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AUTUMN 2023

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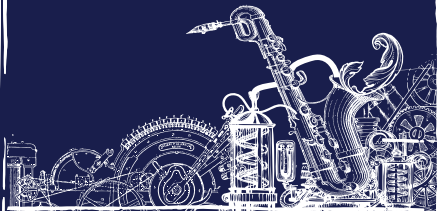


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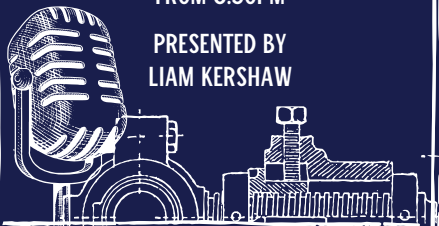
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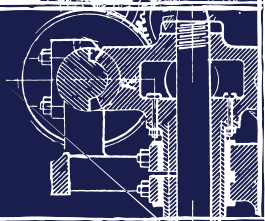
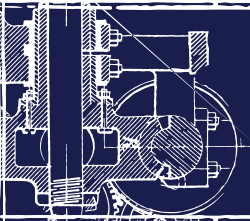


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FOR LATEST OFFERS & NEWS



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By the time you read these notes, a new alcohol duty regime will have come into force from August 1st. The government is seeking to do two things; link the amount of duty paid to the alcoholic strength of the product and introduce a new lower rate of duty for beer, cider and other qualifying products being consumed on licenced premises.

You may or may not have noticed these changes depending on your particular poison. However, if you have attended a beer festival, or worked at a beer festival, you will most certainly have noticed the change in regime as the 9.2% duty discount on draft beer and cider with an ABV of between 3.5% and 8.4% applies only to drink being consumed at the venue. You will have discovered that you can no longer take along your trusty four-pint jug and fill it with foaming ale to take home, paying by cash or in beer tokens, as that is no longer permitted. In theory you could take home beer or cider 8.5% ABV or stronger as there is no discount at this level, but CAMRA have decided to have just the one policy, no off sales of draught beer or cider at all, so as to avoid confusion. You can of course still purchase canned or bottled products for consumption off the premises if your festival sells them.

You will also have had a nasty surprise if you have worked at a beer festival. The traditional perk of taking a jug of beer or a carton of cider home free, gratis, and for nothing is no longer permitted. You can enjoy free drinks on the premises, but I think most of us would feel that sitting on chairs in a deserted hall when everything has been taken down is not quite the ambience sought after several days of hard work. Nor can you console yourself in the pub with a pint that is 9.2% cheaper as that has already been swallowed up by an inflation

linked increase to alcohol duty completely separate from the new regime. CAMRA are hoping that they can persuade the Treasury at some point to iron out the anomalies in the system, but the general thrust is here to stay now that the Government is no longer constrained by EU rules on alcohol duty. Brexit is a topic I normally avoid in my columns, but I think I can say that the jury is out on whether or not this a Brexit benefit, and if you drink spirits which are required to have a certain ABV by law, and wines of a higher strength than 11.5% from producer countries that were not in the EU, then you will probably feel that the jury should come back with an unfavourable verdict. Be in no doubt that the thrust of government policy is to penalise the enjoyment of higher strength drinks. The only respite for the responsible drinker will be the pub, and as pubs are at the forefront of CAMRA campaigns, perhaps we should be grateful for that small mercy.

The Boss of Wetherspoons, Tim Martin, has long campaigned for a differential, but his preferred solution was for the same VAT regime to be applied to supermarkets as to licensed premises, thus eroding a good part of their competitive advantage by forcing up prices. I've not seen a Wetherspoons magazine recently so I don't Mr Martin's view on the reforms, but I suspect he will argue that the changes to alcohol duties will have no impact on levelling the playing field. Nor should this be a surprise when supermarket chains can claim back VAT on alcohol if they sell it at cost price or below, which of course they happily do knowing that you will fill your trolley with goods that have substantial profit margins. Is it any wonder that the worst alcohol abusers are supermarket customers rather than drinkers in your local?

Paul Laxton

Chairman, Huddersfield and District Branch

Branch Awards

Club of the Year

Monkey Club Armitage Bridge



A thriving and friendly club in a quiet hamlet, the **Monkey Club** has once again been awarded **Huddersfield CAMRA Club of the Year**. Expertly managed by Gareth Shaw for many years, the club is a multiple winner of the Club of the Year Award. Four cask beers are served with one handpump dedicated to Empire brewery beers and the other three dispensing changing guest beers. There is no affiliation or membership required and the club is well worth a visit. The 324 stops a short walk away on Meltham Road.

