



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

The first Heavy Woollen edition of

Ale Talk

Magazine of the Heavy Woollen branch of CAMRA



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for others to enjoy

Autumn 2011

Distributed FREE to W.Yorks pubs and clubs

Circulation 2000

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Welcome, Drinkers!



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Well, here it is: our first issue of the new Heavy Woollen Branch CAMRA Newsletter. If we've done our job correctly, this should be your best source for local pub, real ale, real cider, and festival news, as well as a way of keeping up to date with what your local CAMRA branch is up to. Have a read, and please tell us what you think. We'd love to know what you think of the **design**, the **content**, and the **coverage**. If you have any suggestions for a **new name**, something you'd like to see reported on, some breaking news about your local or if you have something you think people might want to read or hear about, don't hesitate to send it in. You can either email us at aletalk@hotmail.co.uk or you can contact us through the **Branch Contact** details listed elsewhere.

So what do we have for you in this issue? As well as detailed pub, beer, brewery and cider **news**, you'll find a pretty comprehensive **list of nearby beer and cider festivals** and events for the next couple of months; a report on the **re-launch of Little Valley brewery**; a sobering piece on **pub closures** and changes of use; the latest on Dewsbury's only brewery, formerly **Anglo-Dutch, now Partners Brewery**; and a **Tale from the Taproom** of the **Globe Inn** of Dewsbury. There's also a report on the **Real Ale Ramble** organised by the **New Inn** of Roberttown: **eighty people** completed a four mile walk around a variety of real ale pubs, sampling the wares in each, read all about it here.

If all that isn't enough to quench your thirst for Real Ale related information, why not take a look at our **branch website**, www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk - where you can find, amongst other things, a Google Map showing all the pubs (and most of the clubs) in the region. You can view a description of each pub, as well as see at a glance whether the pub **serves real ale**, has won any **awards** recently, or has unfortunately **closed**, for example. Give it a look, and if you have any new info on any of the pubs, don't hesitate to send it in! The website also features the up to date **branch diary** (which is also printed herein), as well as a **digital copy** of this very magazine - in case your local can't spare you one!

So, without further ado, get stuck in, and remember to **tell us what you think**. And roll on submissions for the **Winter Issue** coming towards the back end of the year - no news is too small, no article too peculiar for consideration!

Robin Moss
Ale Talk Editor

A Real Ale Ramble

For the August Bank Holiday weekend, the New Inn at Roberttown organised a four mile walk around some of the local real ale pubs, with a card to be stamped in each of the participating stopping points which were shown on a useful map on the reverse, with completed cards entered into a draw for some free beer. A written quiz was thrown in just for fun. It was a very enjoyable walk with good views and some great beer along the way, so why not try out the route for yourself? Guest beers of course change regularly and those shown were available on the day of our ramble.

The New Inn is accessible by buses 220, 229 and 253 with the 254 passing part of the route. From the front door of the New Inn, go straight ahead past the village shops, bear left at the mini-roundabout and turn right at the Star (or pause for some Taylor's Landlord) and head up Commonsidge for about 100 yards then take the signed, easy public footpath to the left, across the fields with some fine views across the valley and with the landmark of Almondbury Castle Hill standing proud in the distance. Where the footpath rejoins the road, a few yards to the left is the Hartshead, a community pub with a relaxed atmosphere, featuring a modern, horseshoe-shaped bar with the four prominently-positioned handpulls dispensing Jennings Cumberland, Copper Dragon Golden Pippin and two guests Moorhouses Black Cat and Adnams Bitter.

From the Hartshead, walk to the left up the hill and straight across at the crossroads on to Clough Lane. Our next port of call is across the valley a little to the right. There are many footpaths across the fields and you may see a field with a small white building with a path snaking across it which comes out on Halifax Road near the Cross Keys, accessible by turning right at Triangle Farm then left and left at Bullace Trees Farm. If you would rather avoid the fields of cattle and horses and the slippery stepping stones across the stream, then continue along Clough Lane to Halifax Road and turn right to visit the Cross Keys.

Three pumps dispense regulars Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen and Wells Bombardier. From the Cross Keys, go left then left on to the public footpath which then turns left to run parallel with Halifax Road, a pleasant alternative to the busy road itself, then in through the back gate of the Shears Inn which last year looked doomed to conversion into housing until bought by a sympathetic private purchaser who has invested heavily in refurbishment to give this historic pub with Luddite connections a new lease of life. With log fires in Winter, attractive stained glass windows and a cosy atmosphere, four pumps offer Tetley's and Black Sheep Bitter with guests Moorhouse's Blonde Witch and excellent Luddites Ale at very reasonable prices.





