



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Tippler

Winter 2012

FREE



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CAMRA says
THIS IS
REAL ALE

**Newsletter of the Loughborough &
North Leicestershire Branch of the
Campaign for Real Ale**


www.loughboroughcamra.org.uk

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Beer Lumping

2012 is to be a great year for sport. Everyone is looking forward to the pool events, arrows, oche hurdles, putting the shots, the hammer and flinging the firkin. I myself am trying to improve my time in the 568 gram weightlifting and the octathlon.

Let's raise our glasses and toast the heroic lads and lasses representing their pubs at football, darts, pool, dominoes, skittles and cribbage.

Our branch has been continuing with our activities, with many enjoyable and educational social visits and survey missions. Our Oktoberfest beer festival was attended by hundreds and hundreds, who between them downed many thousands of pints of good ale and cider. It must be mentioned that there was absolutely no trouble, although the committee are examining allegations of bad dancing and some crass jokes.

It's time now to start looking forward to the next Beer Festival at The Polish Club from 1st to 3rd March, I hope to see you there.

The Headhitter



Pubs Of The Season (joint) The Plough, Diseworth



Royal Oak, Long Whatton



Most Improved Pubs (joint) Generous Briton, Loughborough



Kings Arms, Colcorton



Was a cold and crisp night round a fire in a pub, when we set our minds to listing the good local pubs we knew with a real fire. The list isn't encyclopaedic or authoritative, but written on the back of a beer mat - so apologies to anybody we have missed.

Swan in The Rushes - Lboro
 Generous Briton - Lboro
 Falcon - Long Wharton
 Red Lion - Kegworth
 Griffin - Swillford
 Tap & Mallet - Loxo
 Swan - Mountsorrel
 Old Pack Horse - Lboro
 Past Arms - Lboro
 The Plough - Lboro
 Dove Drop Inn - Hathern
 The Windmill - Lboro
 Quendon Fox - Quorn
 White Horse - Quorn
 White Hart - Quorn
 Blacksmiths - Quorn
 Crown - Shepshed
 Blue Ball - Shepshed
 Black Swan - Shepshed
 Tap Barway - Shepshed
 George - Coleorton
 Pully's aka 3 Horseshoes - Whitwick
 The Albion - Lboro
 Bulls Head - Abbots Oak
 Swan Bridge Inn - Barnby
 Windmill - Wymecwold
 Masons Arms - Donthorpe

Town Pub Of The Year
 Generous Briton Loughborough



East Midlands Region Pub Of The Year
 The Crown, Beeston



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We are situated in the heart of Loughborough just outside of the town centre. Most evenings you can usually find this warm, Victorian terrace pub full of a cross section of Loughborough society. The Paget offers six traditional real ales always including Steamin' Billy ales and a rotating guest ale program.

We serve home cooked food
between
12 - 2:30 & 6-9 Monday - Friday,
12-6 on Saturdays
and our traditional Sunday lunch
between 12-3.

Our steak night is Thursday night and
our quiz is on Sunday nights from
8:30pm

The Paget, 41 Oxford Street,
Loughborough, LE11 5DP


What was the name of this pub?



This 1979 photo was taken in the
centre of Loughborough by Philip
Thorpe.

Can you remember it?

Answer overleaf ►

 **Beer Factoid:** Citra is an american aroma hop, but it's high alpha acid content means it can be used for bittering too, often as a single variety beer.

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The Volunteer



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Traditional Homemade Food

Food served Wednesday - Friday 12noon - 2.30pm and 6pm - 9pm
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Contact us for further details

01530 260544

email: queensheadheather@hotmail.co.uk
5 Main Street, Heather, Leicestershire, LE67 2QP



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Loughborough CAMRA Socials

17th March St Neots Beer Festival.

Train from Loughborough and Leicester to Bedford, then the express bus to St Neots arriving around 10.55am. Visit the Pigeon Falcon pub before a short visit to the Beer Festival. The main purpose of the visit to the area is the Chequers at Little Gransden, home to the Son of Sid Brewery, over 2 hours here before returning to St Neots and Bedford where we visit The Wellington Arms and if time The Bedford Arms.

6th April. Easter tour. 10.15am train from Leicester to Peterborough. Working on a new trip but will still visit the usual beer festivals at The Barge, Hand and Hart and The Green Man at Stamford.