Mild Pub of the Year

Commercial Slaithwaite

At the centre of village life in Slaithwaite, the **Commercial** has won **Huddersfield CAMRA Mild Pub of the Year**. The Commercial is a popular and busy pub and is a previous winner of the Mild Pub of the Year Award. Nine handpumps serve beers from local brewery Empire, including Moonraker Mild

on a permanent basis, alongside guest beers, and real ciders from far and wide. A friendly and welcoming pub which although open plan, retains separate drinking areas. The 181 394 and 395 stop outside the pub whilst the 184 185 stop on Manchester Road, a short walk away. Slaithwaite railway station is also nearby.



Cider Pub of the Year

Sportsman Huddersfield



The **Sportsman** in Huddersfield Town Centre has retained the **Huddersfield CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year** award for 2023. It continues to be the pub to go to for

cider in Huddersfield by having an excellent cider offer, with two available on handpump and two from boxes. The awards is well deserved. The Sportsman is a 1930s pub which was refurbished by Hammonds in the 1950s and contains many interesting features. It is a previous winner of the CAMRA English Heritage Pub Design Award. Alongside the cider, 8 real ales are available encompassing a variety of beer styles. The Sportsman is a short walk from Huddersfield Railway and Bus Stations.

Jan Bagshaw

Special Award for 15 years Brewing at the Sair Inn, Linthwaite



Brewing started at the Sair Inn in 1982, shortly after the pub was taken over by Ron Crabtree. For the last 15 years Ian Bagshaw has been the brewer and this award was presented to commemorate and celebrate this achievement now that brewing at the Sair Inn has ceased. The last beer brewed on site at the Sair, Nelson Sauvín, toasted the occasion. Ian intends to continue brewing Linfit beers from an alternative site, and it is hoped they will continue to be available at the Sair Inn.

King's Head

Special Award for 20 Years in the Good Beer Guide



Situated in the Grade I listed railway station and winner of a railway heritage award, the King's Head has been carefully restored with features including a beautiful tiled floor, wood panelling and wood burning stoves. Quality cask beers from near and far at keen prices have long attracted discerning beer drinkers and this award is testament to the efforts of much missed landlord Bruce Travis and his staff over many years and is a real achievement. Four permanent and six guest beers are available including a mild and a dark beer. Real cider is also on sale.



Pubs are social spaces which encourage social interaction and help combat loneliness

Find out more about the work they do:
www.camra.org.uk/loneliness

2 AROUND THE TOON AND TYNE.

The two of us have always liked Newcastle and the surrounding areas so when we were looking for a couple of days break it seemed like a good place to re-visit. Train tickets were booked from Huddersfield to Newcastle and Rooms Inn hotel on Westmoreland Road booked too.

We arrived in Newcastle around 12.25pm and made our way to the hotel (bus 1 towards Slatyford will get you there from central station). Room wasn't quite ready so time for a beer or 3 before going back. We decided on Whickham as neither of us had been up there previously and back to central station and the number 6 bus towards Lanchester had us in the district in around 25 minutes via the Metro Centre.



The 6 dropped us directly outside the **One-Eyed Stag** micropub on Front Street and this turned out to be a tremendous find, 4 Handpumps on and the ones we had in very good condition - *Great Corby Blonde*, *Beartown Bearass* and *Helmsley Yorkshire Legend*. A dog friendly pub as most are these days, lovely, friendly lady behind the bar and all-round fab find. A 10 minute or so walk left out the pub saw the two of us at the **Bay Horse** - Greene King run and a pint of *Anarchy Blonde* was had and some decent food too - also 10% CAMRA discount. Back along the road just a few yards to the **Wetherspoons Harry Claspers** for a quick ½ before going back to the hotel.

Arkells Kingsdown was the choice and ok. Checked in at the digs and then off once again to Central Station and the metro out to one of our favourite pubs the **Left Luggage Room** at Monkseaton station. Not too long there as it had been a long day so 2 halves, *Almasty Simple Pleasures* then *Flying Gang Dark Man* for Carol and the same brewery *Spanish Gold* for myself - both totally acceptable as ever in this superb establishment.



We did finish the night in **Wetherspoons Mile Castle** back in town and *Big Lamp Keelman's Brown* finished the day off nicely.



On the Thursday, after a good night's sleep and some breakfast at the 121 café in Grainger Market (which was excellent) we met a few members of Tyneside & Northumberland CAMRA for a trip to Haltwhistle. We had

2 AROUND THE TOON AND TYNE.

already noticed on their website they had organised a trip here so we got in touch to see if we could tag along. Haltwhistle is a place we've not visited before so this jaunt gave us the opportunity to see what was on offer there. The group of us met to get the 1239 train from Newcastle and arrived at Haltwhistle around 1325. We started off at the **Comrades Club**, which was being presented with a Pub of the Year award by Tyneside & Northumberland CAMRA – well deserved. We had *Prince Bishop & Sunny Daze* from *Big Lamp Brewery*, and it went down very nicely. Onwards to the **Manor House** where we tried *Sycamore Gap* from *Twice Brewed* brewery and Carol managed a quick half of *Landlord* from *Timothy Taylor*. Next port of call was The **Black Bull** where we tried *Claspers Citra* from *Great North Brewery* and was in good condition. *Golden Plover* from *Allandale Brewery* was ok.



