free on Sunday 5th June as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Junction Castleford

Neil from the Junction has several beers from virgin ex-whisky Casks. available for the Jubilee weekend from Thursday 2nd June.

These are Daleside Monkey Wrench, Stancil Stainless and Stancil Jubilee, two beers from Half Moon Brewery and one other.

He is putting them on 2 at a time.

Pub and Brewery News

Foleys Tap House, formerly Mr. Foley's Cask Ale House, reopened on 6th May.

The pub has been redecorated during the long period of closure.

Most of the beers available are from Black Sheep Brewery.

On Friday 6th May it was announced that having brewed their final batch of *Pale Rider*, **Kelham Island Brewery** will be going into voluntary liquidation and closing.

The Brewery comments: 'It is with deep sadness that we are having to announce that we and the brewery will shortly be closing.

We would like to thank everybody who supported us over the last 32 years- especially our staff and customers.

The Fat Cat will remain open, with Kelham Island Brewery beer available on cask and in Bottles/Cans whilst stocks last.'

On a recent visit to the **Head of Steam** at Huddersfield Railway Station I was pleased to discover that they now have 14 cask ales available.

The choice of beers and beer quality was outstanding with beers from Camerons, Vocation, Thornbridge, Brew York, Titanic and McColls breweries available plus many more.

The **Wellington Inn**, the last remaining pub owned by Sam Smith's in Knaresborough has called time and closed its doors.

The Wellington Inn, a traditional pub on Briggate, was until recently one of three pubs in the town owned by Sam Smith's.

There was also the Marquis of Granby, on York Place, and the Commercial Hotel, formerly the Borough Bailiff, on High Street.

Mark Costello at **Horsforth Brewery** has let us know that the tap room will be open for members after our meeting at the Town Street Tavern on the 12th of June.

Google reckons it's an 8-minute walk

Clitheroe and Chorley

Once again, we had an almost completely sold-out coach for our second trip of the year to Clitheroe and Chorley, with over 50 people on the coach.

Upon our arrival at Clitheroe, we split into smaller groups as usual, and many headed for the Bowland Beer Hall or the many pubs.

Our group decided to start at Clitheroe Beer Festival which was being held in the Assembly Hall of St. Michael & St. John's.

We found the venue easily enough with the help of the maps provided by our joint social secretaries.

Entry to the festival was straightforward with a £10 Starter Pack which included £7 in beer tokens plus a £3 glass deposit, plus the entry fee, which was only £1 for CAMRA members.

We found a vacant table near the entrance to the hall and went in search of our first beer.

There were over 56 real ales, 10 keykeg beers and 12 ciders and perries included in the programme list.

The real ales were mainly from Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, Co. Durham, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

However, there were a few outliers, with Firebird from West Sussex and Tempest from Tweedbank in Scotland also represented.

There was also a collaboration beer from Ossett and Salopian Breweries.

Some strong beers were available including a 10% Russian Imperial Stout called Catherine the Greater from Avid Brewery from Quernmore in Lancashire and an 11.6% Old Ale from Ossett Brewery, Barrel-aged Smoked Old Ale.

It was a lovely spring day, and many of the customers were sitting outside in the sunshine.

All of the beers I tried were in very good condition, and the festival was well organised.

We met up with Mike and Neil who are members of the Greater Manchester SPBW branch.

We only had time to visit one pub in Clitheroe after leaving the beer festival, the New Inn, which was full of SPBW members from our trip having one last beer before the coach departed.

I've been to the New Inn a few times before and it is one of my favourite pubs in Clitheroe.

Some of our members who went to the Bowland Beer Hall said it was good but very busy and difficult to get served with only a few bar staff.

On arrival at Clitheroe, we headed to Ale Station, a pleasant micropub in the latest CAMRA Good Beer Guide which has half a dozen beers from smaller breweries.

We next visited the Flat Iron, a more traditional style pub with beers from Moorhouse's and Withnell's breweries.

