



# O to K

From Ossett To Knottingley  
Issue 98 . Winter 2026 . FREE!



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION VISIT THE PUB



READ ONLINE BY  
SCANNING THIS  
QR CODE

The Angel

WAKEFIELD ROAD  
WF7 7AB  
01977 611276

A traditional, well established local

Two Real Ales - Black Sheep and a  
changing guest from Yorkshire breweries



Quiz Night : Wed 8.45 pm

Open Times : Mon 12-10

Tues - Sun 12 - 11

Meal Times : Mon- Sat 12:00-20:00

Sun 12:00-18:00

Booking advisable by phone

# JOIN THE ACKWORTH REAL ALE TRAIL

MASONS  
ARMS

A Community Pub Of The Year 2023  
Bell Lane, WF7 7JD  
Large Two Level Beer Garden



Three Real Ales - Bradfield Farmers  
Bitter and Blonde and guest

Quiz Night - Thurs 8.30pm

Live Music - Sat 9pm, Sun 4-7pm

Mon-Tue 4-11pm, Wed-Thu 8.30am-11pm,

Fri-Sat 8.30am-1am, Sun 12-10pm

Breakfast served 8.30-11.45am on Wed-Sat

Lunch 12-2.30pm, Dinner 5-8.30pm on Wed-Sat

Sunday Lunch 12-5pm



3 REAL  
ALES



LIVE  
MUSIC  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

PIZZA  
CLUB  
OFFERS  
AVAILABLE  
ALL WEEK

QUIZ  
NIGHT  
THURSDAY  
8.30PM

LIVE  
SPORT  
SKY & BT

OPEN MON & TUES 3PM - 11PM  
WED - SUN 12PM - 12AM

20 WAKEFIELD RD, ACKWORTH, PONTEFRAC T WF7 7DE

## *Hello and welcome to Issue 98.*

CAMRA is offering beer and cider lovers free entry to all its festivals, as a valuable new membership benefit for 2026.

CAMRA festivals are one of the best places to discover beers from independent brewers, giving you the chance to find a new favourite, or just share your love of great beer with friends and family.

More than 250,000 people already go to CAMRA festivals each year, enjoying a whopping 850,000 pints of top-quality beer and cider. With free entry now on offer, this is one occasion where it's worth following the crowd, cutting the queues and saving cash by joining the Campaign.

With well over 100 festivals on offer, CAMRA takes beer and cider lovers on a journey through the soul of British brewing. From festivals held in medieval towns and heritage buildings to huge outdoor events, and even on Jesus Green in Cambridge, there's something for everyone!

CAMRA chairman Ash Corbett-Collins said: "You can't put a price on beer culture and community, so we've made entry to our festivals free for our members. This means CAMRA membership will get you even more than it did before, including the opportunity to try beers you've never heard of at festivals you'll never forget."

Campaign membership is the essential package for beer and pub lovers, costing as little as £34 a year and you get to be a part of one of the most successful grassroots campaigns in the UK. For more information and member benefits, visit [camra.org.uk/membership](http://camra.org.uk/membership) and for upcoming festivals click here.

Members get free entry to festivals but may be asked to book a ticket in advance to guarantee entry.

There are plenty of festivals to look forward to.

### **BRADFORD BEER FESTIVAL**

**THURSDAY 26th to SATURDAY 28th FEB**

Held at Victoria Hall, Saltaire. Tickets available online (CAMRA members purchase a ticket and you will be refunded in Beer Tokens).

Two sessions per day on each day.

### **SKIPTON BEER FESTIVAL**

**THURSDAY 21st to SATURDAY 23rd MAY**

The event will be held in the historic Town Hall, High Street, Skipton at the following times, with payment on the door (free to card carrying CAMRA members):

Thursday & Friday: 11am to 10pm,

Saturday: 11am to 8pm.

## *Branch Diary*

March 10th AGM and Branch Meeting. Black Rock, Wakefield

March 21st Day Trip To Clitheroe, contact Mark Goodair

April 11th 1pm Branch Meeting, Old Grocers, Pontefract

May 7th Branch Meeting. Harry's Bar, Wakefield

June 6th 1pm Branch Meeting. Junction, Castleford.

Our branch meetings are great way for an evening out, it isn't all formal and our committee meetings are open for all to attend.