A short train trip to Hexham and to the **Platform Bar** was where we next ended up – it has 5 hand pulls, 2 of which were ciders that were changed regularly. A pint of *Consett Ales Steel Town Bitter* went down very well and was in good condition. Train around 5.00pm to Wylam and the excellent **Boat House**. Carol had *Consett Stout*, which was ok, and Nigel had *Cullercoats Shuggy Boat Blonde* which he enjoyed. Final drink in the Boat House was *Jarl* by *Fyne Ales* which was in very good condition then we headed back for the train to Newcastle.

A couple of drinks in the **Wobbly Duck** and the *Strawberry* went down very well to end a great trip to Haltwhistle. Many thanks to Dave, Adrian and the other members of the branch that met us, we thoroughly enjoyed it.

We also had a wander round **Grainger Market** – a fabulous market with an excellent selection of stalls – fruit & veg and butchers galore and many bakers to choose from. *Firebrick Brewery* also has a stall (Nos 81 & 82) and has an excellent selection of beers for purchase. The breakfasts we had on the Thursday & Friday from Café 121 were superb & was worth every penny, it was well worth visit to the market.

Carol & Nigel Fox



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PUB AND BREWERY NEWS

If you run a pub or have any news or information about your local that you want to tell us about email aletalk@huddscamra.org.uk

An appeal to all members in the Huddersfield District!

Pub surveys are our means of keeping the information in What Pub up to date - and, right now, many of our surveys are out of date. It's a really easy job to amend a pub survey; all we need are people to go into pubs and change the information if necessary. So, we're asking for your help, as CAMRA members, to get our What Pub descriptions up to date, so that members from any area can easily decide which pubs to visit and which of the excellent Huddersfield area ales to appreciate! If you feel you can help, please contact the Pubs Officer (for a survey sheet) at: pubsofficer@huddscamra.org.uk
Many thanks!

Beer Ink, Lindley – Brewing suspended. The current premises are no longer fit for purpose and alternative premises are being sought.

Empire Brewery, Slaithwaite – at a recent open day White Lion and Golden Warrior were available plus bottled beers. Strikes Back and Dangerous Dave will be supplied to GBBF.

Linfit Brewery, South Crosland – The Linfit Brewery has relocated from the Sair Inn at Linthwaite to new premises at Moor End Farm at South Crosland, Huddersfield. Ian Bagshaw, the former brewer at the Sair, has been given permission to use the Linfit brewery name by Jim Crabtree, landlord and owner of the Sair Inn. The new Linfit brewery will continue to brew the Linfit beers using the original recipes. Brewing is currently taking place on a 1 barrel brew plant in the old dairy buildings. The first beers to come out of the brewery were *Linfit Bitter* and *Gold Medal*, with *Old Eli* and *Autumn Gold* expected soon. These are available at the **Sair Inn**. The beers have also been supplied to the **Plumbers Arms** in Huddersfield and the **Rose & Crown** at Cop Hill.

Lord's Brewery, Golcar – hoping to open a brewery tap in Huddersfield, close to the University.

Mallinson's, Magic Rock and Beer Ink – have together brewed a collaborative beer, a 4.8% pale ale for **Huddersfield Beer Week**.

Scene at the Bar....

Hickory's (formerly High Park), Bradley – no real ale

Cider Press, Deanhouse – now selling three 1/3 measures of cider from a choice of eight or nine.

Star Inn, Folly Hall – had Ashover Dark Mild, Mallinson's Wolf, Serious Whitewell, Facers Sunny Bitter, Buddings Brewery Treehouse Marmalade IPA on a recent visit.

Ford Inn, Harden Moss – closed.

Butcher's Arms, Hepworth – is now closed on Mondays.

O'Brien's, Holmfirth – are to extend into adjacent premises

County, Huddersfield – had a Tap Takeover by Colne Valley breweries for the Huddersfield BID Beer Week.

Plumbers Arms, Huddersfield – had Stancil Barnsley Bitter, Ossett White Rat, Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Copper Dragon Best Bitter on a recent visit.

Queen's Tavern, Huddersfield – has removed its handpump.

Williams Beer & Gin, Huddersfield – Selling Little Critters Raspberry Blonde on a recent visit; the manageress is reported to be moving to Ripponden.

Sair Inn, Linthwaite – Linfit Nelson Sauvín is the last Linfit beer to be brewed at the Sair.

Conservative Club, Marsden – now has one beer only, this was Moorhouses White Witch recently.

Riverhead, Marsden – One of the original Riverhead beers, Black Moss Stout, has been available recently, a very welcome development! New beers include a Damson Porter, a Blueberry Pale Ale and a hoppy pale ale called Montage which has received a mixed response.

Bay Horse, Lindley – closed.

Bowling Club, Outlane – Moorhouses White Witch, Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Marston Pedigree.