Out on to Halifax Road, to the right down the hill, past the Lonsdale which has four naked handpulls and into Ossett Brewery's flagship pub, the Black Bull. Their own Pale Gold, Yorkshire Blonde, Silver King, Black Bull Bitter and Excelsior are accompanied by Fuller's London Pride and guests Beer Works Retro (impressive, unusual pale ale with hints of caramel and light bitterness), Coach House Gunpowder Mild and Oldershaw Granta's Gold. Each room of the pub has its own personality; don't miss "The Chapel" with its

wooden pews and decorative glass.

Now head back to the starting point in Roberttown. To avoid most of the roads, go left from the Black Bull and left again along Ashton Clough Road, through the tunnel under the former railway line out on to Headlands Road. After 100 yards, cross the road and go right down the public footpath which skirts Spen Valley High School playing fields. Turning left around the far corner of those fields leads up to Roberttown Lane, then a right turn on to the lane and the New Inn is found after 400 yards, by which time you will be ready for another drink. Leeds Best, Abbeydale Moonshine and Mallinson's unique Bobtown Blonde are the regulars; guests were Thornbridge Jaipur and two fine beers from Vale Brewery; the copper-brown coloured Special and Edgar's Golden Ale.

A very enjoyable day was had and there were twenty seven real ales available with incredibly no duplication and no less than eighty people completed the course. Cheers!

Under Threat

Local Pubs are continually under threat of closure which is a concern of CAMRA who not only campaign for the preservation of Real Ale but also for the preservation of our local pubs. If your local is under threat, please contact the Heavy Woollen Branch of CAMRA via the Contacts page on our web site at <http://www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk> or through the Branch Secretary.

Here are just a few of our locals that are either under threat or that have been lost over the past months. We are not helped by the fact that planning laws allow pubs to be bought and converted into retail outlets without applying for planning permission for Change of Use such as the **Yorkshire Volunteer** (Mirfield) which has quietly been converted to a Londis store after only applying for "Illuminated Signs" or the **Black Bull** (Mirfield), which has been closed for some time with a banner outside (still there) advertising that a new refurbished pub with soon be reopening. This appears to be destined for yet another supermarket conversion, this time by Tesco, despite strong local opposition. Tesco applied for planning permission for the installation of a "Hole in the Wall" machine but not for change of use.

Others include the **Rose of York** (Batley) which continues to trade successfully despite an application, as yet undecided, for conversion to residential use. The **Wilton Arms** (Batley) is for sale freehold, a fine opportunity which should do well as a free house. The **Wasps Nest** (Mirfield) which is currently fenced off and The **Old Anchor** (Dewsbury) which has been demolished.

Latest news is that Range Taverns which own the Woolpack at Dewsbury Moor have apparently applied to demolish it and replace it with ten houses. Pub company or property company?

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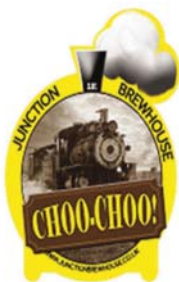
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The Pub of the Season

The latest Pub of the Season award has been presented by the Heavy Woollen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale to the New Inn at Roberttown.

Last year, the pub was sold by Enterprise Inns, one of the big two national pub companies, as trade had declined. Andrew Kenyon and Susan Walker successfully bid for the pub when it was put on the market and after some serious cleaning and refurbishment re-opened it last Autumn. It was at first planned to have four handpumps, which then became six when the bar refitting was done. There was naturally some anxiety about how much trade there would be given the pub's recent history but from the day it re-opened it was popular and selling over a thousand pints of real ale every week. Because the pub is not tied to a particular supplier, they were free to choose from the many excellent independent breweries and three of the six beers on offer are from Abbeydale of Sheffield, Leeds Brewery and Mallinson's of Huddersfield. The other three are rotating guest beers with a variety of styles, colours and strengths, often including beers brewed by Andrew's father, Joe

at the Riverhead micro-brewery in Marsden. Demand for proper ale in the village was demonstrated last Summer when the local community centre hosted the Bobtown Beer Bash and sold two dozen casks of ale in less than eight hours at a great gala day which was repeated on July 16th with even greater success, with 33 casks sold in less than seven hours.

The pub has a popular taproom, the main lounge, a pool room and the former restaurant which is a now used for functions, occasional band performances and as an extension to the lounge. It has established itself as a fine community pub with a friendly atmosphere and proves once again that you don't need gimmicks, expensive satellite TV or a restaurant to have a successful pub. The Wednesday quiz provides a popular diversion.