Some meetings are provisional, you can keep up to date on all events by following us on Twitter and Facebook or visiting our website [wakefield.camra.org.uk/branch-diary](http://wakefield.camra.org.uk/branch-diary)

*Branch Meetings are Thursday 7.30pm unless stated  
Committee Meeting are Tuesday 7.30pm unless stated*

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**Ackworth Report:** All five of the pubs that serve Cask Real Ale through hand pumps in Ackworth: Angel, Boot and Shoe, Brown Cow, Masons Arms and Rustic Arms, all now serve food and are dog friendly. There is more information and contact details on their individual websites and facebook pages. All of the five reported back that they had a successful and had been very busy over the Christmas and New Year festive period.

News since the Autumn O to K Edition:

**Angel:** Continues to have Black Sheep Bitter as its regular cask ale alongside a changing guest. There are special menus planned for Valentines Day and Mothers Day. There will be a DJ and Disco on the last Saturday of each month. Quiz night is 8:30 on Wednesday Becky, the Bar Manager, said 'We had a good Christmas period and have been very busy'.

**Boot and Shoe:** The 'Boot' has Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Ossett White Rat as the two permanent cask ales. A frequent changing guest Ossett Brewery occupies the third hand pump. A most recent guest was Barghest, a 4.3% smooth stout. There is live music on Saturday 4:00 to 6:00 and 8:00 to 10:00. Quiz night is 9:00 on Thursday. George, the Bar Supervisor, said 'We had a very busy Christmas, it was nice to see it so lively'.

**Brown Cow:** Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker and Ossett Blonde continue to be the two permanent cask ales.

Quiz night is Tuesday 8:30. There will be special menus on for Valentines Day and Mothers Day. Erin, behind the bar, said 'We had a very busy Christmas and we even had a visit from Santa'.

**Masons Arms:** Bradfield Blonde and Farmers Bitter continue to be the two permanent cask ales. The third hand pump occupies another changing beer from the Bradfield. Belgian Blue, again, proved a popular guest over the festive period. Live music on Saturday at 9:00 and between 4:00 and 6:30 on Sunday is proving to be very popular since starting up again. Quiz night is 7:30 on Thursday. Breakfasts, served up to 12:00, Lunch and Evening meals have been very popular since they were introduced at the beginning of December. Neil, the bar manager, said 'We have had a very busy Christmas period'.

**Rustic Arms:** A regional or nationally sourced changing cask ale is available. In addition to the four festive real ales, other recent guests have included Theakstones Old Peculiar, Timothy Taylor's Landlord, and Bradfield Farmers Blonde and Black Sheep Bitter. There is an Open Mic Night on Tuesday 8:00. Quiz night is Friday 8:30. Sam Bradley, behind the bar, said 'It had been busy over the festive period. ....particularly the two quizzes on Christmas and New Years Eve.

David Oates

## Pontefract Spring Beer Festival - Carleton Grange Trust Community Centre Friday to Sunday, 20th to 22nd March 2026

Exciting news broke in mid January with the announcement of a beer festival across all the social areas of the Carleton Grange Community Centre on the south eastern fringe of Pontefract. The Bar, in the old drawing room, serves a changing guest cask ale from different Yorkshire breweries. On a recent visit, it was a very good quality Kirkstall Brewery Three Swords Pale Ale (4.3%). The Grange was awarded Wakefield CAMRA Community Club of the Year for its extensive and varied range of activities, clubs and events in the Carleton and surrounding villages.

The Grange was bought by Thomas William Tew, a private Pontefract banker, and virtually rebuilt five years later in 1876. It became a community centre as far back as 1946. The re-build contained much ornamental plasterwork, including amazing ceilings, coloured glass windows and carved woodwork that is still present today. A lot more historical information is on their website.

The Bar opening times are: Monday to Thursday 6:00 to 11:00pm; Friday 4:00 to 11:30pm; Saturday 6:00 to Late ; and, Sunday 12:00 to 10:00pm. It well worth a visit. Even a Hidden Gem!

The beer festival will feature 50 cask ales from 21 Yorkshire breweries. 10 of these beers will be supplied by the Kirkstall Brewery, Leeds, with one brewed especially for the beer festival.

Mark Seaman, founder member of the former Whitwood, Castleford Revolutions Brewery, is part of the team tasked with planning and running the festival. Mark is a very worthy recent winner of the long established and prestigious Wakefield CAMRA award for those contributing significantly above and beyond the norm in promoting Cask Ale. Mark's role is to bring together the best beers from regional brewers, alongside a small number from further afield.

Music will run alongside every session.