White Swan, Outlane – had Hobgoblin Gold and Ruby and Settle Hoffman's Gold at an outrageous £6 a pint!

Waggon and Horses, Outlane – Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Wainwright.

Farmer's Boy, Shepley – has reopened, currently serving Ossett White Rat, Theakston's Best Bitter, and Timothy Taylor Landlord.

Little Bridge, Slaithwaite – has Milltown Platinum Blonde.

Drinking round Doncaster

(With a bit of football thrown in!!)



Nigel & I like to go to non-league football so this time we decided to amble along to Doncaster. We caught the 0915 train to Meadowhall from Lockwood then connected with the 1117 train from Meadowhall to Doncaster.

First visit of the day was to the Hallcross where we started off with Stock's Old Horizontal followed by Stock's St Ledger Gold – both were in good condition. The staff didn't seem very welcoming which put us off a bit but we were there for the real ale. There were 5 hand pumps on, 2 of which were guests.

A short stroll to the Doncaster Brewery Tap, which has 6 hand pulls on, 3 of which were guests. Sand House Blonde and First Aviation from the brewery and a Turning Point/Northern Monk collaboration, Death Matters Custard, were tried and in excellent condition. They did have a CAMRA discount when they first opened but they have an inhouse scheme for locals and visitors to this very good taphouse. Udders Orchard Cider is on regularly. Well worth a visit.

After we'd been to the football, we called into the Little Plough, which is a very short walk from both the bus and rail stations. Pheasanty Black Pheasant and Stancill Murale were procured and were in good condition. We then called into the Tut 'n' Shive which was next door – a Greene King establishment which had 4 hand pulls on.

We partook in Abbeydale Moonshine – very drinkable. This pub offers a 10% CAMRA discount.

We then sauntered onto the Don Valley tap – out of the numerous hand pulls on there was only one available so we decided to give it a

miss and went a few doors down to the Market Place Ale house where we treated ourselves to Georgiana and Red Feather from Wellbeck Brewery and both went down very well. They have a decent looking menu – unfortunately the kitchen wasn't open on our visit.

We were going to call in the Draughtsman, but it had literally just shut as we turned up – typically!!!! All in all, we had a great day out and will call to Doncaster again.

If anyone at Meadowhall train station saw some daft person tearing across the bridge to get the train to Huddersfield that had just pulled in as our train from Doncaster did at the same time IT WAS ME!!!!

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The Hills are Alive on the 335



335 in Slaithwaite

If there was an award for the most scenic bus route in Kirklees, then the 335 would be in with a good chance of winning it. The route between Slaithwaite and Holmfirth offers far reaching views across Marsden Moor as well as passing through woodland and pretty villages. Even when travelling on a wet Saturday in August with rain that made a monsoon look like fine drizzle, the natural beauty of the area was not dulled. The 335 operates hourly Monday – Saturday daytimes and passes close to several pubs offering a wide variety of real ales.

Catching the bus in Slaithwaite, I decided to go to Holmfirth and then stop off to visit various pubs on the way back. From Slaithwaite the bus climbs up to Holt Head, on to Meltham and then Wilshaw, Netherthong and Deanhouse before arriving in Holmfirth after a spirited 25 minute journey.

Holmfirth has much to offer the real ale drinker, almost every pub sells a variety of real ales and long standing GBG entry The Nook brews its own beers. On this occasion I wanted to visit to bars I'd not been to before, Magic Rock Tap and O'Brien's Beer Café. The **Magic Rock Tap** occupies a former bank on Victoria Street and has an industrial feel about it with exposed brick walls and tall stools set around beer barrels. Three cask beers are available alongside 8 keg beers. These were *Mild Out*, *Ring Master* and *High Wire*. Mild Out and High Wire were tried, and both were good.



Magic Rock Tap, Holmfirth

Just round the corner from Magic Rock, **O'Brien's** is a beer café and bottle shop in a former butchers shop. The walls are stripped back to the brick and some original features have been retained. Alongside a multitude of keg beers, three cask beers are available and when I called in these were *Cloudwater So Cal*, *Anthology US Session IPA* and *Deya What Column is That in?* There's quite a relaxed vibe here but with cask ale prices at £5.50, £5.70, and £6 per pint respectively, it's not a venue that is going to appeal to everyone.



O'Brien's Beer Café, Holmfirth

Back on the 335, it's a short ride to Netherthong and from there a short walk via a footpath next to the primary school to Deanhouse. Passing the Cricketer's Arms (Banks's, Marston's &

The Hills are Alive on the 335

Wainwright) the **Cider Press** is just a minute or two further on. The Cider Press is home to Pure North Cider and a variety of ciders are available to drink on site in the café or take away. On this occasion, there were seven ciders available: Valley Gold, Fusion, Deanhouse Dry, Spiced Cider, Ginger Tom, Vintage Deanhouse and Valley Oak. A tasting paddle of 3 x 1/3 is available and I tried the Valley Gold, Valley Oak and Vintage Deanhouse. Alongside the ciders, a range of bottled beers are available from Briggs Signature Ales, Mallinson's, Nailmaker Brewing, Nook Brewhouse, Three Fiends and Yorkshire Heart Brewery.



Cider selection at the Cider Press

Retracing your steps back to Netherthong Primary School, the Clothier's Arms is adjacent and there was time for a half of *Thwaites IPA* (Wainwright was also on) before catching the next 335.

It's just under 10 minutes to Meltham and the first stop was the **Waggon and Horses**. In a centre-of-village position, the Waggon and Horses is very handily situated. Now a member of the Craft Union Company, the pub was refurbished during lockdown and now has extra comfortable seating and a brighter decor, while keeping a really welcoming feel. Beers on offer were *Timothy Taylor's Landlord*, *Hobgoblin Gold*, and *Hobgoblin IPA*. I had the Landlord and it was ok.

It's a short walk from the Waggon and Horses to the next pub, the **Fourth Fiend**. Occupying the former Conservative Club, the Fourth Fiend is the brewery tap of the Three Fiends Brewery. Two handpumps serve changing beers from Three Fiends and there are numerous keg beers on offer too. The bar comprises a long single room with a variety of seating. The interior décor is bare

stone walls, stone tiled floor, and exposed roof beams. I had a half of Uncle Barry, a West Coast Pale Ale, which was pretty good.

I decided to make this the last stop of the trip and caught the next 335 back to Slaithwaite however, other pubs on the 335 route worth visiting are the **Traveller's Rest** (just outside Meltham heading towards Slaithwaite) this pub is Huddersfield CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year for 2023 and is one of the brewery taps for Milltown Brewery; whilst in Slaithwaite the **Commercial** is another CAMRA award winner, this time for Mild Pub of the Year and sells guest beers from near and far alongside beers from local brewery Empire; and the Shoulder of Mutton sells a variety of mostly Yorkshire beers.

Overall, a satisfying day out. The 335 route offers the opportunity to visit some very good pubs with a wide variety of beers available. **Don't drink and drive, support the local bus service and help these pubs and the bus service thrive.**

Is your local pub under threat?

CAMRA has the tools to help you save it



camra.org.uk/saveyourlocal



FARMERS ARMS

Burnlee

The Farmers Arms at Burnlee near Holmfirth has re-opened following a two year closure and extensive refurbishment. Theo Martin and his brother Rory took over the pub in August 2021 and ensured that the pub retained as much history and tradition as possible, dealing sensitively with such an old building. When the old carpet was removed, Yorkshire Stone flags dating back to the C19th, including some that had bowed due to barrels being rolled over them, were revealed. These were numbered to ensure they went back in their original place. Original beams have been sanded and restored. The overall effect is of a traditional country pub. Although opened out, the pub retains different drinking areas and there are wood burning stoves for the winter months.

On the beer front, there are three handpumps serving Bradfield Farmer's Blonde and Timothy Taylor's Landlord on a regular basis and the third pump serves a changing guest beer which was Mallinson's Simcoe Columbus when Aletalk visited.

It's a bit off the beaten track and the closure may have resulted in the pub dropping off people's radar, but it's well worth a visit and is reasonably well served by bus. The 314 316 from Huddersfield and Holmfirth and the H3 and H5 from Holmfirth all stop a short distance away. Opening hours are from 1300 every day.



The Diary of a

Mild Magician

Every year Stockport and South Manchester CAMRA organise Mild Magic, a Mild Trail that runs throughout April and the first half of May. The trail covers not only Stockport and South Manchester Branch area, but also neighbouring Branches including Central Manchester, High Peak, North Cheshire & Tameside, Salford, and Trafford & Hulme. It's a large area with a great variety of pubs taking part and the idea is to collect stickers from participating pubs. There are a variety of garments and beer vouchers (to spend at Stockport Beer Festival) to be won depending on how many stickers are collected. Greater Manchester's joined up transport network and the multi-mode System One range of tickets mean it's easy to get around from pub to pub. It also means I get to indulge in two passions, public transport planning and drinking Mild!

Day One, Salford & East Manchester

The plan for day one is to cover the Salford pubs, but it occurs to me that the tram from Eccles continues through Manchester City Centre to Ashton via Clayton and Droylsden, with mild trail pubs close to tram stops so it might be possible to stop at these on the way home. The starting point for all days is to get a train from Marsden to Manchester Piccadilly. The first pub today is the **New Oxford** in Salford. A two-roomed pub dating from the 1830s, it's a brisk 20 minutes or so walk from Piccadilly and on arrival you are faced with a mind boggling choice of real ales and ciders served from 20 handpumps. The New Oxford also has an extensive range of Belgian beers. The mild on offer was Moorhouses Black Cat Reserve, at 7% not an ideal beer to start off with! The bar maid offered to give me a sticker for an alternative dark beer, I went for Empire Plum Porter which was very tasty.

