

# Branch Diary

- Sat January 24** Meet 10 am Trip by train to National Winter Ales Festival, Manchester
- Sat 31 January** Meet 10 am Trip by train to 1<sup>st</sup> Newark Winter Beer Festival, Town Hall, Newark
- Tues 10 February** 830 pm Branch Meeting, Malt Shovel, Ashby
- Thurs 19 February** Time TBA Evening trip by minibus to Oakwood Beer Festival, Oakwood School, Rotherham
- Sat 7 March** 12 noon Winter Pub of the Season presentation to the Wheatsheaf, Barton-upon-Humber
- Sat 21 March** Meet 10 am Trip by train to Leeds Beer Festival, New Pudsey, Leeds



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**2009 CAMRA Good Beer Guide**

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# Iron Brew

Newsletter of Scunthorpe & District  
Campaign for Real Ale



CAMPAIGN  
FOR  
REAL ALE

**FREE**

**Winter 2008/2009**

**FREE**

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## Axe the Tax

The campaign against ever increasing tax on beer in pubs is building momentum. Seventy two MPs have joined CAMRA in calling on the Government to safeguard the future of well run community pubs. Over 13,000 people have joined the [Facebook group](#) in support of lower beer tax and over 7,000 people

have contacted their MP.

The "Axe the Beer Tax - Save the Pub" campaign, run by the British Beer and Pub



Association and the Campaign for Real Ale, is highlighting the plight of the British pub and is urging Government to take action to prevent pub closures, currently running at 36 every week. You can show your support for the campaign by visiting [www.axethebeertax.com](http://www.axethebeertax.com)

## **IRON BREW**

Published quarterly by Scunthorpe  
& District Campaign for Real Ale.

Edited by Mark Elsome

29 The Dales, Bottesford  
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comments for publication

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*Copy date for next issue*

**20 March 2009**

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:** Colin Gelder  
(Tel: 01724 764708)

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

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

## **COMMENT**

The downturn in the pub trade exacerbated by the recession continues apace, and shows no sign of declining. The news that UK pubs are now closing at the rate of 36 a week is astonishing, and this situation is reflected in our area as well. Just look around at the number of failing pubs in the Scunthorpe branch area, displaying signs stating "Pub Business Opportunity", or even worse, like the Crosby and the Maple Leaf, already closed and boarded up. The usual reasons quoted are the disparity between pub and supermarket beer prices, high pub rents and overpriced beer supply deals forced on licensees of pub operating companies, and the "Aldi Effect", which when money is tight, sees customers using those pubs with the cheapest beer or simply staying at home.

These are all true to some degree, and some closed pubs were probably unviable in the first place. And yet other pubs offering a range of well-kept real ales, good food and service are thriving, suggesting that there is still life left in the good old British pub.

[2]

## **PUB & BREWERY NEWS**

**T**he **Crosby Hotel** in Scunthorpe town centre is the latest pub to be closed and boarded up in the wake of the credit crunch. This former Marston's pub, did thrive for a time after Marston's bought it a few years ago, refurbished it at great expense, and featured good food and a range of Marston's excellent real ales. However when Marstons themselves were taken over by Wolverhampton & Dudley, the inevitable review of the new business saw the Crosby sold off to the Admiral Taverns pub company. A lack of further investment saw the pub become very run down, and unable to attract sufficient custom. A real shame – we can only hope that post recession, the Crosby can be sold on and redeveloped into the thriving pub it deserves to be.

**A**nother excellent beer festival took place at the **Malt Shovel** in Ashby during November. There was a great range of around 25 real ales of all styles and flavours, with ciders and bottled beers also featured, plus food, quizzes and music.

**B**ar wars has begun at Wetherspoon's **Blue Bell**, where a pint of Greene King IPA will now cost 99p a pint during January. With other reductions on San Miguel and meals, this is a clear attempt to beat the credit crunch.

**D**arkTribe Brewery at the **Dog & Gun** at East Butterwick brewed a special beer for Christmas called Ruddy Christmas (4.3% ABV), so called because it is a ruddy red colour, and in no way a comment on the Christmas period!

## **TRADING STANDARDS**

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

### **SCUNTHORPE TRADING STANDARDS**

**TEL: 01724 297664**

## Pub of the Season – Autumn 2008



*Picture shows Branch Chairman Mark Elsome (left, behind bar) presenting the award to licensee Paul Brown of the Sun & Anchor, Scotter,*

## Beer Joke #2

A man goes into a smart, upmarket bar. The bar has a dress code, and the maitre d' demands he wears a tie. Discouraged, the man goes to his car to sulk, when he realises he's got jump leads in the boot. He wraps them around his neck, like a string tie, and returns to the bar. The maitre d' is reluctant, but says to the man, "OK, you're a pretty resourceful guy, you can come in ... but just don't start anything"!