The Shed and Garden is an interesting bar with half the pub designated as the Shed, and the other half, you guessed it, the Garden.

We had to queue for our beer as it was quite busy.

Plenty of outdoor seating in front of the pub, and most of it was in use.

Very popular and quite unusual.

Worth a visit.

We next headed for Ben's Tap, the tap room for Ben's Brewery.

The pub is next to the market and has plenty of outdoor seating.

Quite a few of our members were in attendance here.

We finished at the Artisan Alehouse, which is the brewery tap for Withnell's brewery.

Seven real ales available, some of their own and some guest beers.

They have an onsite microbrewery and bottle shop.

We stayed here to watch some of the football on the television.

Chorley is full of really interesting pubs including micropubs, brewpubs, taprooms, café bars and traditional pubs.

Too many pubs to do the town justice in three and a half hours, and definitely worth another visit.

Charlie Cavaye

In Bruges

The SPBW mini breaks to Ostend in January became a much-loved feature of many members calendars but have not taken place since 2019.

It seems certain that they won't resume under the National Holidays banner.

When we discovered Shearings were running a similar trip but based in Bruges, we eagerly booked.

Although the cost was significantly higher, a May trip meant we could look forward to warmer weather, much longer daylight hours and the bars which shut for January being open.

A 4am start was a little challenging, particularly for me as my pre-booked taxi did not turn up (0 stars for SJK) and I ended up driving to the pickup at Shearings/Leger's head office in Rotherham.

The feeder coach took us through to Folkestone services where a considerable number of coaches had gathered for

numerous European holidays (our feeder coach was going on to do a 12-day tour of Italy).

A slick transfer to the tour bus and we were on our way via Euro Tunnel to Bruges and the 4-star Hotel Académie.

The well-appointed and spacious room was certainly an upgrade on the National Holidays offering.

So here we are in Bruges and to misquote the 2008 film's tagline - Beer first, sightsee later.

A word of warning though bell towers are involved in this tale too!

For those who know some of the bars in Bruges the hotel is located next door to Bieratelier and over the road from Yesterday's World.

It is also a short walk into the city centre, so that's where we started. A leisurely couple of beers and dinner were taken in Cambrinus, then onto one of our favourite bars, Du Garre for a couple more.

Not sure what it says about the impression John makes, but the barmaid said, 'I remember you'.

Our favourite beer of the night was the whisky infused Gouden Carolus Classic on draft at @The Pub.

This was a new bar to us as it had always been closed on previous January trips and was well worth the visit – just don't like the name!

We rounded the evening off with a Westmalle in the hotel bar.

The buffet breakfast at the Hotel Académie was also an upgrade on our previous experiences with a comprehensive range of hot and cold foods.

Knowing we had a full day in Bruges we decided to head for Damme which can be

reached by paddle 'steamer' (diesel of course), the Lamme Goedzak, along a canal from Bruges.

From the extremely unimposing jetty on the northern edge of Bruges we enjoyed a pleasant journey sat on the top deck looking out over open countryside.

Damme had once been a port for Bruges and is a pretty spot, with a windmill on the opposite side of the canal to the town.

A stone's throw from the canal is the Markt an open square with the gothic Stadhuis (town hall) on one side and bars round most of the remainder.

We settled at Ter Kloeffe where it seemed rude not to drink the Maerlant Damse Tripel or have our first Croque Monsieur.

After lunch we walked a little further and discovered that we could ascend the 43-metre bell tower of the church.

This involved a narrow spiral staircase to the bell chamber and then wooden steps, not much more substantial than a ladder.

Opening a trapdoor, we emerged onto an open square platform at the very top of the tower.

I can't think that UK health & safety would have permitted any of this.

From here there are superb 360-degree views over the countryside, Bruges in one direction and Zeebrugge, with ships in the port visible, in another.