The next stop was the Morning Star in Swinton and buses 36 37 and 38 from opposite the New Oxford stop outside the pub. A 38 soon

appeared and after about 25 minutes we were at the **Morning Star**. A typical lively and friendly Holt's pub dating from 1890, the Morning Star is a large red brick pub with a modernised multi roomed interior served from a central bar. Mild, Bitter and Two Hoots were on offer and also a new beer brewed especially for Mild Magic, Unmistakably Mild, which I tried and was a really excellent Mild with liquorice flavours. The pub was busy, with a function on in the lounge. The vault was quieter though with just a few regulars in, most of whom were drinking mild which was encouraging and with there being a permanent special offer of £2.35 a pint it's easy to see why!



From the Morning Star, it was two buses to the next pub. A short ride on a 37 back to Swinton Church and then on to a 22 to Monton for the Park. Another Holt's pub, this would be a theme for the day, **The Park** is a Holt's Cask Ale House which has the feel of a café bar as the front of the pub opens up onto a patio. It had a wider choice of beers including Bitter, Two Hoots, Bootleg Chorlton Pale and Fools Gold and also the Unmistakably Mild. Having enjoyed it so much in the Morning Star, I thought I'd try it again and it was just as good!

From the Park there's a choice of buses 20 21 22 to the next pub, the **Stanley Arms** in Patricroft. Another Holt's pub, the Stanley Arms is Grade II listed and is on CAMRA's National Inventory of Historic Pub interiors and is a street corner local dating from the 1920s. The pub comprises of a vault and two further, more comfortable rooms and has tiling throughout and etched windows. Bitter and Unmistakably Mild were on and it continued to be on great form.

The next pub, the Lamb Hotel, is in Eccles, a short ride away. Frequent buses stop nearby

and a 67 appeared almost immediately. The **Lamb Hotel** is opposite Eccles bus and tram interchange and is another pub of historical interest with a carved oak bar and etched glass throughout. There is a vault and three other rooms. Mild and Bitter were available, the mild being ok.

The Metrolink tram network operates on a 12 minute frequency across all routes and there was a tram waiting at the interchange. The journey across Manchester to Clayton took about 50 minutes. The **Grove Inn** is close to the Clayton Hall tram stop and was the final Holt's pub of the day, selling Mild, Bitter and Unmistakably Mild. Most of the current structure dates from the 1920's and features include a wood-panelled bar surround with intricate detail and an ornate memorial to locals that fell during World War I. I tried the ordinary Mild again and it was ok.

Back to the tram stop and two stops further down the line is Droylsden and **Silly Country Bar and Bottle Shop** which is opposite the tram stop. As the name suggests the bar sells a wide range of bottled beers as well as four cask beers, usually including beers from local breweries such as Distant Hills from Glossop and Bridge Beers from Stalybridge. Unfortunately, the mild had run off but there was an alternative dark beer, Salopian Mind Bomb which was good.

Silly Country was planned be the last pub of the day, the intention being to get the tram to Ashton, then a bus to Stalybridge and the train to Marsden. However, when I got to Stalybridge, I had 20 minutes to wait for the train, so I called in to the **Station Buffet Bar** which I had planned to do on a different day. The Buffet Bar has long been a mecca for real ale drinkers and is a regular entrant in the Good Beer Guide. It is now Part of the Beerhouses group alongside West Riding Refreshment Rooms at Dewsbury Railway Station and the County and The sportsman in Huddersfield. As usual there was a great choice of beers, the mild was Dark Mild from Distant Hills.

Day Two, Cheadle & Gatley

On day two, I visited the Cheadle and Gatley area, with good train links from Piccadilly and a variety of participating pubs. The first stop

is Cheadle Hulme, about 15 minutes ride. **Holt's Platform Five**, or **P5**, is adjacent to the railway station. A large pub which is open plan following refurbishments and an extension in the 1990s and in 2010, the Unmistakably Mild was again on great form.

There was a bit of a walk to the next Pub, the **Cross Keys** in Adswood. A path alongside the railway line turned out to be a good find and shortened the walk to 15 minutes. The Cross Keys is a Hydes pub selling Dark Ruby alongside Original and Lowry. The pub dates from the inter-war period and retains some interesting features including open fires and a vault/ games room. The Dark Ruby was very tasty.