# SAY YES TO A FULL PINT

## Pub of the Season Winter 2008/2009 The Wheatsheaf, Barton-upon-Humber

Our pub of the season for Winter 2008/9 goes to the Wheatsheaf in Barton-upon-Humber. Jim & Sarah Woodhouse took over the pub in the early summer of 2008 and have now secured a 10 year lease. Jim is an experienced licensee of 25 years' standing, with Sarah joining him for 16 of these. They have run several traditional pubs in London, the Home Counties and North Lincolnshire, all serving cask ales.

The Wheatsheaf has occupied a prominent position on the main road through Barton from the 18th century, and stands on the corner of Holydyke and Brigg Road. It has a list of former licensees on the wall dating back to 1791. The pub has an unspoilt, traditional atmosphere, with regulars enjoying classic bar games of dominoes and crib. There is a bar, snug and a large drinking/dining area plus a summer beer garden and private car park.

The pub is a part of the Enterprise Inns pub chain, and serves a range of excellent quality beers and home-cooked food at lunchtimes and in the evenings. There are 3 regular cask ales: Theakston's Best, Wells Bombardier and Theakston's Black Sheep, plus a rotating guest ale from Enterprise's guest list, which has recently included Spitfire, Hobgoblin, Tim Taylor's and Bateman's XXXB.

Jim and Sarah have made a huge difference to the Wheatsheaf in a short space of time, and we congratulate them on winning this well-deserved award which will be presented on Saturday 7 March at 12 noon. We hope you can join us.

*Sarah Wullink.*

## Classic Albums: No. 26: Bob Dylan – The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan (Columbia)

While his equally famous contemporaries (The Beatles, The Stones, James Brown) were knocking out hastily recorded LPs that lasted barely half an hour, Dylan went the other way. The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan, his second album, lasts a tad over fifty minutes. And it is fifty minutes of pure genius. This is the record with which Dylan bludgeoned his way into the consciousness of his country and, eventually, the world. There is none of the



later Dylan's arrangements and orchestration, just his voice, his guitar, his harmonica and his poetry. Here are such songs as "Blowin' in the wind", "A Hard rain's a-gonna fall" and "I shall be free", that became standards for a generation.

Dylan wears his musical roots on his sleeve here. Many of the thirteen songs on the album are songs in the tradition of Woody Guthrie, evoking the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. There is a direct tribute to the English folk singer Martin Carthy in "Girl from the North Country" in which Dylan

used lines from the traditional song "Scarborough Fair", once in Carthy's repertoire which was later made famous by Paul Simon (another Carthy acolyte). Other songs are obliquely (those mentioned above) or directly ("Masters of War", "Talking World War III blues") about war. He could not know then that his songs would be sung in protest all over the world as the United States sank into the morass of Vietnam.

The albums that followed The Freewheelin'... - Bringing It All Back Home, Highway 61 Revisited and Blonde on Blonde - would cement Dylan's reputation as the rock poet of his time, but this is where it all began.

Stewart Lloyd

[4]

## National Cask Ale Week

CAMRA has teamed up with Cask Marque, the Independent Family Brewers of Britain, Enterprise Inns and Punch Taverns to bring you the first ever National Cask Ale Week taking place from 6 - 13 April 2009.

National Cask Ale Week will be a week of campaigning across the UK to promote the importance and pleasures of drinking real ale in pubs. The Week will provide essential support for community pubs whilst also promoting real ale as the unique selling point for the British pub.

CAMRA would like branches to be as creative as possible in thinking of ways to promote pubs in their area during National Cask Ale Week.

In the run up to the event CAMRA HQ will supply further details on which pubs and companies are planning to participate, but in the meantime branches are encouraged to promote National Cask Ale Week in newsletters, at festivals, on websites and consider possible ale trails to promote participating pubs.

Scunthorpe & District CAMRA plans to support CASK Ale Week – more details later!

NATIONAL  
Cask Ale  
WEEK

6th - 13th APRIL 2009

[13]

**Paul & Carol  
would like to  
welcome old &  
young to one of the  
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England**

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Good Cheer  
Welcoming  
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**NO FOOD, JUST A PUB  
WITH GREAT REAL  
ALES!**

# The Malt Shovel

Ashby High Street  
Scunthorpe DN16 2JP  
Tel: 01724 843318



**'The Country Pub in the Town'**

**Open: 10am – 11pm, Sun – Thurs,**  
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**Serving in tip-top condition Tom Wood's Best Bitter & Dark Mild, Exmoor Gold, John Smiths Bitter**

**+ 4 ever changing guest beers from UK microbreweries**

**Lefte Blonde, Erdinger & Belle Vue Kriek**

**At least 4 real ciders served straight from the cellar**

**Real Italian coffees  
Over 30 malt whiskies  
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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!)**

**Great food, great drinks, great times!**

## National Winter Ales Festival 2009

Deep in the midst of Winter, what better way to avoid the dark days and misty chill than a visit to the CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival in January? Held at the New Century Hall, Manchester from 21st-24th January, the Festival promises to showcase some winter-warming recommendations for the season, combined with a formidable array of over 200 cask ales, bottled ales, ciders and perries.