Looking down over the village sized town it was clear there was little else to see in Damme so descending the tower we made our way back to the Lamme Goedzak.

This time we availed ourselves of the onboard bar for our sailing (paddling?) back to Bruges,

the beer of choice being the locally brewed Damme Noir.

We had the rest of the day in Bruges, but one regret was that Bier Boom was unexpectedly closed so we weren't able to catch up with our old friend Rudi.

On Wednesday morning the coach took us to Ghent, the driver being somewhat depreciative about the city and arranging to pick up 3½ hours later.

We had other plans.

As it was mid-morning we did a few touristy things, a canal boat trip, and The Belfry bell tower.

Thankfully after the previous day's experience, the latter had a lift most of the way to the viewing area.

This turned out to be a rather cramped arcade, particularly when shared with a school party, below the clock faces round each of the four sides but with good views over the city.

At beer o'clock it was time to find a bar, so old favourite Waterhuis was followed by Dulle Griet where we had the house beers in each and then onto Barraza.

This was a new bar to us located by the river Leie and we chose the locally brewed Gruut.

We have previously been to the Gruut brewery but decided not to this time.

On past occasions we have used the tram to get back to the railway station which is approx. 1½ miles from the centre.

Using The Belgium Good Beer Guide, I had plotted a bar crawl instead.

Draft trappist specialist Trappenhuis was first and then into the student area following one of the canals we reached the floating bar Planck (reached by walking the plank).

Our final stop in Ghent was due to be Rock Circus but although supposedly open it wasn't and deciding not to find a substitute, we headed across the Citadelpark to Sint Pieters Station and back to Bruges.

For the final day the trip was to Ostend, the driver this time being quite enthusiastic about the city.

Much as I like Ostend I wouldn't put it in the same league as Ghent, but each to their own.

Until now we had enjoyed really good weather but this morning it was dull with rain promised until clearing up in the afternoon.

A ride on the Kusttram seemed appropriate and for those who care the trams are now brand new.

We alighted at Nieuwport and headed straight to the nearby Sailors as the rain had started.

Grills are a speciality here and a wood fired oven dominates the middle of the bar, so it was a cosy stay.

A coffee followed by a beer was needed to see out the rain before a walk into the central square 'Marktpllein' and a draught Paix Dieu at De Beiaard.

Stopping off briefly at Middelkerke we made our way back to Ostend to renew our acquaintance with a couple of bars Manuscript & Botteltje and for me beers Keyte & Kwak.

We then took a bus to Stene to meet old friend Hilde at De Vlasschaard for an enjoyable meal and several beers including draft Gouden Carolus Classic.

Returning to Ostend there was time to visit 't Waterhuis and as there was a maritime event 'Ostend at Anchor' taking place the bar was very busy.

We managed to find a table and have a Kasteel Cuvee de Chateau, perhaps our signature beer and bar from previous visits.

Back to Bruges on the train and a detour to De Zandloper, where the waiter having forgotten to serve our order gave us the beer for free, before heading back to the hotel.

It was great to be able to go back to Belgium and staying in Bruges in May gave us a different view of the country.

We'd certainly do the trip again next year although we are also contemplating going via Eurostar and staying in Brussels which would halve the journey time and give us some new places to explore.

Gerv

WoodFest 3 Twickenham

The third National SPBW WoodFest was held at St. Margarets in Twickenham in south west London from Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th May 2022.

This follows on from WoodFest 1 in Castleford, West Yorkshire and WoodFest 2 in North Shields, Tyne & Wear.

The festival was held in the Winchester Room, which is the function room of the Turk's Head pub which is run by Fuller's Brewery.

There was a small queue outside when I arrived just after 6pm on the Wednesday evening, when the festival was open to SPBW and CAMRA members only.

Everything was well organised, and I only had a short wait to gain entry.

I had booked in advance and had received an email to say that there was no need to bring the booking confirmation, as a list of those who had booked would be checked off at the door.