Further details can be found on their website, a specific 18th January post on their facebook page, and other posts from the end of January into February. There is a link for people to log an interest and receive further updates:

<https://www.carletongrange.co.uk/events/the-pontefract-festival-of-beer-spring/>

David Oates

## New Wheel - Autumn Pub Of The Season

The community focused New Wheel Inn on Wrenthorpe Road, Wrenthorpe was presented with the highly prestigious Autumn Pub of the Season Award. Landlady Sally Kennerley, who has worked at the pub, in a range of roles, for the past 19 years was presented with the certificate by Mark Goodair, Wakefield and CAMRA Chairperson.

The pub was built in 1908 and named after the local pottery industry. It is currently owned by the 'Proper Pubs' Company, which is apart of the Admiral Taverns Group. The pub has a very strong community focus, including fund raising activities, running and hosting, numerous clubs, events and sports teams. It achieved a Community Pub Of the Year Award in 2023. It has been in the previous two year's Good Beer Guide. Most recently, it successfully gained membership to the renowned and long established Yorkshire brewery Timothy Taylors 'Champions Club' for 'tireless dedication to excellent cellarmanhip'.



drawn up from the branch members nominations. All 600 plus branch members are then entitled and invited to vote on these four pubs, with the winner being crowned the Pub Of The Season. Pubs of the season all have consistently high quality Real Ale and a good and welcoming atmosphere for its regulars and visitors alike.

Mark Goodair, in his presentation speech, said CAMRA was pleased to be able to support the New Wheel in its application and ultimately the successful attainment of an ACV (Asset of Community Value) status. However, as he emphasised that 'this Award is more about the quality of the cask beers, and I'm sure you will all agree they are superb'. Scott Nightingale, Pubs Officer, added: "Over the last few years the pub has gone from strength to strength with not only Sally's dedication in promoting real ale in the pub, but also in the continued support of the local breweries".

Sally Kennerley, said that she was truly overwhelmed by how many people today had joined us for our presentation. She added: 'Thank you to Wakefield CAMRA, to John Rothery and Calvin Grindle, who have worked so hard, and to each and every one of you for joining us'.

**David Oates**



The Pub of the Season is a quarterly award, in line with the four seasons, voted for by Wakefield CAMRA Branch Members. A short list of the four top pubs is

### **Winter Pub Of The Season Star - Sandal**

Winning for the first time this pub is leased by the Morton Collins brewery and serves their own beers plus guest beers with five on sale at any time.

They host multiple beer festivals a year, weekly pie nights and quiz nights and is easy to get to using the 106 bus.

### **Pub Of The Year Vote**

This is currently being voted on, use our website and select the Pub Of The Year vote link.

#### **The four nominated pubs are**

Bradley Arms, North Featherstone  
Cricketers, Horbury  
Harry's Bar, Wakefield  
Luis Bar at Fernandes, Wakefield

### Travellers Rest, Featherstone

Simon and Gail took over the extensively refurbished Admiral Taverns owned 'Travs' at the beginning of November. They are currently operating with one changing guest but Simon hopes to increase that to two in the Spring and Summer months. Simon hopes to have a range of real ales in the coming months from the Admiral Tavern beer list and plans to 'listen to what real ales the locals request'. Recent guests have included Timothy Taylors Landlord and Hobgoblin Gold. The weekly events include: Wednesday Bingo(6:30), Thursday Quiz Night, Friday and Saturday Karaoke Nights and Live Music once a month on Sunday at 4:00.

### The New Inn, Walton

A very popular local pub open every day from 12 Noon till Late (food served until 9:00pm) that is situated towards the western fringes of the village. There are always 6 cask ales served. Timothy Taylors Landlord and Ossett White Rat are the regular real ales. The other 4 hand pumps have changing guest ales. On my most recent visit, the guest ales were: Rudgate Varkyn, Stancill Porter and Harviestoun's Bitter and Sweet and Schiehallion. Quiz night is 8:30 Monday. Live music and entertainment on takes place at least monthly and is posted on their website and Facebook.

Dogs are made very welcome in the Taproom and Neon Room. There is an extensive Beer Garden with 2 heated pods for use in cold and wet weather. They have a strong link with its immediate and wider community. Regular Charity Nights and Events take place throughout the year, often raising funds for the Wakefield Hospice. There is a permanently set up Artisan Market every Saturday Morning 9:00 to 11:30 and also on selected evenings in the summer months.

### Empire WMC, Moorthorpe

A long established Working Mens Club operating for over 60 years. The Empire serves a regular cask ale, Black Sheep Bitter on the single hand pump. The Empire has a long tradition for staging live music. Acts perform on Friday and Sunday Nights at 9:00. More details are on their Facebook.