The award was presented and gratefully received on the occasion of Andrew and Susan's engagement. Susan thanked the regulars for their support and the hard-working staff for their contribution to success.

New Partners for Anglo Dutch

The Heavy Woollen district's only brewery, Anglo-Dutch, has been sold to locals Richard Sharpe and Paul Horne (the latter of the Spotted Cow, Drighlington), now to be renamed Partners Brewery. The new owners have had a good start and are investing in the brewery with the installation of more fermenters, conditioning tanks and casks.

They are currently continuing with the original range of Real Ales which includes Apistus (4%); Spikes on T'Way (4.2%); Midsummer Ale (4%); Kletswater (4%); Sweet Jane (4%); Aunt Agatha (4.2%); Wild Flower (4.2%); Devil's Knell and Stark Raven Mild (6%).

It is reported that their beers will appear at the Wellington (reverting to its earlier name from Jack D's), the Old Turk, the Alma at Thornhill and the Hartshead.

Beer Festivals and Events

8th - 11th September

The Drop Inn Beer Festival, Elland: 20 Real Ales, Live Music and Food Friday and Saturday, Jamming Session on Sunday.
12 Elland Lane, HX5 9DU

10th September

Ossett Brewery Open Day, 12-7pm: Live Bands, Outside Beer Tent (£2 a pint), BBQ & Mobile Cafe, Rodeo Bull, Brewery Tours, Face Painting, Games & Inflatables. All in aid of the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.
Ossett Brewery, Kings Yard, Low Mill Road, Ossett, WF5 8ND.

15th - 17th September

York Beer and Cider Festival: Around 250 Ales and 50 Ciders & Perries, English wines, Draught & Bottled Foreign Beers, Ample Seating, Food Stalls, Children's Bouncy Castle and Live Entertainment Friday & Saturday. 2pm-11pm Thursday (£3 entry), 12 noon - 11pm Friday & Saturday (£4 entry).
£2 discount for CAMRA members.
York Knavesmire adjacent to York Racecourse, junction of Tadcaster Road and Knavesmire Road.

15th - 18th September

Navigation Beer Festival: 30+ Ales, all handpulled from the cellar. 4pm-11pm Thursday, all day Friday to Sunday.
Navigation Tavern, 6 Station Road, Mirfield.

16th - 17th September

September Beer Festival, Saltaire Brewery: Friday from 4pm ticket only in advance from the brewery with just 150 available on the door, Saturday from noon pay on the door, so come early. £5 includes programme, glass and first pint, wide range of beers from across UK, ciders, barbecue.
Saltaire Brewery, Dockfield Road, Shipley BD17 7AR.

16th - 18th September

Cider and Music Festival at The Hop, Leeds: A weekend of live acts and over 25 Real Ciders.
The Hop, The Dark Arches, Granary Wharf, Leeds LS1 4BR

17th - 18th September

Arts and Ales Festival, Lawrence Batley Theatre: The Sportsman Brewing Company has teamed up with the Lawrance Batley Theatre to bring you a unique festival. Live bands, theatre tours, artist performances, and Real Ale.
Lawrence Batley Theatre Court Yard, Huddersfield

22nd - 24th September

23rd Keighley Beer Festival: Over 75 real ales, large range of Cider & Perry, foreign bottled beers and English fruit wines. Entry £3 general admission (free for CAMRA members.) Open 3pm-11pm Thursday, 11am-11pm Friday & Saturday. 10 mins

walk from Keighley rail station or 2 mins walk from the 662 and 760 bus routes. Please note: There will NOT be a free bus service to the venue this year.
Victoria Hall, Bradford Road, Keighley BD21 3JN

23rd - 25th September

Great Beers of Britain Festival, Cricketers Arms: Beers from 10 different breweries, buses 126/7 and 231/2 stop near.
Cricketers Arms, Cluntergate, Horbury WF4 5AG.

24th September

Rat & Ratchet Brewery Launch: All welcome. Nothing fancy just great beer!
Rat & Ratchet, Chapel Hill, Huddersfield HD1 3EB

29th Sept. - 1st Oct.

Sheffield Steel City Beer Festival: Open from 12 noon until 11pm all weekend, with around 200 Real Ales available.
Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield City Centre
(just a few minutes walk from Sheffield railway station and Sheffield bus Interchange, and the Fitzalan Square/Ponds Forge tram stop right outside.)

30th Sept. - 1st Oct.