SPBW and CAMRA members received £1 discount on the first beer token purchase, which were £10 each marked with 10 columns of 10 x 10p, which is a very flexible format.

It was also possible to buy a £5 token.

The glass hire deposit was £2, and the glasses were one pint CAMRA 50th Anniversary editions, marked off at thirds and halves.

An impressive stillage filled with wooden barrels (all gravity dispense) was in one corner of the room, and I chose my first beer, Phipps Steam Roller, a 4.4% bitter, which was excellent.

There were plenty of beers and beer styles on offer, ranging from 3.1% to 10.5% ABV.

There were also half a dozen beers on handpump dispense in another corner bar, which I was informed were from metal casks.

I had a quick look outside at the covered pub garden which is shared with the pub next door.

It was OK for visitors to the beer festival to also get a beer in the pub, and we all had wristbands to indicate that we had paid to enter the beer festival.

With so many beers to choose from, I decided to stay on the bitters on the Wednesday evening, as I was also coming to the festival on both Thursday and Friday.

After I left the festival, I visited the Turk's Head for a pint of Fuller's London Pride, which was very good.

Thursday, I had mainly pale ales in the afternoon, and then went to the Turk's Head for some food and another pint of Fuller's London Pride.

I then went for a walk down to Marble Hill, which is a 66-acre country park with an impressive Palladian Villa.

The park backs on to the river Thames, and I walked back towards Twickenham, stopping at the GBG listed White Swan for a half of Twickenham Brewery Naked Ladies.

This is a Grade II listed building opposite Eel Pie Island, and I managed to get a seat outside which is right on the river.

I walked back to the beer festival via the river Crane walk and Moor Mead Park.

There are quite a lot of green spaces in this area, despite the fact it is in a large city, and I also visited Richmond on Thames and Kingston upon Thames during my stay.

It was nice to have a bit of a break, and when I got back to the beer festival I started on the milds, stouts and porters.

I was only drinking the weaker beers, with the intention of mopping up as many of the stronger beers as I could on the Friday.

The results of the Beer of the Festival were in:

First Place **Portobello Market Porter**
Second Place **Cheshire Brewhouse Gibraltar Porter**
Third Place **Harvey's Best**

My own personal favourite beer was Animal (XT) Rye Pale Scarab.

I don't usually like beers which contain Rye, but this one was excellent.

I may have to reconsider my aversion to Rye beers.

I managed to try most of the beers on offer, apart from those which had sold out, and there were only a couple that were not to my taste.

Although most of the beers in wood were in nine-gallon barrels, there was one eighteen gallon and unusually one eleven-gallon barrel.

I met plenty of people whilst at the beer festival, and it was good to "put the face to the name".

Colin Beardsmore from our branch was there on Thursday and John Dyson was there on Friday.

Breweries represented were:

Ansbach & Hobday, Beerblefish, Cheshire Brewhouse, Clun, Goacher's, Harrogate Harvey's, Hook Norton, Larkin's, Mondo Moonface, Orbit, Phipps, Portobello Stardust, Tigertops, Trinity, XT, Surrey Hills Spartan, Thameside and East London

There were some interesting beer styles including two Heritage Porters, a German Altbier, a Barley Wine, a Tropical Stout and beers flavoured with ginger and elderflowers.

A fantastic event, and I'm so pleased I made the effort to travel down from Leeds to attend.

Charlie Cavaye

[SPBW West Riding Branch Events](#)

Sunday 12th June

[Branch Meeting](#)

Town Street
16-18 Town Street
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 4RJ

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 18th June

[Branch Trip to Everards Beer Hall and Leicester](#)

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds

Sunday 3rd July

Branch Meeting

Starling Independent Bar Café Kitchen
47 Oxford Street
Harrogate
HG1 1PW

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start

Saturday 16th July

Branch Trip to Liverpool & New Brighton

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds