



***Hello, and Welcome to the new quarterly email newsletter from The Loughborough and N.W. Leics. Branch.***

## **The E-Tippler**

***The Loughborough and N.W. Leics. Branch of CAMRA quarterly newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> October edition.***

***Next newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 with deadline for submission of articles and adverts of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016***

Ey oop me duck and Welcome to this the first of what I hope will be an initial year's run of Quarterly email newsletters from Loughborough and N.W. Leics. Branch. Any comments about the newsletter will be gratefully received but please bear in mind that I am an amateur editor of what I am sent by contributors, and not myself a journalist. Especial thanks this quarter to Dave Roche, Fred Sleath (thricely!), Philip Thorpe, and Alex Skerritt. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or of Loughborough and N.W. Leics. CAMRA.

But how could you participate in the activities of Loughborough CAMRA for example? Could you assist our Pubs Officer by surveying pubs to update WhatPub, and emailing any omissions or differences between the published information on whatpub and what you observe on your visit? Could you accompany us on one of our survey evenings see below, or assist at the set up on February 26<sup>th</sup>, running March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> and breakdown March 5<sup>th</sup> of our annual beer festival, confirmed next year at The Polish Club, True Lovers Walk, Loughborough. Or would you like to attend one of our social trips? I include a description of a recent one below.

Please contact me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com) if you would like any further details..

*So, lets start with a report of a recent social trip*

### Branch Trip to Ledbury

The first thing I hear you ask is, Where is Ledbury and why go there ...?

Well, at the risk of stating the obvious, because there is real ale to be had thereabouts and we are CAMRA after all! Oh, and by the way, it's near Malvern, top end of the Severn estuary, for those who don't know!

So, on 20<sup>th</sup> August, an intrepid group assembled on Leicester Station and headed off via a change at New Street in Birmingham, to arrive at **Ledbury** in time for opening of the local hostleries at 11 am. The first port of call was the **Seven Stars**, a part medieval building exhibiting large amounts of timber framing but with some very modern twists. Following a fire some years ago, it had to be extensively refurbished and now boasts plate glass doors with brushed metal handles, all a stark contrast to the older parts of the building, but it all works in what might be thought an unbelievable way, to give a very pleasant ambience for the drinking experience. Talking of which, Olde Swan's Original and Wye Valley's Bitter were on the bar – both very acceptable after the long train rides.



We then moved round the corner to the **Prince of Wales**, which is situated on a pedestrian-only alley between the old Grammar School – a building on stilts in the manner of the one in Market Harborough – and the Parish Church.

This pub is well worth a visit, as it has seven real ales on, including Ledbury Dark, a very quaffable mild, as a resident, and guest Big Smoke Solaris, a 3.8 % pale ale, which was slightly citrus without being grapefruit-in-a-glass, enough to make it a pleasant session ale. Along side these there are also beers from Wye Valley, Charles Wells and Hobsons as their permanent fixtures. It is a delightful place with many interesting, informative and funny posters decorating the walls. Food is available.

After this, we were summoned for the first and, as it turned out, only bus journey of the day. Our well-organised Branch Social Secretary Dave Roche had



scheduled all the train and bus timetables to ensure maximum connectivity with minimal waiting around, as is his efficient custom, unlike the bus service, which was late and meant us waiting in what had become a small local monsoon – fortunately sheltering under said Grammar School next to the bus stop.

So, while the weather was going steadily downhill, we headed very much in the opposite direction, up to **Colwall**, between Ledbury and Great Malvern, and to the **Chase Inn**, which proved a welcome shelter once we had improved our map-reading skills sufficiently to find it! This was quite an interesting place with what is a quite old-fashioned interior, having bow and spindle backed chairs and a very busy tapestry patterned carpet, rather 1970's. However, it was comfortable, the food was good, as was the Batham's Best Bitter. They also regularly have beers from Ledbury, Malvern Hills and Wood.

We then braved the walk back up the hill, gazing back at the magnificent view towards Hereford and Wales and then looking ahead, within 50 meters, to a similarly impressive view over Great Malvern and out towards Worcester and the Severn Valley. This walk brought us to the **Wyche Inn**, a pub therefore with some of the best views in the country! Wye Valley H.P.A. was available, which must have been good, since I didn't write anything to the contrary! The bar was a bit of a barn – large, bare and a bit lacking in atmosphere. But, this was made up for by the good company, the beers and the view!

Fortunately the weather had dried up when we left and it was down hill all the way into **Great Malvern** so, when the bus didn't stop, we simply set off on foot to arrive at the **Great Malvern Hotel** in the middle of town. The bar gives good views of the street-life passing by outside while supping the excellent Malvern Hills Black Pear. No, not a perry as you might suspect, but pleasant golden ale.

Our final call before the train to start for home, was the **Morgan Inn**, situated conveniently near the station. This is a Wye Valley house. The correct order of consumption is the HPA first, which is relatively delicate, ahead of the powerful and very moreish 4.5% Butty Bach.

Having successfully negotiated the train back to New Street, there was time for a couple in what Dave thinks was the **Post Office Vaults** (it was all getting a bit hazy for us by then) although I definitely don't remember it being as red as it appears on the What Pub website! Had an excellent pint of Hobson's Mild but don't remember any more: it had been a really good day ....!

If having read this, it has whetted your appetite, keep an eye on the Branch Diary for Dave's next trip, which will be at the beginning of December, details to be announced.

Written By:

Fred Sleath

# Upcoming meetings

All members are welcome to attend any meeting, meet the Committee and other members. If you live nearby just come along and make yourself known. Your presence would be especially welcome at the meetings to show the recipients how their efforts are appreciated by the members. Our next branch meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> October at The Black Lion Blackfordby with free transport leaving from The Tap, Nottingham road at 7.30. Intermediate pick up and drop off can be arranged but only by emailing [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> as adhoc taxi arrangement can be very expensive.

Our next Pub survey will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October surveying a number of pubs in the LE12 Area. Thanks go to Steve, David, Elizabeth, Heather and Andrew, Martin and Andy for their help this week. The best that can be said is that some areas of the branch have potential! Again free transport will be leaving from The Tap, Nottingham road at 7.30. Intermediate pick up and drop off can be arranged but only by emailing [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com) by the 10<sup>th</sup> as adhoc taxi arrangement can be very expensive.

Later dates are all on or will be posted on the website  
<http://www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk>

## **Two social events are planned for December.**

3<sup>rd</sup> December all day trip by rail, is still in the planning stages as we wish to avoid the enormous Christmas crowds at both Birmingham and Lincoln

17<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Social. This will start late afternoon and will finish in Loughborough. All are welcome and the details will be on the website or from me in early December by writing to [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

14<sup>th</sup> January Straw Bear festival at Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. An excellent day out with Dance, mummers, bear and beer!

## **Upcoming Beer Festivals**

**I am happy to advertise a local beer festival and you will see one such advert below the list. You should have time, having read this promptly, if you get a move on.....**

5th to 9th October 29th Brunswick Beer Festival, Station Approach, Derby

7th to 9th October Retford Beer Festival, Retford Town Hall, Town Hall Yard

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October October fest at Quorn Village hall

12th to 15th Oct Nottingham Camra Beer Festival, Nottingham Castle Grounds

20th to 23rd October Royal Oak Annual Beer Festival, Green Lane-Ockbrook 21st & 22nd Oct Matlock & Dales CAMRA Beer Festival, County Hall, Matlock

27th to 29th October The Hollybush Inn Holly Bush Lane-Makeney

27th to 29th October Arkwrights Beer Festival, Campbell Street-Belper

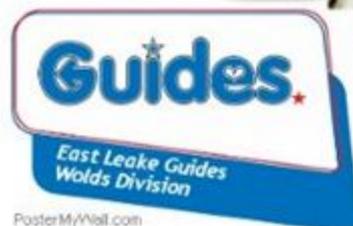
Want to advertise you beer festival then please email me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

**Girl Guides Switzerland Expedition  
2017  
Beer Festival  
Sat 1st Oct 2016  
East Leake Village Hall  
7-11pm**



Selected Beers from  
local Breweries  
Ciders and Gin  
Fiendish Quiz: cash prize  
Snacks and Nibbles  
Cash raffle

Tickets £6 inc first drink  
contact:



PosterMyWall.com

Rob 07890919580  
[1eastleakeguides@gmail.com](mailto:1eastleakeguides@gmail.com)  
the Flower Shop, East Leake

## Pub Updates

**The Three Horseshoes, 11 Leicester Road Whitwick.** We are delighted that the only national inventoried pub in our branch has recently been ACV listed, by North West Leicestershire District Council. ACV listing has been a CAMRA campaign recently and I am grateful for the support of Michael Slaughter of The Camra Pubs Heritage group, in completing our application. It is the interior that is of course, most important and I enclose a full description below. Deliberately, I have not included any photography as, to quote Ralph, you cannot experience life fully through a lens, and I know you will want to see it for yourself or research it on google images.

The Three horseshoes (Polly's) Public house. Two cottages of early/mid C19, converted and extended with a front range to form public house in 1882. Red brick with hipped slate roof to front and plain tile roof to rear range. Various side and rear brick stacks. 2 storeys. Front 1882 wing (plaque on front elevation) is a 3-window range at first floor of 6/6 sashes. Below is the front door with overlight with a tripartite window either side with 1/1 sashes. Window openings and front door have incised stucco lintels with keystones. Painted stone sills. Margin light sashes to sides except for left upper 1/1 sash. To right rear is the original earlier C19 range with truncated gable end stack. C20 windows to front. Attached to far right is a single-storey outbuilding which projects forward and has gable end to road. INTERIOR. Ground floor to front has 2 rooms with central servey. Front door opens into internal partially glazed timber lobby with an off-sales hatch facing. Public bar (entered by doorway with overlight above to left side of the lobby) has red quarry tiles to floor, late C19 panelled bar fittings and 2 fireplaces with timber and tiled surrounds. Fixed timber benches to external walls. Saloon bar (entered by doorway to right side of the lobby) has boarded floor and hatch to communicate with servery. Fireplace has carved timber surround. Dado rail to wall. HISTORY. Whitwick, situated on the edge of the Charnwood Forest and in the former long-established Leicestershire coalfield, developed as a mining community following the opening of the Whitwick Colliery in the 1820's. The development along Leicester Road was largely undertaken 1850-1900 and public houses such as this one opened to serve the expanding population. The colliery closed in the late C20. However the Three Horseshoes (also know locally as 'Pollys' after a popular former barmaid), remains as a remarkably complete survival of a rare two-room working man's public house of the later C19. SOURCES. The CAMRA National Inventory of Pub Interiors of Outstanding Historic Interest, CAMRA, 2003. Smith, S., A Brief History of Whitwick, Leicestershire Libraries, 1984.

Do take the opportunity of visiting this little gem. It serves, in my opinion, with The Peacock in Loughborough excellent Draught Bass

**The Three Horseshoes at Wymeswold** is now fully reopened with Pizza oven.

Also with a new Pizza oven is **The Horse at Shepshed**.

Finally, following our September meeting and after listening to a well-argued case for its nomination, I am delighted to announce that **The Needle and Pin, Loughborough** is our first Cider Pub of the year. I have included an article on Cider below; our secretary is a great fan! The presentation will take place soon, the date of which will be announced on the website, after our receipt of the certificate from Camra H.Q.

Please check the details of any pub that you attend in our branch and if any details are inaccurate then please click on the button and send me accurate information.

Any more pub news? Please email me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

I welcome adverts from pub and Clubs in the next eTippler, the copy deadline for which will be December 20th

### Club Updates

The **Conservative Club in Quorn** is shut at present with no sign of it reopening.

