

The Newsletter of
THE WEST RIDING BRANCH OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF BEERS FROM THE WOOD
(Issue 400 September 2022)

Founded 1963



Welcome to the SPBW West Riding Branch Newsletter for September 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

New Members Welcome

Welcome to SPBW West Riding Branch to new member Andrew Campbell.

Pub of the Season Presentation

Congratulations to our Pub of the Season winner Jacob's Well (Jacobs Beer House) in Bradford City Centre.

Our Chair, David Hardcastle has arranged the presentation for Saturday 1st October at 2pm.

It will be good to see as many of you as possible at the presentation.

Beer Festival Update

John Hartley has requested members who attend the **Halifax & Calderdale Beer Festival** to pay the entry fee with £1 or £2 coins where possible as this will help with glass hire refunds.

We now have some updated information on the attached beer festival list regarding:

Durham Beer Festival
Sheffield Beer Festival
Ulverston Beer Festival
Nottingham Beer Festival

I picked up a leaflet at the Great British Beer Festival at Olympia which gives details of the **National Woodfest Beer Festival 2023**, which will once again be at the:

Turk's Head
28 Winchester Road
St. Margaret's
Twickenham

from the 11th to the 13th of May 2023.

Recent changes to the CAMRA national website will make it more difficult for me to pick up details of forthcoming beer festivals.

Just seems to be showing address and dates, no details of opening times or prices.

Hopefully this will improve as the new layout beds in.

Charlie Cavaye

Yorkshire Day

1st of August is the branch annual John Buckle memorial Yorkshire Day crawl, when we travel to places in the county and hopefully find plenty of Yorkshire brewed ales in the pubs to enjoy.

This year our starting point was Keighley at new The Taylors on the Green pub that was opening for the first time on the same day.

An extensive refurbishment had taken place from what was previously the Lord Rodney.

A very spacious interior now with plenty of outside seating available too.

A full range of Taylors usual cask ales was available and all three of the ones I sampled were in excellent condition.

A great start to the day with about 25 members in attendance.

Just across the road is the Red Pig, a pub I had not visited for some while, so wasn't sure what to expect.

Four cask ales were available at very competitive prices.

My choice of Castle Rock Harvest Pale was excellent.

Also on the bar were a couple from Thornbridge including Jaipur.

The next pub we visited was the Boltmakers Arms, a former winner of our Pub of the Season award.

It doesn't change much and as usual had an extensive range of Taylors beers to choose from and all seemed to be in good order.

Those that came by train then travelled to Saltire and The Boathouse pub facing Roberts Park in a delightful setting overlooking the river.

Four cask ales were available, but one ran off as we were ordering but even the last half was in tip top condition.

Great service and one of the best views from the terrace you could want.

A walk up the hill to Salt Bar, formally The Hop in the old tram shed.

Here we met up with those who had travelled by bus.

About 8 cask ales adorned the bar from Salt, Ossett, and a couple of others.

All that were sampled were good.

Plenty of room inside or out in this very popular pub.

Across the road to the Salt Cellar, a multi award winning pub that for years kept opening and closing, but now has reached new heights since the new landlady took over.

Six or seven handpumps on the bar with an interesting and varied selection of beers to choose from, all in top condition.

We sat inside here but a lovely beer garden has been created at the rear.

By this time Fanny's Ale House had opened so it was back over the road to sample their offerings.

I remember having a beer from Beartown brewery that was very nice.

I like the alterations to the bar area that make it much more inviting as you enter, and easier for service and to see what is available.

A walk down the road took us to Groove Pad, an upstairs bar, very light and airy with views over the valley.

A good range of ales was available, and I think I had one from the recently resurrected Salamander Brewery.

A few chose to eat here and enjoyed what they had as well as the beer.

Next, we visited the Sir Norman Rae a Wetherspoons pub with a great choice of ale including one of my favourite ales Goose Eye Chinook that was most enjoyable.

Sadly, I did not make it to what was intended to be the last pub, The Fox, myself but I'm sure some did and would have had some more cracking ales to enjoy.

It really was a fabulous day out for a Monday when often it is difficult to find many pubs open these days.

Many thanks to all that attended, and I look forward to arranging next year's crawl.

Cheers

Graham Hewitt.

Stamford and Retford

The long hot summer continued for our day out in Stamford, Lincolnshire and Retford, Nottinghamshire.

A very pleasant day drinking some great beer in lots of pub beer gardens.

Both of these towns had been previous locations for SPBW West Riding visits, and even though it's been a while, I remembered them both quite well.

It certainly didn't seem like 5 years ago for our previous visit to Stamford.

Stamford is a very attractive town with limestone buildings and the remains of the original wall easy to spot.

We started off at the Jolly Brewer and joined the queue of SPBW members waiting to get served.

Beers available were Oakham JHB, Blue Monkey PG Sips, Adnam's Ghost Ship and St. Austell Tribute.

The Oakham JHB was on good form, so we decided to stay for a second half.

The Green Man had a nice outside area with most of the tables being taken up by our fellow members.

Beers available were Oakham Citra, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, Woodforde's Wherry and Castle Rock Harvest Pale.

I chose the Oakham Citra which was in good condition.

We managed to find a shaded area and as the beer was in good condition here too, we decided to stay for another half, with my next choice being the Castle Rock Harvest Pale.

The Millstone also had a popular beer garden and we managed to get a shaded area here, too.

Beers available were Grainstore Ten Fifty, Oakham Citra, Timothy Taylor's Landlord and St. Austell Tribute.

Once again, I chose the Oakham Citra. The shade was in great demand, and as we left, a group of ladies eagerly replaced us.