13th or 27th April (TBC). Friday Evening beer Festival Workers Brewery Trip to Muirhouse

15th or 29th April (TBC). Derbyshire Wayfarer to the Glossop and the Chinley area. 8.45am Train to Sheffield and change for Chinley or New Mills. In the Chinley area visit the Old hall Inn, Navigation at Buxworth and maybe The Lamb in Chinley, At Glossop visit Wheatsheaf (next to the Howard Town Brewery), Star Inn and the Crown Inn.

21st May. Possible formal bus or Mini bus trip to Oxfordshire with brewery visit.

May. Blue Dog Sewstern Beer Festival or A Tour of East

Leicestershire. Departing Tap and Mallet at 6.30pm on a Friday evening. No details yet on this year's festival but it is usually the last weekend.

2nd June Three Valleys Beer festival. 9.45am train from Loughborough to Chesterfield or Dronfield. More details later

16th June Welland Beer festival. More details later.

FURTHER DETAILS WHEN AVAILABLE AT www.loughboroughcamra.org.uk

Somewhere in this newsletter is a PINK ELEPHANT, two if you are seeing double. Can you find it?

Loughborough CAMRA

Beer Festival

and recommended local pubs

-  Knight Social Club
-  Pigeon Arms
-  Sanctuary's
-  The Swan in The Pasture
-  The Moor & Dole
-  Greenway Pines
-  Tap & Mallet
-  The Washmill
-  The Albion



Branch CAMRA Social Trips

The new social calendar started in

September with a 1962 Bristol vintage bus tour to Newark and Southwell.

Most members met in the **Amber Rooms** for an early Breakfast, before the 10



o'clock departure from the Rushes. First port of call was the **Just Beer Micropub** in Newark, which opened in 2010. It has just one room with 4 or 5 ever changing beers from small breweries always on offer. After spending 1½ hours there it was time to move on to the Minster town of Southwell where people split into groups and visited the following pubs: **Hearty Goodfellow**, **Old Coach House**, **The Bramley Apple**

and finishing off in **The Final Whistle**, a new Everard's Project William pub, which had 10 real ales from different breweries.



The beer garden theme is a railway station with its own track and signals. All the pubs visited in Southwell had a good range of beers from various breweries. En route home we visited **The Plough Inn** at Wysall where 5 well kept beers were on offer.

In October a beer festival workers trip was organised to the **Parish Brewery** in Burrough on the Hill.

After a warm welcome from Barry Parish in his pub **Grants** next to the Brewery, beer tokens were issued. Barry then took us into his brewery, along with 5 large jugs of different beers from his range, and gave a talk about the brewery and the Parish business. One of the highlights was when Barry opened a bottle of his 12% Baz's Bonce Blower, at 18 months old, which was very nice but when he opened a 3 year old bottle, it was something else! Members will now be saving bottled Bonce Blower for 3 years. After the brewery tour an excellent Melton Mowbray buffet awaited. Most members ended on the Baz's BonceBlower and a good night was had by all.

30 members joined the November Bus trip to the medieval city of Chester. A map and a list of pubs were supplied. I led a walk to the **East Clock** and along the wall to the south side of the city with four pubs to visit in this area: **Bear and Billet**; **Cross Keys**; **The Albion** and the **Spitting Feathers**



Brewery Tap (which was a medieval banquet hall where King Charles I was noted to have stayed overnight in 1645).

Onwards to the **Pied Bull** which brews its own beer, called Bull's Hit. The last part was along the canal to the **Mill Hotel** with 10 beers on offer and the **Old Harkers Arms**, also with a good range of beers. Since my last visit to Chester the city now has got a good range of beers and pubs. I will be back again soon.

This year's Christmas social was a story of two halves with the first part being a mid afternoon trip to Beeston. The first pub was **The Crown**

(CAMRA East Midlands pub of the year 2011), which is an Everard's Project William pub



with 13 Real Ales on offer from many microbreweries. It was soon time to move on to **The Victoria**, a Castle Rock pub near the station. The pub was very busy with Morris Dancers performing but was worth the effort as 10 Real Ales were on offer. Then the train to Barrow upon Soar for the second part of the Christmas social. There we met up with the rest for the evening part and making a total of 27. The first port of call was **The Navigation Inn** which had the full range of Theakston's, apart from the Old Peculiar, and a strong seasonal beer. The second pub was **The Hunting Lodge** which had Harvest Pale, London Pride and Adnam's Broadside which was excellent. The final pub was the **Soar Bridge Inn** where a welcoming buffet was laid on, along with well kept beers on offer, with Yorkshire Terrier being my favourite.

A Christmas Delight

17th Christmas Beer Festival, Essen, Belgium - 17th/18th December 2011

Having attended a few beer festivals in Europe (Belgium, Netherlands and Germany) I was interested that this one had been labelled "Christmas Beer". This is my favourite style of beer and wherever I go in Belgium around this time of year, I have been treated to some of the best beers you will ever taste.