### The Blue Bell, Hemsworth

The Bar Manager, Kelsey Townend, is very keen to promote cask ale and is planning a Monthly Brewery Tap Takeover throughout 2026. The first takeover was by Wilde Child Brewery over a 10 day period in January. Current and future Tap Takeovers will be posted on their Facebook.

David Oates



**CAMRA**  
**MEMBERS' WEEKEND**  
**ST ALBANS 2026**  
**Friday 17 - Sunday 19 April 2026**  
**The Alban Arena, St Albans**  
Hosted by South Hertfordshire Branch



**WAKEFIELD CAMRA**  
**PUB OF THE YEAR 2024**

*The Old Grocers*  
Pontefract

**MICRO PUB**

**25 Beaufair, Pontefract**  
**Changing Range Of Up To 8 Cask And Craft Keg Beers**  
**Real Cider Also Available**  
**PUB OF THE SEASON AUTUMN 19 WINTER 21, AUTUMN 22, SUMMER 24**  
**Mon/Tue Closed,**  
**Wed 3pm - 11pm, Thu 3pm-9pm**  
**Fri/Sat 1pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 6pm**

THE GOOD BEER GUIDE 2024

## Paul Windmill. Landlord, Welder, Brewer and Rugby Player.

Paul Windmill, my dear friend of more than thirty years, died on October 3 after a brave battle with illness. For the past five years he had been a well loved and highly respected Landlord of the award-winning Bradley Arms in North Featherstone.

Paul was born in Featherstone in August 1967. He often joked that he was a baby of the summer of love. His mam and dad lived first in a one up one down back-to-back house in Back John Street off Green Lane, the family moved to Featherstone Lane where Paul lived until leaving home.

Like many young men from his town, Paul played rugby and was in the successful Featherstone Miners Welfare side that lifted the Yorkshire Senior Cup in 1996.

Paul's dad told him that he should stay away from the pit and try to get himself a trade. He trained as a welder at Longlands College in Middlesborough. He then spent thirty years travelling for a living as a self-employed welder, working in quarries and power stations in this country and abroad. He also lived for a number of years in The Channel Islands working on quaysides. About ten years ago Paul switched careers and became a brewer working at Revolutions brewery in Castleford.

He first married Jane and they had a daughter Amy and a son Sam. In 2006 Paul married his second wife Alison in a ceremony in a garden on the island of Guernsey. They came back to live in Featherstone and have been a great partnership both in life and business. In 2019 they took on The Bradley Arms and Paul went from award winning brewer to award winning pub landlord. Paul was passionate about the things he loved. He



loved community, friendship and meeting people from different backgrounds. He loved street food, the seaside, particularly the east coast, he loved going fishing, live music and real ale. He was a dog lover, a people person and a committed socialist. Most of all he loved the fact that he and Alison were Landlord and Landlady of The Bradley Arms. Not long after they moved there he said to Alison, 'Well we got married in a garden shed and look at us now, living in an 18th century former farm house.' Together they have turned The Bradley Arms into one of the most cherished public houses in this county, a real destination pub that welcomes locals and visitors alike with people from all backgrounds enjoying its cosy charms. In some ways The Bradley Arms is an extension of Paul's personality. Long may it continue as his legacy.

**Ian Clayton**

### Continental Tap House Opens

Wakefield has a new craft beer style bar which has opened at the Gradient Mill inside the Tileyard North complex.



There are two handpulls usually with Westgate Blonde and Ossett White Rat along with 12 keg beers including European ales, sours and lagers along with Northern Monk Faith. Beer flights are available for you to expand your palette.

### More Pub News

**Castleford Brewhouse, Castleford** - We understand this venue has closed.

**Cock & Crown, Crofton** - The Doncaster Road pub is under new management and has reintroduced real ale starting with Timothy Taylor Landlord.

**Jam Lounge, Wakefield** - The former Polka Hop is now under the management of Karl from Venue 23 and features real ale.

**Tawny, Ossett** - Has reopened and has real ale.

**The Tetley, Leeds** - Will be staying open until at least the end of May.

**Victoria Hotel, Leeds** - This magnificent pub has reopened.

## Ark Ale Fest Flockton, Wakefield 1st – 4th May

The Ark in Flockton is hosting its first beer festival this May, Bev from the Nailmaker Pub Co says,

“Set in a marquee in our beautiful beer garden, the festival will showcase 16 real ales, offering a cracking mix of styles for both seasoned ale lovers and the beer-curious.



Alongside the real ales, enjoy a strong selection of craft beers, real ciders, bottled favourites, plus our popular Waterton's local craft gins for those who like to mix things up.