Emley Brass Band Beer Festival: Provisional times Friday 4pm-11pm, Saturday 11am-11pm, Sunday 11am until dry.
Emley Band Room, 9 Beaumont Street, Emley HD8 8EE, (opposite the White Horse Pub), bus 232 from Wakefield or Huddersfield.

7th - 9th October

Fourth Beer Festival at Triangle Cricket Club: Probably open 5pm-11pm Friday, 11am-11pm Saturday & Sunday.
Triangle Cricket Club, Grassy Bottoms, Triangle HX6 3NA

13th - 15th October

Red Shed Beer Festival: *Wakefield Labour Club, Vicarage Street, Wakefield*

13th - 15th October

Huddersfield Oktoberfest Beer & Cider Festival: Open 6pm-10:30pm, Thursday, 12 noon-11pm Friday, 11am-11pm Sunday, £3 general public, £1 CAMRA members. Around 90 Real Ales, rare Ciders and Perries, seating and hot food available.
The Sikh Leisure Centre (APNA Venue), Spring Grove Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2NX.

27th - 31st October

LocAle Beer & Cider Festival, Shepherd's Boy: Over 20 Ales and Ciders, showcasing Local Beers, and Ciders from around the country. Cider Month related events on Saturday including Guided Cider Tasting (tasting event tickets available soon), food available and Hallowe'en Costumes welcomed!
The Shepherd's Boy, 157 Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury WF13 2RP

24th - 26th November

Leggers Inn Beer Festival. See branch website for details.

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Tales from the Taproom

The Globe Inn

What was I on about? Right, the Dewsbury pub where I started my apprenticeship in supping. Well it was The Globe Inn, the one that was on Wakefield Road, just below the cutting. Yes, there was another of the same name in Wellington Road, but that was pulled down in 1912 – I’m not that bloody old! It was in the 1960’s and I was in my mid-teens, a bit under the legal age, but I was with the other lads I worked with on Ramshaw’s market stall in Dewsbury market. We were ready for the door to open at half-past five every Saturday, mindst you we had started at half-past five in the morning.

There was an unofficial schooling of underage drinkers by older workmates, and it was understood that they were responsible for us. The landlord Percy was happy to sell us lads the weaker mild beer – it was Whitakers, at one and eight pence a pint. If we went to the bar and said we fancied a change to bitter, Percy would already be pulling the mild, saying with a note of regret that it was better for us.

Of course there were characters in the Globe who seemed ancient to us teenagers. Old Bill was memorable for keeping two pipes in his jacket, his normal small one for smoking his own tobacco, and one with a much larger bowl which he produced if some unsuspecting customer offered him a fill from his pouch. Bill referred to this unashamedly as his “cadging pipe”.

Another old chap was Old John, come to think of it a lot of the fellers were Old somebody-or-other. But he was old, at least eighty, and had been a slaughterman and a master butcher. His tale about drinking from a pint glass full of the blood of a newly slaughtered “beast” had us speechless. *“It was just like new milk, but with one difference – do you know what it was ?”* We dumbly shook our heads. *“It left a red ring round thi’ mouth!”*

Black Albert used to sell second-hand clothes, although he preferred to style himself as a “Dealer in in Deceased’s Effects”, and the pub served as his consulting room. Some naïve youth would be instructed to stand up, and after an unnerving look up and down for size there would be the offer of a two piece suit - the recent property of a gentleman. One of the older regulars would add the warning to check the back of the jacket for tyre tracks, suggesting how the gentleman had become deceased.

So that’s what it was like forty-five years ago in The Globe Inn. We might have been a bit under eighteen, but we were taught how to “Drink Responsibly”, decades before that phrase was coined. It stood me in good stead when I moved on to supping Bass elsewhere in Dewsbury. But that’s another tale.

J. Grant

Heavy Woollen Pub News

For those amongst you who have access to the Internet, the Heavy Woollen Branch of CAMRA has created a Google Map showing details of all the pubs in the branch including a short description and its location. This can be found on the "Where" page of the branch web site at <http://www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk/>.

BATLEY: The *Rose of York* continues to trade successfully despite an application, as yet undecided, for conversion to residential use. The *Wilton Arms* is for sale freehold, a fine opportunity which should do well as a free house.

BIRKENSHAW: The *Golden Fleece* is under new ownership and a variety of guest ales is now available alongside Black Sheep Bitter. Trade is currently building up again after an uncertain period so please call in and give Ian some encouragement. With good quality Tetley and guests at the *Halfway House* and the *George IV*, the town is worth a visit for a short crawl, perhaps finishing at the *New Inn at East Bierley* which continues to have four good ales.

BIRSTALL: The *Scotland* is nowadays a busy, community pub with a fine beer garden which was formerly a bowling green. Tetley Bitter is the big seller with increasing numbers turning to the one or two fine, well-kept guest beers, Leeds Midnight Bell being a recent popular choice despite being a dark ale. Check the branch website for news of a beer festival here. The *Pheasant* has added Black Sheep Bitter to its line-up alongside Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen and Abbot and thankfully it once again has a proper pub sign.

BRIESTFIELD: It has been reported that a fine country pub, the *Shoulder of Mutton* is expected to re-open soon.

CLECKHEATON: The privately-owned *George* now has 3 handpumps dispensing a varied range of ales, recently Golden Pippin and Moorhouse's Premier at £1.95 / pint. Monday Real Ale Club sees prices down to £1.20. Keen licensee planning to continue to boost real ale sales. Evenings generally dominated by music while daytime is quieter, as are the rooms behind the front bar.

DEWSBURY: The *Old Anchor* has been demolished. The *West Riding* had another very successful Summer beer festival. The pub now has a choice of real ciders, some dispensed from some fine, new oak casks on the bar back. *Dewsbury Central Station Hotel* has a varying choice of ale, Taylor's Landlord being available on our last visit. According to owners Enterprise Inns, the *Whistler* is about to re-open soon. The *Crackenedge* continues to have Tetley's and Copper Dragon Best Bitter. The *Shepherd's Boy* will be having a LocAle Beer & Cider Festival the last weekend in October, commemorating CAMRA Cider Month, with 20+ beers, ciders and perries. *Leggers* has Everards Tiger as the regular beer with five more handpumps offering a range of guests including a dark beer and is due to hold a beer festival 24th - 26th November.

GOMERSAL: The *Shoulder of Mutton* has Leeds Pale, Tetley's, Landlord and a rotating guest. The village is a fine place for a Summer pub crawl, with the *West End*, *Saw*, *Bull's Head* and *Wheatsheaf* all having a choice of good ales. From the *Shoulder*, 5 minutes walk takes you to the *Scotland* and thence to the *Black Bull* and the *Horse & Jockey* at *Birstall*.

HANGING HEATON: The *Fox and Hounds* has a fine view from the beer garden to help enjoy the Tetley's and popular guest beers.

HECKMONDWIKE: Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter at the unique *Old Hall* is just £1.58 per pint. *Comrades Club* has a guest beer, usually Golden Pippin or Black Sheep Bitter. The *Queen* has Thwaites Nutty Black as its guest.

HIGHTOWN: The *Cross Keys* has Greene King IPA, Old Speckled Hen and Wells' Bombardier.

LIVERSEDGE: Four handpumps at *Lillibet's* dispense Copper Dragon Golden Pippin, Westons Traditional Scrumpy and two varying guests, recently Acorn Barnsley Bitter and Shepherd Neame Spitfire. The Shears have Tetley's and Black Sheep plus two guests, recently from Moorhouse's.

MIRFIELD: The *Navigation* continued to set the pub beer festival standard with a fine selection of

ales in peak condition and low prices at its June beer festival. Don't miss the next one, they are normally held at the end of January and in June and September, so please check the dates on the branch website. A good range from Theakston is always provided and their cooper gives demonstrations on the September Saturday. Regular beers are John Smith's, four Theakston ales, up to five rotating guests, real cider and perry. The **Railway** has Black Sheep Bitter, Taylor's Landlord and a rotating guest. The Yorkshire Pudding has Black Sheep, Landlord and two rotating guests. The **Old Colonial Club** has Copper Dragon's excellent Best Bitter and five interesting rotating guest beers. The recently refurbished **Saville Arms** is a Free House with 2 rooms plus a games room. Over 21's only, Tetley Bitter, Black Sheep, Ossett Big Red, Golden Pippin, Ossett Yorkshire Blonde and rotating guest are well cared-for. As a result of this positive turnaround, the Saville is the winner of the Pub of the Season award for Summer 2011, an award which recognises efforts by licensees to make significant improvement. The **Shoulder of Mutton** has Tetley Bitter. The **White Gate** is a "Sizzling" pub which had Black Sheep Bitter and Marston's EPA on our last visit.

OAKENSHAW: The **Richardson's Arms** has Black Sheep Bitter and up to five guests from Copper Dragon, Abbeydale, Moorhouse's and others. A refurbished function room is available upstairs.

RAVENSTHORPE: The **Bull's Head** was reported to be under threat of closure due to complaints about noise, despite the licensee's reported efforts to keep it down.

ROBERTTOWN: With help from Brass Monkey Brewery, the Old Colonial Club, CAMRA and active local people, the **Bobtown Beer Bash Festival**, despite rain showers, had a second stunningly successful one-day festival opening at noon, with apologies to people who experienced long queues and to those who missed out because the six 20-litre boxes of traditional cider sold out at 3:30 and the thirty-three nine-gallon casks of real ale sold out at 6:45. Bar staff were stretched and throughout the day sold beer and cider at an average rate of 6 pints per minute, mostly in halves at first. Overspill to the **New Inn** created high demand there, with a 15 minute closure of

the bar found necessary to allow re-stocking and glass washing. Now, who was it that said there was low demand for real ale? Up the road, the **Star** has Taylor's Landlord, very comfy seating and good food including a fine Sunday carvery. New licensees at the **Fountain** have smartened up the interior making it more welcoming and offer three real ales from the Thwaites range, with a guest ale a possibility according to demand, so please go along and create a demand!

SHAW CROSS: Increasingly interesting, excellent guest beers have been appearing at the Huntsman.

STAINCLIFFE: The **Butchers Arms** now features Tetley Bitter and a rotating guest.

THORNHILL: The **Savile Arms** has Black Sheep Bitter as a regular beer with guests from breweries which include Thwaites; Springhead; Timothy Taylors and Salamander. In the tap room the traditional but rare Bar Billiards game can be played. The **Alma** is under new ownership and they are keen to establish a good reputation for food and real ale with beers from Copper Dragon and Ossett, while locally-sourced ingredients are used for the food where possible in their re-opened and refurbished restaurant.

THORNHILL EDGE: We are sad to report that Allan Wood, Rugby League legend and popular manager of the **Flatt Top**, has died as a result of cancer. See obituary. The pub continues to experiment with unusual guest beers.

UPPER HOPTON: The **Travellers' Rest** has Black Sheep and Tetley's Bitter, while the **Hare and Hounds** is a country pub cum restaurant full of atmosphere with well-kept Black Sheep Bitter and rotating guests, recently Deuchars IPA and Rudgate Ruby Mild.

WHITLEY: The **Woolpack** has keen new licensees who are actively promoting real ale and who are planning a beer festival. Greene King and rotating guests are available, recent offerings including Bateman's and Hook Norton.


WOODKIRK: The **Babes in the Wood** has Black Sheep Bitter.

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Apples & Pears: Cider and Perry Spotlight

October is CAMRA Cider and Perry Month, commemorating the wonderful natural drinks (fermented from apples and pears respectively), as it is in October that the picking and pressing of fruits to get fermentable juice is in full swing. Real Cider or Perry is made from 100% fresh juice without additives or artificial gassing, and is still and refreshing with a wide range of flavours from different varieties of apple or pear - as opposed to the sweet fizzy, bland stuff sold in kegs, cans or bottles. The CAMRA website contains lots of information about these most traditional of British drinks, read on for some of the nearby examples of Cider and Perry Month news and events. www.camra.org.uk/aboutcider

Cider on Twitter

If you want news about cider or talk/type about it to like minded people you could do far worse than have a look at Twitter on that electrical interweb thingymagig. There are lively debates about all manner of things from recipes to pricing, and info to be gleaned, just try asking a question. Simply type in "twitter" in a search engine and set up an account. If talking about real cider always use the hashtag (search facility) [#realcider](#). Don't worry, you'll soon pick it up! Some people to follow (get their tweets) are [@realcider](#) [@uddersorchard](#) [@cidermike](#) [@cidematters](#)

Local Cider News

Pure North recently held a 'wassail' event, as reported by The Examiner, which was to celebrate the planting of new orchards and conversion of stabling into a cider production facility. Meanwhile 'Udders Orchard are on the look-out for land to plant their own orchard, only a couple of acres are required so if you have any spare or wish to loan land please contact them (dave@uddersorchard.co.uk). Despite this there is still a commitment to use local garden apples. The only 'Udders Orchard cider left is in pubs or being saved for Huddersfield Oktoberfest but collection of apples will commence very soon.

The Hop in Leeds are hosting a cider and music festival the weekend of 16th to the 18th of September. A variety of live bands will be playing and at least 25 different ciders and perries will be available.

Huddersfield Oktoberfest at the Sikh Leisure centre is always a fantastic event at which to try a great

range of cider and perry, over the weekend of 13th to the 15th of October. The festival promises some rare ciders and perries so there should be something to tempt even hardened cider drinkers to try something new.

The Stubbing Wharf, in Hebden Bridge (situated on the canal just the other side of Hebden) will be holding its annual Apple Day, an homage to all things apple and cider on 22nd October. Landlord Matt Browne describes it thus "We offer apple juice, a range of bottled and draft ciders, apple pressing, as well as apple-related food, entertainment and fun and games". This is a free event that is well worth attending.

The week afterwards the Shepherd's Boy in Dewsbury will be having a beer and cider festival, running Thursday 27th to Monday the 31st. A range of ciders and perries will be available, with a guided cider tasting being run on the Saturday afternoon and other cider-related activities to be confirmed.

Pubs in our area selling real cider

The Pear Tree, Mirfield

one dedicated pump

The Navigation, Mirfield

choice of three, all from Westons

The Shepherd's Boy, Dewsbury

rotating choice of three, two ciders and a perry

Dewsbury Central Station, Dewsbury

The West Riding Licensed Refreshment

Rooms, Dewsbury

choice of at least one cider and one perry, rotating

The Leggers Inn, Dewsbury

The Timepiece, Dewsbury

Lillibet's, Liversedge

The Cellar Bar, Batley

This list comes courtesy of the CAMRA 'Real Cider Sold Here' scheme (a national inventory of pubs selling real cider or perry), which can be found here: www.camra.org.uk/ciderpubs

Any updates or additions to the list can either be made on the website there or sent in to aletalk@hotmail.co.uk - in future we hope to have more detail on what each pub sells, please let us know if you have any further information, or any other cider-related news.

Dave Kendall-Smith & Robin Moss



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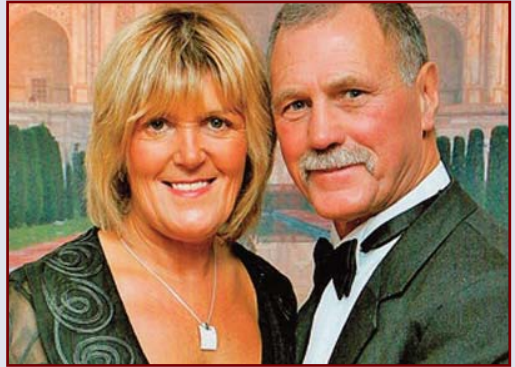
Obituary of Allan Wood

It's often fondly observed that *"they threw away the mould"* when a larger than life character departs this life. In the case of Allan Wood, who died in July at the age of 65, you could make a good case for there never being a mould to start with.

"He was a one-off, that's for sure," observed more than a few close friends and family members, of the late landlord of the Flatt Top pub in Thornhill, and a legend in Yorkshire rugby league circles.

The death of 'Woody' came as a shock to everyone who knew him, despite the terminal nature of the pancreatic cancer he was diagnosed with just a few months ago – tragically on the 21st anniversary of his marriage to wife Laureen – because he had always seemed physically indestructible. In his professional career at Huddersfield and Keighley, but mostly his two spells at Halifax where he is so fondly remembered, and his days at the heart of the great Dewsbury Celtic pack of the 1970s, Allan Wood was so often the rock around which champion teams were built. Paul O'Hara played, as hooker, alongside him in Celtic's front row. *"He was as straight as a die, as honest as the day is long and he was proud of that. He was a 100% tough man. A good man. He'll be terribly missed because above all of that he was such a great character and a great friend to so many."*

It was his phenomenal fitness levels and courage that stood Woody apart from bigger, perhaps even more talented men. When he and his close friend Rod Brook – who died of cancer at a tragically young age – were coaches of the Gate Inn team, Allan would send the players off on a cross country run around Middletown and Flockton, then after a while set off and beat the lot of them back.



Over the years he raised tens thousands of pounds for charity, running half and full marathons and long-distance bike rides. Even after his diagnosis and five bouts of chemotherapy, he was putting himself through the pain barrier, going out for a run.

"Just last week he was doing 40 press-ups and his sit-ups!" said Laureen, Allan's second wife who he married in 1990. *"We were due to see his consultant this week. Allan had some information about a radical new treatment for his illness. He was full of hope."*

"He had been for all kinds of tests and was in so much pain, but they didn't know what it was," explained Laureen. Pancreatic cancer is one of the most difficult forms of the disease to detect. His condition suddenly worsened and he passed away very peacefully at home in Thornhill, surrounded by his family.

Born in Thornhill Lees, he went to the Victoria Boys School where he had a reputation as an outstanding gymnast, from there he went straight down the pit with so many of his rugby pals from Overthorpe Rangers, working at the Combs Colliery in Thornhill until it closed.

