

# Branch Diary

- Sat October 30** 330pm Pub of the Season presentation to the Blue Bell, Scunthorpe
- Sat November 6** 10am Rail trip to Wakefield Beer Festival. Meet Scunthorpe Station
- Fri 19 November** 730 pm Branch social, Malt Shovel, Ashby
- Sat 4 December** 10am Pub crawl of York. Meet Scunthorpe Station,
- Fri 17 December** 730pm Branch Christmas Party, Malt Shovel, Ashby



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# Iron Brew

Newsletter of Scunthorpe & District

Campaign for Real Ale



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
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**FREE**

Autumn 2010

**FREE**

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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## Britain is Top of the Hops!

CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2011, launched in September, announced there are now a staggering 767 breweries operating in Britain - that's four times the number than when the Campaign for Real Ale was founded in 1971.

The Guide reports that 78 new breweries have opened in the past year. Allowing for closures, that's a net increase of 56. Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz said, "The real ale revolution goes on in spite of all the problems facing the brewing industry such as the often anti-competitive behaviour of the large pub companies, the heavy and continuing rise in tax on beer, grossly unfair competition from supermarkets, and the smoking ban in pubs. Yet, against

## **IRON BREW**

**Published quarterly by Scunthorpe & District Campaign for Real Ale. Edited by Mark Elsome**

**29 The Dales, Bottesford who would be pleased to receive comments for publication**

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**Copy date for next issue**

**7 January 2011**

**Web Site:**

<http://www.scunthorpecamra.org.uk>

**Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author, and may not be the views of CAMRA locally or nationally**

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### **Branch Committee**

**Branch Chairman:** Mark Elsome  
(Tel: 01724 331056)

**Branch Treasurer:** Chris Lyon  
(Tel: 01724 761217 )

**Branch Secretary:** Bev Branton  
(Tel: 01724 357009)

**Membership Secretary:**  
Paul Williams (Tel: 01673 818109)

**Social Secretary:**  
Sarah Wullink  
(Tel: 07840155637) (m)

all the odds, craft breweries continue to sprout like mushrooms at dawn. The main reason is a simple one: craft brewers are responding to genuine consumer demand. Beer in pubs may be expensive compared to cheap supermarkets but drinkers are prepared to pay a bit extra for beer with taste and quality. Real ale has flavour and is made from pure, natural ingredients that are grown mainly here in Britain. More and more people want to think local and drink local and real ale meets that demand."

"The Guide is full of success stories of small craft breweries that are booming and growing as a result of beer lovers' demand. The British are notoriously bad at celebrating the things we do well, but let's raise a glass to the success of the good old British pint!"

## **PUB & BREWERY NEWS**

**The Beckwood** in Bottesford is now featuring real ale once again, with Hobgoblin and Black Sheep Bitter gracing the bar. Quality is reported to be good, and with Taylor's Landlord and Fuller's London Pride expected shortly, things are really looking up!

**P**ub beer festivals are to the fore over the coming weeks; the **Blue Bell** in Scunthorpe kicks off proceedings on 27 October - 14 November, when they are part of a Wetherspoon's national event. Expect a great range of British real ales, plus their unique selling point of excellent foreign beers brewed at British breweries by the original brewers. One not to be missed! Following seamlessly on from the Wetherspoon event is the 7<sup>th</sup> beer festival at the **Malt Shovel** in Ashby from 15 - 21 November. Expect another varied range of real ales, plus sausage nights, quizzes and live music at the weekend, in what promises to be another great festival. See you there!

**The Dog & Gun** at East Butterwick will be launching their latest brew called F-F-F-F-Five on November 1. This celebrates five years at the pub for mine hosts Dixie & Judy Dean. Eyes down for the first pint when the pub opens at 5pm. Will it be a 5% ABV brew too?

## **TRADING STANDARDS**

If you are concerned about short measures or any other aspects of pub service, contact: -

## **SCUNTHORPE TRADING STANDARDS**

**TEL: 01724 297664**

## Summer Pub of the Season - The Wheatsheaf, Barton-upon-Humber



*Branch member Carol Goodman (centre) presents the Pub of the Season certificate to licensees Sarah & Jim Woodhouse*

## Beer Joke

A man walks into a bar, and buys a huge beer. Then he sees someone he knows, and decides to go and say hello to them, but he doesn't want to drag his beer glass with him. So he sets it on a table, along with a note, "I spat in this beer", hoping that no one will steal it. Upon returning, he sees another note saying, "Me too!"