There'll be a street food vendor every day alongside live music across the festival, with a very special

highlight on Sunday 3rd May. Hank Muldoon will headline with his 37 year anniversary gig (to the very day) at the same venue, back then it was known as the George and Dragon.

Friday 1st Music from 7pm with Eddie Butler. Food from Blue Marlin 5-8pm (Fish & Chips).

Saturday 2nd Music from 4pm with Woody The String Man. Food from Mickey D's Smoke house 4-8pm (18 hour smoked brisket).

Sunday 3rd Music from 4pm with Hank Muldoon & Think Tank. Food from Ember & Feast 4-8pm (Hog Roast).

Monday 4th Music from 2pm with Leon Pashley. Food from Crust Culture 2-6pm (48h proved sourdough pizza).

We are dog friendly, so 4 legged festival goers are very welcome too!

Easy to find, we are located in Flockton, Wakefield, right on the 231 and 232 bus routes. Address: 257 Barnsley Road, Flockton, Wakefield, WF4 4AL.

A warm welcome awaits from Bev and the team! Come and help us make The Ark's first Beer Festival, one to remember. #TeamArk"

## CAMRA's National Pub of the Year 2025 - Tamworth Tap

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year 2025 title has been won by the Tamworth Tap in Staffordshire, bagging an unprecedented trilogy of top titles.



Since the start of CAMRA's Pub of the Year competition in 1988, no pub has ever won the Campaign's most prestigious award three times – until now.

The award is the highest honour the Campaign gives to a pub, helping to showcase quality pubs across the UK that are worth seeking out and visiting. Beating thousands of entries, the Tamworth Tap was judged on its atmosphere, décor, welcome, service, inclusivity,

overall impression and, most importantly, quality cask beer, real cider and perry.

Home to Tamworth Brewing Company, the multi-award-winning pub boasts a range of eight cask beers from both local brewers and across the UK, along with a wide selection of ciders, gins, wines, and bottled beers.

The Tudor building with a 16th century shop front and its historic courtyard beer terrace offers stunning views of Tamworth's Norman Castle for a scenic spot to enjoy a pint. As part of the pub's popular 'CAMRA Corner', the Tamworth Tap's stairs have been decorated to look like a display of Good Beer Guides, along with a rare complete collection of CAMRA's pub guidebooks.

The pub is the centre of its community, becoming a social hub by hosting a huge range of daily events, from craft clubs, painting nights, and faith groups to sell-out tutored tasting sessions. Owners George and Louise Greenaway (pictured far right) and their team support local charities, including the Royal British Legion Tamworth branch, and making Christmas hampers for St Editha's Parish Church.

George and Louise were awarded the town's Freedom of the Borough in recognition of their commitment to the town and community.

Pubs, Pints, People.

**FREE  
ENTRY**  
to all 100+  
CAMRA-run  
beer  
festivals

# Death or Glory?

**Just a pint please, actually.**

CAMRA membership expands your choice of beer, pubs and festivals. Find the best pints, and the places you want to drink them.

Get £30 of beer vouchers, discounts on real ale, free entry to 100+ beer festivals around the UK and more with membership.



Join and save on beer.  
[camra.org.uk/join](https://camra.org.uk/join)



# The Junction

Carlton St, Castleford WF10 1EE



**Unique Multi-Award-Winning  
Traditional Pub**

### OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday 3pm – 9pm

Thursday 3pm – 9pm

Friday 2pm – 11pm Saturday 12 – 11pm

Sunday 12 – 9pm

**Traditional Pub Games**

Tel: 01977 277750

Web: [www.thejunctionpubcastleford.com](http://www.thejunctionpubcastleford.com)

Events: [www.facebook.com/JunctionPubCas](http://www.facebook.com/JunctionPubCas)

# THE BLACK ROCK

WAKEFIELD

WF1 1PQ

WAKEFIELD CAMRA PUB OF THE YEAR

SIX CHANGING  
GUEST CASK ALES  
AT ALL TIMES  
A RANGE OF  
WORLD  
BOTTLED BEERS

### OPENING TIMES

Mon-Fri 11-11

Sat 11-12

Sun 12-10.30



Scarborough

Bridlington

Hull

**Bridlington's  
Real Ale  
Destination**

2 Marshall Avenue  
Bridlington YO15 2DS  
01262 604235

[threebspubbrid.co.uk](http://threebspubbrid.co.uk)  
@ThreeBsPubBrid

## 2 THREE B'S MICRO PUB 2

REAL ALES

REAL GIDERS



30 SEATS  
& OUTDOOR SEATING

BAR SNACKS

CHILDREN & DOGS WELCOME

HOT & COLD SOFT DRINKS

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE

EVER-CHANGING RANGE OF ALES

10 CIDERS

LARGE GIN SELECTION

OPEN  
SUMMER | WINTER

SUN 12-9 | 2-9

MON - TUE closed

WED - SAT 12-10 | 1-9



CAMRA Pub of the Year 2024  
Yorkshire JOINT WINNER  
National FINALIST (TOP 4)



## A Good Meal And A Decent Pint - The Thorn Tree

This time we head to Ossett to check out another pub dining option. The Thorn Tree is a short walk from the town centre but it is also served by buses 116 and 122 with even a service in the evening.