Along with his first wife Elaine, with whom

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he had a daughter Sharon, he had his first taste of life as a landlord at the Perseverance Inn in Thornhill Lees. But it was at the Flatt Top where he became a legend of the pub trade. Popular with the village's footballers and rugby players and everyone who liked a 'proper' pub over the years, Woody ruled with an iron fist – or the occasional rap of his famous baseball bat on the bar. One look from those steely blue eyes was enough to bring the rowdiest of houses to order. At his last birthday party he had to leave early, but not before silencing the pub and organising a collection which raised over £400 for his favourite causes. Laureen paid heartfelt thanks to the overwhelming support she and the family have had from so many people. ***"It's been***

unbelievable," she said. "But we want to give special thanks to Dr Robinson from the Paddock Surgery, everyone at the Bexley Wing at St James's Hospital in Leeds, and the district nursing team who've been wonderful."

Allan's funeral took place at Thornhill Parish Church, with our treasurer representing the Heavy Woollen branch of CAMRA, among hundreds of people who paid their respects.

Donations in his memory were made for children's charity Candlelighters, Kirkwood Hospice and Thornhill Parish Church.

Article extracts courtesy of The Press, Dewsbury

UP the Valley to LITTLE Valley

The Heavy Woollen Branch was represented at Little Valley Brewery when the owners Wim van der Spek and Sue Cooper celebrated its New Look and the launch of yet another bottle conditioned ale, 'Python IPA' in July this year.

But it was a cask of the 6% blockbuster that was the target for the trip's organiser and designated driver Tim Wood who was determined to return to base with a supply for his customers at the Old Colonial in Mirfield.

Accompanying him and providing conflicting navigational assistance up the Calder Valley were Branch Chairman Alan Mapplebeck, Pubs Liaison Officer Mike Fretwell and roving reporter John Gibson. Eventually the sign for Mytholmroyd rail station was spotted and a sharp left taken to start the ascent of Cragg Road. For those "Rail-Ale -Trailers" intending visiting the site at Turkey Lodge Farm, be warned - it's at the top of the longest continuous incline in the country.

The day's events were formally opened by the Deputy Mayor of Calderdale, and the Guest Speaker was the internationally famous beer writer Roger Protz. Also in the crowd were colleagues from the Halifax and Calderdale Branch and Paul Theakston of Black Sheep Brewery. Another Paul present was Paul Travis whose beer and brewery bookstall is a familiar sight at many Camra Beer Festivals. On duty behind the bar was his son, Alex who is part of the Little Valley team. He was keeping the visitors well supplied with Withens Pale Ale, Cragg Vale Bitter, Tod's Blonde, Hebden's Wheat, Stoodley Stout and Moor Ale, all named after local places and landmarks.

All too soon came the time to depart, after first ensuring the cask was safely on board. Python is described as ***".... a straw coloured, double hopped, original IPA that provides a strong malty taste with a delicious balance of hops & bitterness. This beer will easily survive the long journey to India"***

Those lucky enough to enjoy sampling it later at the Old Colonial will wholeheartedly confirm that it had no difficulty in surviving the not-quite-so-long journey back to Mirfield.

John Gibson

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Home Page: <http://www.heavywoollencamra.org.uk>

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HEAVY WOOLLEN BRANCH DIARY

Branch Meetings and Socials, 8:00pm unless otherwise stated (please check the branch web site, above, for any possible changes)

Tues 20th Sept	Social, start at Butchers' Arms, Staincliffe
Weds 5th Oct	Meeting, New Charnwood, Heckmondwike
Weds 19th Oct	Social, start at Timepiece, Dewsbury
Mon 7th Nov	Meeting, Black Bull, Liversedge
Mon 21st Nov	Social, West End, Gomersal then Scotland, Birstall
Tues 6th Dec	Meeting, TBA, see website
Fri 16th Dec	Christmas Social Dinner, contact to book

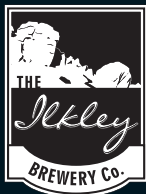
HEAVY WOOLLEN ALE TALK

The Heavy Woollen Ale Talk is published by the Heavy Woollen District Branch of CAMRA, and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Campaign or the Editor.

Contributors are asked to provide email or hard copy with contact name and number to the Magazine contact above. Similarly, any contact regarding advertising enquiries should also be directed to the Magazine Contact above.

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THE RIVERSIDE, LUTON – 25TH OCTOBER
EMCC, NOTTINGHAM – 1ST NOVEMBER
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