Graham Donning, CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival Organiser, said- "Due to the increasing popularity and profile of the event, we are proud to announce that for 2009 we will be ordering in more beer than ever, in part to accommodate the increasing consumer demand for cask ale. Through the success of the Festival it is also hoped that beer styles under threat such as porters and milds are given a try during the week by consumers new to real ale, as the festival plays an important reminder to people unaware of the nation's extensive and diverse brewing history."

Attention at the Festival will also be centred on the newly crowned Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2009. At the 2008 Festival, Wickwar Station Porter from Gloucestershire scooped the accolade for its 6.1% ABV Porter described by the Good Beer Guide 2009 as a 'rich, smooth, dark ruby-brown ale.' The Supreme Champion for 2009 will be announced on January 22nd at the beginning of the Thursday session.

Donning concludes, "Countless hours of organisation have already been put in by CAMRA volunteers in preparation for January, and we are confident the four days will be enjoyed by all. On Saturday we will be concluding the Festival in light-hearted fashion with a pirate-themed fancy dress day, and with popular live-music from Doctor Busker, we hope the Festival is rounded off in ideal fashion."

Scunthorpe & District Branch will be running a trip to the event for the fourth year running, and combining this with a mini-crawl of the best of Manchester's Northern Quarter pubs, such as the Marble Arch and Smithfield Hotel. Why not try the NWAFF for yourself?

*CAMRA/Mark Elsome*

*{12}*



## Tetley Brewery to Close

CAMRA has attacked the decision by Carlsberg UK to close the iconic Tetley Brewery in Leeds by 2011. They criticised Carlsberg UK for failing to promote the famous Tetley beers at a time when consumer interest in real ales is growing. Bob Stukins, CAMRA Vice Chairman and Director of Brewery Campaigning said, "It is unclear where Carlsberg UK intends to brew the famous Tetley beers which remain household names in the UK. Brewed outside their Leeds heartland I fear they would lack the provenance which today's discerning consumers expect. While we recognise the enormous

challenges facing the brewing industry at present, I think this is a shortsighted decision. Recent statistics clearly show that real ale is performing better than other beer styles in a declining market. There is an opportunity to respond to this, invest in the Tetley brands and bring them back to glory."

CAMRA is calling on the Government to overturn its decision to increase beer duty over the next four years to give struggling breweries a chance to compete. The group claims that high beer tax is driving beer drinkers out of pubs and into their armchairs as the price gap between the on and off-

trade widens.

Bob Stukins said, "The Government has a responsibility to act to save British jobs in brewing and pubs and an urgent review of beer tax is required." CAMRA is seeking a meeting with Carlsberg UK bosses to discuss a way forward for the brewery. The brewery still produces Tetley's Dark Mild, Tetley's Mild, Best Bitter and the famous Tetley Bitter.

He added, "We have a two year window of opportunity before the brewery gates are set to close for the last time. We will be supporting anyone who has a plan to keep the mash tuns running in this historic brewery and we'll be looking at every possible option to save the brewery. This iconic Yorkshire Brewery should not close due to the development potential of this city site"



## Beer Joke #1

A man comes home three sheets to the wind, well trousered, beer sloshing around in his belly like a keg adrift in a rolling sea. He stumbles through the door and is met by his wife, who is scowling, figuring he's been out enjoying himself excessively.

"Where on earth have you been all night?" she demands.

"At this fantastic new pub," he says, "The Golden Saloon. Everything there is golden."

"Rubbish!" she retorts, "There's no such place!"

The man says, "Yes there is! This pub's got huge golden doors, a golden floor. Even the urinals are gold!"

His wife still doesn't believe his



story, and the next day checks the telephone directory, finding a place in town

called the Golden Saloon. She calls up the pub to check her husband's story. "Is this the Golden Saloon?" she asks when a barman answers the phone.

"Yes, it is," the barman replies.

"Do you have huge golden doors?"

"We certainly do."

"Do you have golden floors?"

"We certainly do."

"What about golden urinals?"

There's a long pause, then the woman hears the barman yelling, "Hey, Stan, I think I've got a lead on the bloke who peed in your saxophone!"