First impression was of a bright and cheerful pub with friendly and welcoming staff. I was pleased to see the wording at the entrance: "If you are dining with us today, please wait here to be seated". In other words, you are equally welcome to just come in for a drink and bypass this notice. Greeting everyone with "Are you dining with us?" should be unnecessary in a pub.

White Rat and Landlord are the usual ales on offer although the Landlord was not available when we visited. There's usually a guest ale as well and it was very pleasing to see Theakston's XB on the bar, an excellent beer you don't see too often on our patch. It was, as expected, very tasty.

The main menu is described as the "Comfort Menu" and there is certainly plenty of choice. As well as the usual pub classics including all day breakfast (£8.95) there are ciabattas, burgers, a roast available every day and a tapas style selection of dishes at 3 for £21. Friday is Fish Friday, weighing in at a very reasonable £10



It being Thursday, we had done well to drop in on Burger Night where there is a very wide choice of burgers on offer including Mexican, Southern fried goujon and deli burgers. These are offered at a bargain 2 for £16. There being only three of us we thought we'd round up to an even number so we ordered a sizzler, a pulled pork and a couple of halloumi fries burgers. (The sizzler was topped with maple bourbon barbecue sauce, crispy bacon, cheddar cheese and crispy onions.) We had no trouble dismantling the lot; it was all well prepared and presented and most enjoyable. It will be worth returning to try something else.

The Thorn Tree Pub and Kitchen, 16 Queen Street, Ossett, WF5 8AS, 01924 728798  
Facebook: The Thorn Tree Pub and Kitchen.  
Closed Mon. Food service times: Tues and Weds 1200-1430; Thurs and Fri 1200-1430 and 1630-1930; Sat 1200-1930; Sun 1200-1830



**Colin Williams**



Follow Colin on Bluesy  
@ColinWilliams14

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A - Disabled Access  
D - Dog Friendly  
F - Food Available

I - Indie/Craft Beer Shop/Bar  
L - Locale  
C - Real Cider Available

M - CAMRA Discount  
\* Correct at time of printing. Data from CAMRA national database.

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### Pub No.1 - Quakerhouse

Where we were warmly greeted by the owner Shelly and her Parents, what an excellent pub, quirky signs dotted around, a framed vinyl LP for Little Angels group and a nod to Michael Lee the drummer who was born in Darlington and regularly played here. Seven Ales on offer no wonder it had won local CAMRA Town Pub of the Year 19 times. This gem of a pub is located in Mechanics Yard. I had a Winter Blonde 3.9% from Mithril Ales (Richmond) a great session beer

## Around Darlington

### Pub No.2 - The Orb (Orchard Road Brewery)

Micropub in a former Beauty Salon where we met up with Ian Taylor (Chairman) and Judith Betts (Secretary) and members of Darlington CAMRA. A former local Camra pub of the year had 6 Real ales on my choice was the 4% Hedleythorpe from Durham Brewery, a lovely drop. Great little bar also had good choice of keg and cider and a Whiskey Corner with over 25 choices!



### Pub No.3 - Number Twenty 2

Home of Village Brewer beers (including Zetland Pale) and Wilkinson English Gin this is a lovely large pub also winner of numerous CAMRA awards with excellent décor and a choice of 9 real ales today! I had the Bull Premium Amber Ale 4.2% brewed by The Village Brewer, another lovely pint. I was just going to take my seat when the fire alarm went off luckily, it was the coat stand which somehow had been knocked over and hit the fire alarm button, panic over when staff reset it and we were left in peace to relax and drink our ale.

## Historic, Warming and Friendly

### Pub No.4 - Crafty's (Ale Whisky & Wine Bar)

Recently re opened in 2025 with one downstairs and one upstairs room serving 3 real ales on today also a good choice of keg and cider. It was very busy and we sat upstairs which had a small collection of board games to play -a nice touch. Only had half in here which was Easy Going Assassin 4.3% Session IPA by Rooster Brewing very refreshing. Owner also brought everyone some nibbles mainly popcorn and potato sticks which went down well. Cracking little pub and one to watch out for future awards I'm sure.