The journey to the next pub, the **Horse and Farrier** in Gatley, is fairly short but requires two buses. The 368 towards Stockport stops nearby and it's a quick trip to Edgeley Road to change onto an 11. The 11 stops next to Gatley railway station, about 15 minutes away, and the Horse and Farrier is close by. Another Hydes pub, the Horse and Farrier is a large, impressive building at a major junction. It has a multi roomed interior with many interesting features. The beer range included 1863, a tasty light mild, as well Original, Hopster and Lowry. The final two pubs for the day the **James Watt** and the **Wobbly Stamp** are both in Cheadle and as the Wobbly Stamp doesn't open until 1500, I called in at the James Watt first. Having plenty of time, I decided to walk to Cheadle from Gatley and after about 20 minutes, I arrived at the **James Watt**. Another Hydes pub, I chose the Dark Ruby, which was again on good form. There is a wide range of Hydes beers on offer with 1863, Original, Hopster, Lowry and two beers from the Ralf and Alf range, Penny Red and Break Out alongside the Dark Ruby. The **Wobbly Stamp** is a former post office a short walk from the James Watt. The mild had sold out and the one in the cellar was not yet ready but there was a stout available which was good.



The plan from here was to get the bus back to Gatley Station and then the train to Piccadilly but a lineside fire between Gatley and Manchester Airport was causing disruption so instead I got the bus to Stockport and got a train from there.

Day Three, Chorlton & Didsbury

Chorlton is easily reached by the 85 or 86 buses from Piccadilly Gardens or the tram from St Peter's Square or Exchange Square. The first stop was the **Sedge Lynn**. An impressive Wetherspoon's in a former billiard hall, dating from around 1907, it features a marvellous barrelled ceiling. The mild had sold out, but Vale Brewery Black Beauty Porter was on and was good.

The next pub was the **Horse and Jockey** at Chorlton Green, about 10 minutes' walk. Another busy Holts pub which was doing a brisk trade in meals, the Unmistakably Mild was on and was good.

From Chorlton, the tram takes you to East Didsbury via Didsbury Village and West Didsbury and at all these locations the pubs are very conveniently located close to the tram stops!

At East Didsbury another impressive Wetherspoons is the **Gateway**, a large roadhouse style pub dating from the 1930s. The Mild on offer was Mother Redcap from Peerless brewery. The Gateway is at a busy road junction and adjacent to the Parris Wood leisure complex and was very busy.

A short walk back to the tram stop and then a very short ride to Didsbury village. The **Fletcher Moss**, a historic Hydes pub named after a local Alderman, is visible from the platform. Seven Hydes beers were available, Dark Ruby, 1863, Original, Hopster, Lowry and the two current beers from the Ralf and Alf range, Penny Red and Break Out. The Dark Ruby very good.

The next pub, the **Head of Steam**, is a short walk away on Wilmslow Road. The pub has a modern interior with a mixture of pine



wood fixtures, booth seating, bare boards and filament bulbs featuring strongly. Merlin Mythical Mild was available and was ok.

A short walk back to the tram stop and then another very short ride to West Didsbury where the next pub, **Wine and Wallop** is opposite the tram stop. A bar with a cosy relaxed atmosphere, there are six cask ales served as well as an extensive range of wine. The mild was Dunham Massey Dark Mild, which was excellent.

From Didsbury there are frequent buses into the city centre, passing three participating pubs. I'm just calling at one, the **Ford Madox Brown**, a Wetherspoons in Rusholme. It's a busy pub close to University, Hospitals, Galleries, and other attractions. The mild was the very tasty Rudgate Ruby Mild.

Then it was back to the bus stop for a bus into the city centre. Most services stop at **Piccadilly Gardens**. Heading back to the railway station there was time to call into the Piccadilly Tap where Neptune Selkie Dark Mild was on.



Day four, Mossley and Stalybridge

As I only needed three stickers to complete my two cards, I decided to stay quite local and call at Stalybridge and Mossley. **Bridge Beers** is a characterful micro pub and bottle shop in Stalybridge and sells their own beers by gravity direct from the barrel. Bridge Beers Golden Mild was available and was ok. There is limited seating in the bar downstairs but there is a comfortable lounge upstairs.

From Bridge beers it's a short walk back to the station, passing two Hydes pubs on the way. I called in to the **White House** and the mild had run out. I was offered a sticker for one of the other beers and chose Hydes Original, a traditional bitter, which was good.

It's one stop on the train to Mossley and the next pub, **The Gillery**, is opposite the station. Again, the mild had sold out, but Millstone Stout was offered as an alternative and was good.

Doing the Mild Magic Trail was really enjoyable, with some great pubs and milds available. I would definitely recommend taking part. My favourite was Holt's Unmistakably Mild, closely followed by Dunham Massey Dark Mild. Whilst I know the area well, most of the pubs, at least those outside Manchester city centre, I'd only read about, and this was a great opportunity to experience them. The train fares from West Yorkshire to Manchester do add considerable costs to the venture though!

www.camra.org.uk/saveourpubs

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CAMRA CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



Why we love the rain in Yorkshire

Taylor's brewery sits upon The Knowle Spring, the unique source of water we use to brew our beers. This particularly pure and consistent spring water is one of the reasons we're able to brew beer of such reliable quality and taste. Filtered over time through layers of sandstone and black rock, Knowle Spring water has special mineral qualities that marry perfectly with our Golden Promise barley malt. This unique combination is the foundation of the complex flavour and subtlety of Landlord. And it all begins with rain falling upon the Yorkshire hills. That's why we're always happiest when it pours.