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## PUB OF THE SEASON AUTUMN 2010 THE BLUE BELL, SCUNTHORPE

Our Autumn Pub of the Season award goes to the Blue Bell on Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, part of the J D Wetherspoon organisation. This popular pub has a strong commitment to real ale, helped in no small part by the enthusiasm of manager Paul Ferguson and staff. Not only do they host the two national Wetherspoon beer festivals in Spring and Autumn each year, but also put on mini beer festivals featuring real ales from a couple of breweries, often those suggested by customers. Recent mini-festivals have seen beers from the likes of Kelham Island, Bradfield, Goose Eye and Thornbridge adorning the bar. The quality of the beers is excellent, and Wetherspoon's policy of offering a pint of real ale for under £2 clearly pays dividends with customers. The pub also offers value for money breakfasts from 8am, and has a varied full and snack meal menu all day up to 10pm, which appeals to people of all ages. The curry night on a Thursday is always particularly well supported.

On a Wednesday evening the pub hosts a popular pub quiz, with a cash prize for the winning team. The pub always has a good selection of real ales, as well as an extensive range of ciders and bottled beers.

Their next beer festival runs from 27 October – 14 November, and we will be presenting the award during the festival on Saturday 30 October at 330pm.

Mark Elsome

## Classic Albums No. 33: Fleet Foxes – Fleet Foxes (Bella Union)



From the Bruegel peasant painting on the cover, to the glorious, largely pastoral music within, you know immediately that you are in the presence of a prodigious talent. Fleet Foxes are a young five piece band from Seattle, but instead of continuing with the city's grunge heritage, they have formed a very different kind of rock band, describing their music as 'baroque harmonic pop jams'.

In their soaring harmonies and mixture of acoustic and electric instruments, it's possible to discern a disparate range of influences, from American church music, through the Byrds, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and Brian Wilson to English folk rock bands such as Fairport Convention. Lead singer and songwriter Robin Pecknold writes melodies that are easy to absorb, and songs such as *White Winter Hymnal* and *Tiger Mountain Peasant Song* sound better and better the more you play them.

The material is very varied, with full band ensemble pieces like *Quiet Houses* and *Blue Ridge Mountains* mixed in with quieter, more reflective pieces such as *Meadowlarks* and *Oliver James*. The playing is first class throughout, but it's their superb use of vocal harmonies that stands out and is their strongest attribute.

Amazingly, apart from the earlier *Sun Giant* EP, this is their first full length recorded output, released in 2008. To produce such an inspired, mature album at their first attempt suggests they are destined for a glittering career. If ever you feel like kicking back after a stressful day, this is the album to restore your spirits. Highly recommended, and a modern classic.

Mark Elsome

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## Trip to Hawkshead Brewery

The end of July saw a somewhat intrepid bunch of members set out on an expedition to the Lake District with a final destination of the Beer Hall at Hawkshead brewery, Staveley for their 4th Summer Beer Festival. With some cunning planning en route there was also the opportunity to visit two excellent pubs: the New Inn at Clapham and



the Watermill Inn, Ings to take on some refreshment. We had hired a camping barn set in magnificent Lakeland scenery for two nights, spending the Friday night in sampling home cooking, two of our members' homebrew and some fun and games.

On Saturday we took in some of the delights of Windermere with our final destination of the festival on the Saturday evening. The festival had a selection of 50 beers on offer but, having been open since Thursday by the time we arrived on Saturday evening these had pretty much been exhausted leaving us mostly with a selection from Hawkshead of : Bitter 3.7%, Red 4.2%, Lakeland Gold 4.4%, Brodie's Prime 4.9%, Windermere Pale 3.5%, Organic Stout 4.5% plus a Hawkshead bottled Lakeland Lager at 5.0% and a selection of foreign bottled beers for those among us less keen on quaffing pints of real ale.

Out of these we selected the pale and stout as our favourites and would thoroughly recommend these. There was also some excellent live music in the outside Marquee Bar plus a variety of food.

All in all it was an excellent trip and evening although, for future trips it would be worth either visiting earlier during the festival for a greater range of beers, or at a less busy weekend to enjoy the Lake District and the selection of beers on offer from Hawkshead all year round in the Beer Hall.

Sarah Wullink

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## OFT Rejects CAMRA's Concerns Over Beer Tie

CAMRA believes abuses of the beer tie in the UK pub market are leading to higher prices, reduced amenity and pub closures. In October 2010 the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) once again rejected CAMRA's super-complaint, stating that it does not intend to take any action. This new decision from the OFT will not stop CAMRA from continuing its campaign to secure reform of the beer tie. Commenting, Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive said, "CAMRA's initial reaction to the OFT's decision is that it is based on a blinkered and selective consideration of the evidence. The OFT recognises the concerns of tied pub landlords but has failed to recognise the impact of these on consumers. It is extraordinary that the OFT appears to have dismissed as irrelevant the treatment of tied pub landlords by the large pub companies. The OFT's own analysis recognises that tied pub landlords on average pay around £20,000 more for their beer every year as a result of being tied and unable to purchase beer on the open market. CAMRA, unlike the OFT, recognises that higher costs imposed upon tied pub landlords will inevitably be passed onto consumers through higher prices, under investment and pub closures. A balanced and fair relationship between tied pub landlords and the large pub companies is crucial to ensuring the pub market works well for consumers".

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### *NELTHORPE ARMS*

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- EN SUITE ACCOMMODATION

## Gainsborough CAMRA Page

Hi all. Firstly, we at Gainsborough CAMRA would like to thank everyone from your branch, and those from other neighbouring branches, for visiting our festival. We feel sure that you enjoyed the array of beers that was on offer. Unfortunately not all of our neighbours turned out with the same enthusiasm as you did, and some were conspicuous by their total absence. But we look at it as their loss, not ours. As some of you will have found out we experienced a lot of last minute problems, most of which we managed to overcome. This led to us not being able to get some of the beers we originally ordered. Having said that, out of the 40 beers we put on, there were only about 7 or 8 of them readily available in this area. The theme was England v Scotland with 10 selections from each, and after counting the last votes on Saturday night, the Scottish beers stormed into a last minute victory. Overall we have declared the festival a success. That's all for now thanks once again, yours Kev T.

**Paul & Carol  
would like to  
welcome old &  
young to one of  
the oldest pub  
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Atmosphere  
Beer Garden**

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PUB WITH GREAT  
REAL ALES!***

### **RETRACTION**

In a report in the last issue, a remark was made that Canutes in Gainsborough was modelled on Wetherspoons. Canutes management have objected to this, and we are happy to retract this statement.

# The Malt Shovel

Ashby High Street  
Scunthorpe DN16 2JP  
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**'The Country Pub in the Town'**

**Open: 10am – 11pm, Sun – Thurs,**  
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+ up to 5 ever changing guest beers from UK  
microbreweries**

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Up to 6 real ciders served straight from the cellar**

**Real Italian coffees  
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**Real home-cooked food served:  
12 noon – 2pm & 4 – 8pm (Mon – Sat),  
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Teatime Specials available 5 – 8pm Mon – Sat  
(try our homemade steak pie!)**

**Quiz nights Tues & Thurs**

**Live music every Saturday**

**Next beer festival 15 – 21 November**

## Brussels Beer Festival

In early September, a small group of CAMRA members boarded a Eurostar train and made a beeline for the Belgian capital. The attraction was the annual Brussels Beer Festival, held in the ornate Grand Place in the city centre. Arriving on a Friday night, we found the city swarming with noisy German football fans, eager to celebrate the impending European Championship match with Belgium at the Heysel Stadium. As the kick-off time approached, the mood became a little more relaxed as the fans streamed away, only for us to find that the beer festival had attracted a large crowd in its own right, and the queues were enormous. We decided to cut our losses and visit a few Brussels bars instead, including Cirio's and the Poechenellekelder.

The next day we joined the festival queue early, and this time successfully gained admittance to the festival. The festival had been set up as a large number of tented stands, with Belgian brewers manning their own bars. There was a huge variety of excellent beers of every hue, Trappist Ales, pilsners, fruit and lambic beers – even Stella was represented, although I gave it a miss! Silly hats seemed to be the order of the day, and we got ours



free from the Chouffe stand during their 'happy hour'. The weather was also kind, and some hazy sun broke through after lunch. A colourful brewers' march with horse and motor drawn drays took place mid afternoon to enliven proceedings, but by this time the festival had become very busy, to the point of being uncomfortable. We decided to leave and visit

Morte Subite one of our favourite bars, before heading off for an evening meal. The next day after a spot of shopping, we went back to sample a beer or three before catching the return Eurostar. An enjoyable event, with a great backdrop, but perhaps a little too popular for its own good.

Mark Elsome

[11]

## Beer Joke

A man with a Labrador goes into a pub and sits down at the counter. The barman shouts "You can't bring that dog in here!" The man replies, "But this is a guide dog!"

The barman considers this for a few seconds, and says, "Well, OK, then I suppose it can stay."

After a while, the man and the Labrador get up to leave. As they're going out of the door, another man with a Chihuahua is coming in. The first man says, "The barman won't like you bringing that dog in here, but just tell him it's a guide dog and then he'll be OK."

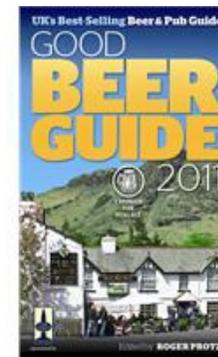
The second man looks dubiously at his tiny Chihuahua, but is ready for a beer, so thanks the first man and goes on in.

The barman shouts, "You can't bring that Chihuahua in here!"

The man stares straight ahead and exclaims, "What! They sold me a Chihuahua?!"

## Good Beer Guide 2011

CAMRA's flagship publication, the Good Beer Guide 2011 has just been published. With the Good Beer Guide to hand, you're never far from a decent pint! Now in its 38th year, the Good Beer Guide is fully revised and updated, with details of more than 4,500 pubs across the country serving the best real ale. From country inns to urban style bars and backstreet boozers, all selected and reviewed by over 115,000 CAMRA members, this is your definitive guide to finding the perfect pint. Available to buy now from: <http://www.camra.org.uk/> £10 for CAMRA members or £12.99 for non-members - RRP: £15.99



## The Wheatsheaf

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Traditional pub dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

6 cask ales always available all kept in excellent condition.

Excellent value quality home-cooked traditional food



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12.00 - 12.30 Friday &  
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### Food Served

12 to 14.00, 17.30 to 21.00,  
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## Scunthorpe Beer Festival Diary

*The Scunthorpe Beer Festival is over for another year, but here's my blow-by-blow account of how it went ...*

**Monday 13 September:** We gather outside Campbell's Bar early doors as first the scaffold, then the beer arrives. We construct a makeshift ramp to help the driver unload the beer casks. So begins a morning of heavy lifting up three flights of stairs ... but at least the beers can be stillaged all at the same time. We put the scaffold together and get the casks chocked in position, complete with their muslin jackets, before breaking for lunch at Wetherspoons. In the afternoon we build up the bar, get the handpumps in place and put up posters to transform the room into what we hope looks like a beer hall, before going home for a rest!

**Tuesday 14 September:** No exploding casks overnight, so time to add pipes to the handpumps, sterilise the pumps and taps, and start getting the tombola and entry desk ready, before breaking for lunch at Wetherspoons. Returning from lunch we walk straight into a crisis! The council licensing authority has picked up on the festival from a feature in the Scunthorpe Telegraph, and inform us that we haven't applied for a Temporary Event Notice. Neither the club nor ourselves were aware that we needed one, as we are operating under the Conservative Club's own licence. The council need ten days notice to issue a licence for the event and there's only three days to go! We reach an impasse with the council, and there's a real danger the festival will have to be cancelled. In the end we talk to the head of licensing at the council, and eventually he allows us to go ahead, provided we sign everybody in. We're off again, and vent and tap all the beers before leaving.

**Wednesday 15 September:** Busy ourselves with a myriad of jobs that need doing, and hard spile the beers that have settled down. Break for lunch at Wetherspoons. After lunch it's the eagerly awaited beer tasting time! We taste each beer and cider one by one, giving those present a chance to voice their opinions. Fortunately all the beers and ciders taste good, although we're a little suspicious of the Toad

Brewery beer which has a smoky edge to it that we think shouldn't be there (*which it retained throughout the festival*).

**Thursday 16 September:** All systems go as we open tonight. Collect programmes from printers, clean up handpumps, negotiate a health & safety audit and finish off tombola before breaking for lunch at Wetherspoons. Later we sort out the float, put up the beer labels, connect the handpumps and apply the finishing touches to the room. Open at 530pm, and after a slow start, we get a good crowd in (at least for a Thursday night). One or two beers are still a little 'green', but we're confident they'll be OK by tomorrow's sessions after overnight conditioning. Home to bed by midnight.

**Friday 17 September:** A steady Friday lunchtime session, which is quite nice as it gives us time to talk to people, and get their feedback on the beers. Thankfully just about everyone is full of praise for the range and quality of the beers and ciders on offer. We have a break before the evening session and try to relax



for a while, but it's soon time to open up again. A very busy evening session ensues - although a fire alarm necessitates evacuation of the room at one point (cooking fumes from burgers being the culprit!) - and everyone enjoys themselves. The live band - In Fear of Olive from Doncaster - are very good and elicit many favourable comments. A lot of beer gets drunk, and I finally crawl into bed about 1am. **Saturday 18 September:** A slow start but the afternoon gets going later on. Unfortunately we don't get the numbers we hoped for in the evening, but it goes along pleasantly enough with some good music from the Lootbeggars. Another late night!

**Sunday 19 September:** A drinking up session and surprisingly well attended, but all too soon it's time to take everything down and clear away. The scaffold and casks are stored ready for collection, but the clearing up has to be finished on Monday. Tired but happy, we look forward to doing it all over again next year! *Mark Elsome* [9]