### Pub No.5 - The Vault

Prohibition themed 1920s bar located beneath the covered market facing the towns market square . It was just opening on arrival so plenty of seating available. 3 beers on today. I sneaked in another half of C'est La Vie 3.3% pale from Wensleydale. The toilets are the original market hall toilets. Quite a feature in this bar, with a vaulted ceiling and a lovely model in the entrance made out of matchsticks.



### Pub No.6 - Vesuvio

Recently reopened cosy wine bar in the centre of town. The bar also has an extensive range of wines, spirits and cocktails as well as a popular venue in the town for live music. Three Real ales on and I had half of Espresso Martini 4.5% by Bristol Beer Factory a milk stout, limited edition very nice indeed.



### Pub No.7 - The Half Moon Inn

Some of our group split up and went to The Snooker Club which was a bit of a trek so we called here instead. This real ale pub reopened in 2013. After a difficult navigation on foot crossing the busy ring road we were greeted by a roaring log burner, this dog friendly pub had a warm and cosy atmosphere. Four real ales on and my choice this time was Blydon Brick 3.8% Amber Ale by Firebrick Brewery with hints of toffee, excellent. Had a game of darts with Kim who thrashed me just as the splinter group arrived.

### Pub No.8 - The Snooker Club

The splinter group called here and was treated to £3 a pint! Plenty of ales on I was told and Frequently voted CAMRA Regional Club of the Year, and a finalist for National Club in 2014. It welcomes CAMRA members on production of a membership card or copy of the Good Beer Guide. It is SPBW North East Club of the Year.

### Pub No.9 - House Of Hop

Our final stop in Darlo !

Smart, contemporary bar with links to the local Three Brothers Brewery. Located in the town centre's Imperial Quarter, there are four ever changing real ales I had a pint of Northern Pale 4% Citrus Session Ale by Three Brothers - spot on. Busy bar which had dishes of lollipops on the tables I chose a classic drumstick lolly which I saved for the coach to Guisborough. We said farewell to our lovely hosts from Darlington CAMRA and hoped we could welcome them in the near future to Shakey Wakey! Thanks Ian & Judith



### Final Stop - Guisborough Brewery

Nestled between the North Yorkshire moors and the still unspoilt coast line of the north east. The unit was taken on as a blank canvas and the brewery fitted out specifically for the best way to make the best beer. It's a small brewery when we arrived we packed out the place, two beers on tap and plenty of bottles to choose too. We received a warm welcome having previously letting them know of our visit. I chose a pint of the Delight extra pale ale 3.7% a modern session ale which was very quaffable also tried a bottle of Hinterland Kolsh Style Lager, it was really crisp and fresh. Really friendly people here and such a nice finish to an excellent day out



**Russell Gaunt**

## Bradbury's Beermat Column



The mat featured this time is one of many issued by the brewery since its inception by Paul Theakston in September 1992. It is one of a couple of hundred mat of all shapes and sizes issued by the brewery over the years. They depict all the beers and various aspects of the brewing process.

The front shows the brewery logo with the reverse epitomising the ethos of the brewery. The brewery, with its iconic branded frontage, can be seen upon entering Masham, standing proud as a bastion of brewing in the Yorkshire Dales.

The Theakston family sold the brewery to Scottish & Newcastle Breweries but Paul rebelled against this and set up the appropriately named brewery in Masham's former Maltings, Cobbling together salvaged equipment from closed breweries and locating a site he created our original brewhouse, which is still in use today.

Their Core Range is: Bitter, An Iconic Yorkshire Bitter; Blonde, A Light & Zesty Blonde; Respire, A Fresh Session IPA; Black Sheep Ale, Amber Ale & Riggwelter,

Strong Dark Ale. They also do a couple of Seasonal Specials: Snowflake Beer which is a Winter Pale Ale and Blitzen Beer which is a Ruby Christmas Ale.



There is an onsite Sheepy Shop which stocks all the beers and brewery related merchandise. The brewery tours give you a full insight into how the beers are made. There is an onsite Sheepy Shop which stocks all the beers and brewery related merchandise.

The brewery tours give you a full insight into how the beers are made, and the unique techniques we use to create the perfect pint.

The excellent Brewery Tap (Baa'r and Kitchen) stocks the full range of Draught, Keg and Canned Beers and there is also an outside bar which was once a shipping container and is now a beer container.