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WHY NOT JOIN CAMRA....?

CAMRA was established in 1971 and so has recently celebrated 50 years of fighting to get better beer in pubs, and today CAMRA has grown into an organisation that champions the Great British Pub with a passion for real ales still at its heart.

CAMRA is an independent, voluntary organisation with over 154,000 members nationally and has been described as the most successful consumer group in Europe, so has quite a voice when needed and campaigning is what CAMRA does. From lobbying the Government to take action on business rates and local volunteers campaigning against possible pub closures, to supporting pubs and breweries through Covid and much has been achieved in the 50 years, not least a long term future for quality real ale and cider, which is now readily available across the UK, but there is much more to achieve with your help.

Membership in Huddersfield has mirrored the effects of Covid and now the economic situation and has gradually reduced over the last 2 years but we do hope that now Covid is perhaps past the worst and this will enable people to get out to pubs and restaurants and the fact that we are now again putting on social events and producing our all new colour Ale Talk magazine quarterly, we hope this will also encourage people to sign up and then get all the benefits of membership.

We aim to: Protect and improve consumer rights, promote quality, choice and value for money, support the public house as a focus of community life, campaign for greater appreciation of traditional beers, ciders and perries as part of our national heritage and culture and seek improvements in all licensed premises and throughout the brewing industry.

CAMRA Membership from 1 July 2023 costs £30.50 pa for single memberships, £38.50 joint at the same address or if under 26 is just £22. All these are for memberships paid by Direct Debit.

To sign up for membership please visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 798440 weekdays from 9am to 5pm. When you join a full year's membership includes;

- A welcome pack to help you make the most of your membership.
- Award-winning, quarterly Beer Magazine and What's Brewing online news and a Podcast.
- Free or reduced entry to CAMRA beer festivals. £30 worth of CAMRA Real Ale vouchers, £40 for joint members.
- Discounts on pints at participating pubs as part of CAMRA's Real Ale Discount Scheme. In Huddersfield, the Crown, Head of Steam and Rat & Ratchet do offer this on production of your membership card. WhatPub site also details some 12 other pubs and clubs around Huddersfield offering card discounts.
- Learning resources to help you discover more

about beer and brewing.

- The opportunity to campaign for quality real ale, cider and Perry and to save pubs under threat from closure.
- Discounts on CAMRA books including the annual best-selling Good Beer Guide.
- Social activities in your local area and exclusive member discounts online.

Your local committee runs the events in Huddersfield and our own website www.huddscamra.org.uk and each area of the country has such volunteers. Why not join us.

We look forward you to signing up for membership and you will then have full access to our site and get all the above benefits.

Shortly after signing up and getting the info from CAMRA Head Office you should receive an email from membership@huddscamra.org.uk as long as you agree to receive emails which we hope you will do so we can then also send out to you regular information about our activities.

See elsewhere in this magazine for our most recent activities and local pub awards.

BRANCH DIARY

Monday 2nd October

Autumn Pub of the Season Presentation – TBC

Monday 16th October

Branch Meeting – venue TBC

Monday 20th November

Branch AGM Rat & Ratchet, Huddersfield

Wednesday 6th December

Branch Meeting at Williams Beer & Gin, Huddersfield

Monday 11th December

Christmas Social at The County, Huddersfield

Thank you to the Shoulder of Mutton, Lockwood, the Tap House, Holmfirth and the Sair Inn, Linthwaite for hosting our recent Branch meetings

Aletalk is produced by Huddersfield Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, CAMRA Ltd. or its Branches. No part of the magazine may be reproduced without permission. Contributions are welcome from any CAMRA member and may be sent to aletalk@huddscamra.org.uk Contributions may be edited for reasons of space and may be held over for future issues. Copies are distributed quarterly, free of charge, to outlets in Huddersfield, surrounding areas, and further afield. Thank you to Paul Laxton, Nigel and Carol Fox, Marcus Garside, for their various contributions.

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THE NOOK BREWHOUSE

The Nook Brewhouse is a bespoke purpose built brewery and is the next chapter for the Nook's real ale legacy. It stands on the site of a previous brewery dating back to the 18th century and has been designed to make the most of the natural and local resources wherever possible; gravity to aid the brewing process, warm energy from one brew to heat the next and the cool cellar which is built deep below the water line of the River Ribble and is perfect for conditioning our ales.

It produces nearly 5000 pints of award winning "ales with Yorkshire Character" every week, much of which is enjoyed in The Nook. The Nook Brewhouse's cask conditioned ales can also be found in pubs and bars and at beer festivals across the North of England and beyond.

Our Award winning ales are inspired by Yorkshire characters offer something for everybody ... but don't worry you don't have to be from Yorkshire to enjoy them too.

Visit our website to order and enjoy our ale at home and discover more of what the Nook Brewhouse has to offer.

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