All of the clubs in this branch, that fulfil the Camra requirements for listing, are now on whatpub. If there are any omissions or errors then please let me know.

Any more club news? Please email me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

### Brewery Updates

A new brewery is being installed at The Priory, no, sadly not the one in nanpantan. I have heard it said that Andrew of Charnwood brewery has graciously been assisting with some of the set up. More details in the December newsletter.

Any brewery news? Please email me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

And now as promised, the Cider article

## The Old Cider Front

*By: Alex Skerritt*

Hello and welcome to the new tippler, I have felt compelled to write an article for it as I am a cider enthusiast, and Loughborough especially in the past eight years has gone from strength to strength on the cider front.

Way back in 2009 the Cider Front in Loughborough was far different to what is now you could only find Real Cider in very select venues, and good Real Cider in even more select venues. One such main venue was The Swan in the Rushes which always had at least two different real ciders on, and was a regular haunt for myself because of this. The only other venues were The Moon and Bell, which always had Weston's Old Rosie on (but you had to ask as it was rarely advertised), and once in a blue moon The Amber Rooms would have a box on but this was a rare treat, as normally it was something more obscure than Weston's, normally a welsh Cider.



It wasn't until the Old Pack Horse was bought by the Blue Monkey Brewery in 2012, that things cider wise started to take shape in Loughborough, and I believe it was this that became the true game changer in Loughborough. Upon opening the Organ Grinder became the main local vendor for Charnwood Cider (a local cider producer), This pub would often have two, sometimes three different ciders on, this showed to local establishments that cider was becoming more popular and in a big way.

It was a fast domino effect in Loughborough as almost at the same time the Generous Briton underwent a revamp and started having one real cider on regularly, and The Paget Arms received a new Landlord who also happened to be pro-cider, and then had frequently had two real ciders on as they were very popular with the students. By the end of 2013 The Swan in the Rushes, The Organ Grinder, And The Paget Arms frequently had Three Real ciders on each at any given moment, the bonus was all venues had different selections, this was helped by another local cider producer had started in Loughborough, Gladstone Cider, which more of late is occasionally featured in the White Heart, as its main real cider.

But now to today, sadly now the Organ Grinder's new landlord has knocked real Cider on the head, but always remember one man's loss is another man's gain, the Phantom around the corner has had a revamp and regularly now features at least one real cider. In addition to this the Paget Arms new landlord has rained the ciders right

back to one regular highly expensive fruit based cider. But thankfully the jewel in the crown of Loughborough is now the Needle and Pin Micro Pub. The Needle and Pin is a charming venue with over four different ciders at any given point at a reasonable price I hasten to add, and for many reasons this is currently my favourite cider haunt.

So at the moment the Cider Scene in Loughborough is looking bright and stable despite the latest few wobbles with new landlords, who clearly are not educated on the beneficial, medicinal, and curative powers of Real Cider.

Thanks For Reading.

**Appeal for local info** Let us know by emailing [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com) if a pub/club has a new or leaving landlord/manager/steward; just started/stopped selling real ale or cider; increased/reduced the number of working handpumps; planning a beer/cider festival; started offering discounts to CAMRA members? Any rumours of new pubs or breweries? If you wish to promote any events please email me at [loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com](mailto:loughborocamrapubs@gmail.com)

## **Links**

CAMRA national website <http://www.camra.org.uk/>

Loughborough CAMRA website <http://www.loughboroughcamra.co.uk/>

Branch contact info [loughboroughcamra@gmail.com](mailto:loughboroughcamra@gmail.com)

Our Branch AGM will take place on November 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30 at The Tap and Mallet, Nottingham Road. All are welcome.

Next edition, I am hoping to scoop The Tyke Taverner and include the full details of this years trip by Brian to Bradford!

Finally, I hope that this first effort has been of some value to you and that you will support its successors.

Thank you for reading.