## Nelthorpe Arms

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Live Music every Saturday  
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Parties catered for

## Budweiser Announces Massive Layoffs

News from across the pond, shows that the credit crunch is not just affecting UK breweries and pubs, with the recent announcement by Anheuser-Busch (brewers of Budweiser) of their intention to layoff a number of A-B employees. The plan is to cut around 1,400 U.S. salaried positions in its beer-related divisions, affecting about 6 percent of the company's total U.S. workforce, three-quarters of which were at A-B HQ in St. Louis. Also, 250 vacant positions will now not be filled, and 415 independent contractors' jobs will be terminated. [Realbeer.com](http://Realbeer.com)



### Winner

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All rooms are non smoking & include  
Central heating, tea & coffee facilities & TV,  
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## Gainsborough CAMRA Page

### Your right to a full pint

Glasses come in all shapes, but a pint glass holds 20 fluid ounces of liquid. Not so long ago pubs sold beer in 22oz glasses, i.e. enough room to put a decent head on your pint, without under selling. But the government has decided that 95% of a pint is a legal limit. Dead pint glasses cost you, the drinking public, money e.g. a 10 mm head on a pint costing £2:50 costs you 23p. **Always** ask for your pint to be topped up. It is rumoured that some of the major pub chains are thinking of bringing back lined glasses as it actually reduces waste.



### WHAT'S NEW, AROUND TOWN?

The BLUES CLUB now has two continually rotating guest beers; CAMRA members are invited to come and sample them.

Gainsborough CAMRA would like to thank Cam & her staff at the ELM COTTAGE for hosting our Xmas do & helping to make it such a good night. Our next branch meeting is to be held at the PEACOCK in February, check Wetherspoon's notice board for details. Phil Troop at the HALFMOON at Willingham brewed a Christmas beer, a

complex brew with seven different flavours; cinnamon & nutmeg were just two of them. It was easily quaffable as quite a few of us found out. Just to remind you that for a change you can catch the 100 bus at Heaton Street Bus Station and get dropped off two minutes from the pub (cost £2 single trip), with four of his own beers + fish & chips. We went on a Saturday, ring pub if going in the week to check opening times. Gainsborough Golf Club now sells real ale - no more known as yet.

### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS,

The MALLARD at Worksop has its quarterly beer festival on the last Friday & Saturday of January. They usually have about 18 beers on; get the train and go, it's free to get in and a great day out. Unfortunately it coincides with the 1<sup>st</sup> NEWARK WINTER BEER FESTIVAL held in the Town Hall. Approx. 40 beers & ciders. £5 entry on the door. Well that's all folks, ATB

KEV TAYLOR.

[7]

## Iron Brew Banned from Honest Lawyer!

The Scunthorpe & District CAMRA branch newsletter, Iron Brew, has been banned from local real ale hostelry the Honest Lawyer. In a fit of pique associated with their omission from the last two CAMRA Good Beer Guides (GBG's), long-serving licensee Alan Edgar refused to take the Autumn edition when we tried to drop these off at the pub. Clearly miffed about being left out of the guide, they said that I had promised that the Lawyer would be in the current 2009 guide. In fact I didn't say that – all I said was that as a branch we would survey the pub again as part of the annual review of pubs that underpins the selections. The Honest Lawyer is of course one of our leading local pubs for



real ale, and has won our Pub of the Season award on more than one occasion. The reason they were left out of the Guide was because we felt that their beer quality was very inconsistent, making the enjoyment of a pint of handpulled ale a real lottery. We feel that they should consider offering fewer beers during the week, or seek technical advice on line cooling equipment to help maintain their beers in tip-top condition. CAMRA believes it is beer quality that counts, not the number of real ales that the pub offers. So all we can say to Alan and the Honest Lawyer is that we're sorry if our decision regarding your omission has upset you. It was honestly made with no malice intended. But don't shoot the messenger – perhaps heed the message instead?

*Mark Elsome* [8]



## Black Horse Inn

93 High Street, Blyton,  
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**Home-cooked Food available:-  
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Lunch & Teatime Specials  
Beer Garden, Sky Sports, Big  
Screen TV's, Quiz Nights,  
Traditional Games**

## On the Social Side

During October, we attended the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Beer Festival, held in the engine sheds at Oxenhope Station (right). Great setting and good beers, but very busy! .... In the same month a small group went to the Nottingham Beer Festival, held in the grounds of Nottingham Castle. Again excellent with a great range of beers (left, below)



... we also held a Cider Social at the Malt Shovel to celebrate Cider Month ... as November arrived it was time for our annual visit to Bruges for their beer festival (right). About 50 Belgian Breweries had assembled at the Belfry building to



offer a fantastic range of Belgian ales of all styles, including special Christmas brews at 9 – 12% .... And finally we had an Xmas Party at the Malt Shovel in December. *Whew!*

It takes all sorts to campaign for real ale

### Join CAMRA today...

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive three months membership free and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription. Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Secretary, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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**Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)**

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Forename(s) .....

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For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit [www.camra.org.uk](http://www.camra.org.uk) or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

I enclose a cheque for ..... Mem Form 0108

Signed ..... Date .....

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

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