They said they had hoped we would leave after our half pint so they could get into the shade.

We next visited the Tobie Norris, one of our previous pubs of the season.

Beers available were Market Deeping Hopshackle and Market Deeping Shamuzzle, Oakham Citra, Church End Fallen Angel and Timothy Taylor's Landlord.

I chose the Market Deeping Hopshackle.

This is a very old building, and I went up to the top floor to take a picture of the rafters.

We had to sit inside here as garden was full.

It was quite uncomfortably hot inside.

The Lord Burghley had another pub garden which had quite a few of our members drinking outside.

Beers available were Grainstore Ten Fifty, Fullers London Pride, Sharps Doom Bar and Timothy Taylor's Landlord, from which I chose the London Pride.

We managed to get a last half pint in the Stamford Post Wetherspoons as it was near the coach pick up point.

It was very understaffed here and we had a long wait for service.

On to Retford with quite a long transfer up the A1, about one hour and 15 minutes.

We decided to start at the Dominie Cross Wetherspoons and have some food.

I used the Wetherspoons app, which worked well with my beer arriving whilst the rest of my group were still at the bar.

Our next choice was Beer under the Clock which was a pleasant micropub with good choice of ales, including Manning Brewery Whoa Man and Cave Man, Animal Praying Mantis, Small World It's Never One and Wishbone Velvet Gloss.

On to GPO, a small pub converted from a previous incarnation as the Retford General Post Office building.

Quite a few of our fellow SPBW members in here.

Our final pub was Idle Valley Tap which had beers from Idle Valley, Bradfield and Timothy Taylor.

Another chance to soak up the sun outside with our fellow coach passengers.

Back to Leeds and I finished up with a couple of pints in the Duck & Drake

Cheers!

Charlie Cavaye

Canterbury

My recent visit to Canterbury was a good weekend overall, but not all of the beer was great and not all of the bar staff were friendly.

It was yet another very hot weekend and many of the pubs had some kind of outdoor space where we could enjoy our beer.

Canterbury is a tourist destination with visitors from all over the world coming to see the magnificent cathedral and the quaint cobbled streets.

Things didn't start too well as there was a rail strike on the Saturday and one of us had to drive down from Hertfordshire.

The M25 motorway was very busy with many people taking to the roads as trains were not available.

The first pub, where we had arranged to meet our friends, was the West Gate inn, a Wetherspoons establishment.

The beer we chose was from Wantsum Brewery, and was fairly warm with a tired, thin taste.

I managed to drink about three quarters of a pint before giving up.

We were due to go to the Lady Luck, but as that was also a pub which sold Wantsum beers, we decided to give it a miss and check into our hotel.

We reconvened in the Foundry Brew Pub which is the home of Canterbury Brewery, and things started to improve.

The beer in here was excellent and the staff were very friendly.

One of the staff members, Lewis, noticed we were interested in the onsite brewery and offered us an impromptu look around.

I noticed quite a few wooden casks, so asked if they matured any of their beers in wood.

They used to, but they are now concentrating on maturing flavoured whisky in the wood!

Yes, they also have still.

The Bell and Crown was good with some outdoor seating.

The Thomas Tallis Alehouse was disappointing with cloudy craft style cask ale which was drinkable but not very pleasant.

Before going for a very good meal, we had a pint in the Cricketers, a Shepherd Neame pub.

Afterwards we went to the Unicorn Inn, near to where we were staying.

This was a similar experience to the Thomas Tallis, with poor quality beer.

Our next stop was the Monument, which was very good with a great atmosphere and a large outside drinking area which was very

popular even though it was getting quite dark by this time.

That was the Saturday, but Sunday was completely different with excellent beers and lovely pub gardens all day.

We started at the Eight Bells with a pint of Youngs London Original.

This pub was run by a friendly couple and was popular with families and dog walkers.

We next headed for the Two Sawyers which had a good choice of beers and a pleasant outside drinking area.

The New Inn Alehouse was the best pub all weekend with a great choice of ales and a lovely beer garden to relax in.

The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting various pubs which all had pleasant outside drinking areas including the Parrot, the Dolphin, the Thomas Becket and a further visit to the Foundry Brew Pub.

After our evening meal, we made another visit to the Monument.

On the Monday, we met up with our friends in the Thomas Ingoldsby, another Wetherspoons, where the beer was also disappointing.

After another pleasant visit to the New Inn Alehouse, we visited the Shakespeare, the Old Buttermarket and the Bishops Finger before heading for our train home.

Cheers!

Charlie Cavaye

SPBW West Riding Branch Events

Bradford
BD1 5RL

Branch Meetings

Meet 12 noon for a 12:15pm start **unless otherwise stated**

Sunday 4th September
Cross Keys, 3 Whitegate, Siddal, Halifax
HX3 9AE

Sunday 2nd October
Junction, Carlton Street, Castleford WF10
1EE

Sunday 6th November
Branch Meeting and **Annual General Meeting**
Guiseley Factory Workers Club, 6 Town
Street, Guiseley LS20 9DT

Sunday 4th December
Salamander Brewery, 22 Harry Street,
Dudley Hill, Tong, Bradford BD4 9PH

To be confirmed

Coach Trips

Meet 10:00am at bottom of Kirkgate,
Leeds **unless otherwise stated**

Saturday 17th September
Whitby

Saturday 15th October
Grasshopper, Hillside, Southport &
Ormskirk

Saturday 19th November
Possible replacement trip instead of New
Inn, Cropton Beer Festival

Pub of the Season Presentation

Saturday 1st October 2:00pm

Jacob's Well
14 Kent Street