We based our trip in Antwerp having taken the Eurostar from London. After spending Thursday evening and Friday exploring our favourite Antwerp bars we caught the train on Saturday to Essen. A short 35km journey to the

border with The Netherlands and we arrived 50 minutes before the festival opened so decided to take some exercise and walk the 1800m. Upon arrival at the festival at 1.30pm it appeared that the 2.00pm opening time was only an indication as there were already 100 drinkers indulging and a queue of 50 to purchase glassware and tokens. The festival is organised by O.B.E.R. (objective beer tasters of the Essen region) and aims to showcase every Christmas beer brewed that year.

The venue was the local sports hall marked out for umpteen basketball courts but now replaced with approx. 80 long trestle tables seating 10 to a table. In the middle of the hall was the glassware and token stall. Free entry and refundable 15cl glass hire at €3,



tokens at €1.50 each and an English translation of the beer menu at €2. The tasting notes are comprehensive averaging 150 words per beer and giving you all the information on the beer that you would ever need. Incidentally, on production of your CAMRA card you were given a free beer token. Nice.



The bar stretched half the length of the long side of the hall with 23 beers on draught and the remaining 140 served from bottles stored on wooden shelving. I immediately relaxed in the surroundings and I surveyed my first beer. I

thought that draught beer would be a good starter so commenced with a 9% Winterbol – a rare dark winter beer from the region of Flemish Brabant. Each beer was priced at 1 token with a few specials costing multiples of tokens. Drinking beer at this strength needs careful planning so I sought out the catering stall. For the price of 1 token you could choose from a saucer sized plate stacked high with cubed cheese or salami or a cheese and ham toasty called traditionally a "croque monsieur". These were absolute bargains. If you wanted a more substantial meal then you could have purchased the beef stew



cooked with Christmas beer €3, or Christmas beer soup €2 or a cheese plate with 4 different cheeses and bread €4. Back to the beer. Liz appeared satisfied with her choices and that relieved me as she is a hardened cider drinker preferring Belgium gueuzes and lambics that are quite dry and sour in taste yet she found some tasty unfiltered beers to her liking. I tried many Christmas beers in styles that if you are unfamiliar with Belgium beer are like strong UK barley wines and rich dark porters and stouts but all with just that little bit more extra taste. It's the brewing



process that makes Belgium beers different. The ingredients and yeast are just that slightly bit unique. Some may say that they are chewy beers. Well maybe they are but let's face it would you gulp down a pint of 10% beer and order another in quick succession without feeling an effect? And it is this effect that slows down your rate of consumption and trains you to appreciate what's in the glass for just that little bit longer.

The bottled beers were held in cold storage in a side annex and there was a crew of festival workers whose sole mission was to ensure that as each stock of bottles diminished they were replaced with fresh ones. Quite a different way to serve beer as each worker had to open the bottle themselves which in itself doesn't appear too difficult but with the range in sizes and stoppers (some were corked and wired) you needed to have your wits about you.



The temperature of the beer was perfect and the service was efficient and friendly. By 5.00pm the organisers had closed the doors as the venue had reached its 900 capacity. Some punters on our table found the solution to the crowded serving area and hired another glass and bought 2 beers at a time. One down side of this was they drank twice as fast and with the strength of the beers averaging 8-10% were either becoming very animated or very quiet! I paced myself and by the time we left at 9.00pm had tried 18 beers all of which I rated.

The next day we did it all again. This time with a 12.00 noon start and not as busy as the previous day and I took the time to look around the festival stalls selling merchandise and special bottles of beer. I bought the obligatory T-shirt that I wore proudly on Boxing Day at home. We are going to this festival next year. Yes it is that good. One of the best I have ever attended but this time we will stay in Belgium longer. If you want any further information just go onto the internet and type in Essen Kerstbierfestival or better still buy me a beer and I'll give you all the details.

Cheers

Eric Anderson

Make tracks to Derby's 110th...

Winter

BEER Festival



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Thursday evening : Morsaybassets + support

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Non-Member	£3	£2	£4	£3	£5	£3	£3

All details subject to change. CAMRA reserves the right to substitute acts to qualify for live advertising. For the Derby CAMRA Young Persons Group visit our website for details of events (youngpeople.org.uk)



Derby City Council
11th Waterfront

The Roundhouse, Derby College, Priole Park, DERBY DE24 1UE. For full details visit www.derbycamra.org.uk

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