I visited the Brewery Tap (Baa'r and Kitchen) last year and was impressed with the beers on offer and the layout of the Tap. I know the brewery has had problems lately but hope that they come back from these and we are able to enjoy their excellent beers for many years to come,

**Cheers, Albert.**

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## Annabel Smith - The Pub: Britain's Second Living Room



Woolworths, British Home Stores, Top Shop and Debenhams – just a few of the high street names we've seen disappear over the past decade. Their decline largely resulted from shifts in consumer behaviour and (alleged) financial mismanagement. It's no surprise that people felt disappointed when these previously successful businesses closed, but Amazon stepped in and made it easy for us to buy anything we wanted without leaving home.

If British pubs disappeared tomorrow, the country would lose far more than a place to buy a pint. Something essential would quietly vanish: a shared social space where strangers talk, communities gather, and everyday life is paused in order for us to feel human again. In an age of scrolling, streaming, and working from home, the pub may seem old-school, but that's exactly why it matters so much.

Under the Labour government administration, pubs (like other businesses) have been subjected to a rise in employer National Insurance rates and the minimum wage, combined with a cut in business rates relief. Soaring cost-of-goods prices and rising utility bills have additionally piled the pressure on an industry which barely had time to recover after a global pandemic.

Let's be clear: pubs are not just businesses. They are social anchors. Unlike coffee chains or exclusive hotels, pubs are designed to be neutral ground. You don't need to dress a certain way, order the right thing, or justify why you're there. You can go alone, meet friends, or strike up a conversation with someone you've never met. You don't need an invitation, a membership, or a subscription — just turning up is enough.

Pubs also do something quietly radical: they bring different people together. In a pub, age, job title, and background matter less. Office workers drink next to builders. Students share tables with retirees. Conversations spill across social lines that rarely cross

elsewhere. At a time when British society often feels divided, the pub remains one of the last places where mixing feels normal rather than forced.

Pubs also play a huge role in community life. In villages and neighbourhoods, the local pub often acts as a social hub. It's where quiz nights happen, charities raise money, birthdays are celebrated, and sports teams drown either their sorrows or their victories.

For people who live alone or work remotely, the pub can be a vital source of human contact — a place where someone notices if you haven't been in for a while. Being noticed, remembered, or asked "the usual?" might seem small, but it can mean everything. In January 2026, the campaigner Esther Rantzen called for pubs to be protected from closure "to ensure people have somewhere to experience companionship". When a pub closes, the loss isn't just economic; it leaves a social gap that no app or delivery service can fill.



Conversation is another key part of pub culture. Pubs are built for talking. They encourage relaxed, face-to-face discussion, whether it's about football, politics, or the price of a pint. Disagreements happen, of course, but so does understanding. In a world where many conversations now happen online, the pub remains a space for real, human interaction.

Pubs are also closely tied to everyday British rituals. A pint after work, a Sunday lunch with family, or a post-match drink with friends are small traditions, but they matter. These moments help structure life and strengthen relationships in ways that texts and group chats simply can't.

When pubs struggle, it's not just nostalgia at stake. It's community, conversation, and connection. Britain without pubs wouldn't just be quieter — it would be lonelier. And if that's not a compelling argument to pop out tonight for a pint and support your local pub, I don't know what is.

©Annabel Smith

Annabel Smith is founder of BeerBelle, a company specialising in delivering beer training, beer events, and a consultancy service to brewers and pubs.

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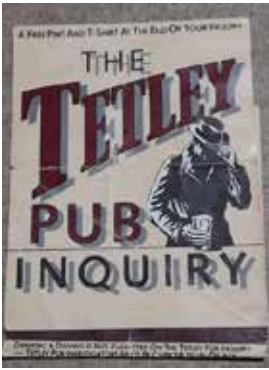
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## Nostalgia - The Tetley Pub Inquiry



The year is 1983 and after successfully completing The Tetley Pub Hunt the previous year, a new mission arrives.

The Tetley Pub Inquiry – the objective is 20 pints in 20 different pubs (local variations applied). Collect a stamp in each one on your card to complete the mission and receive a free pint and t-shirt.

I cannot recollect the exact pubs I visited but it was something like the following:

At the time I was living in Castleford so “picked off” the locals: Royal Oak (Glasshoughton), The Ship (Aire Street), then three in a row The Mexborough, Horse and Jockey & The Junction (Church Street). The final call was Shoulder of Mutton (Methley Road). Cheers to “Tetley Dave”.

A quick trip to the adjacent Pontefract for two more at the Blackamoor and Green Dragon (Cornmarket).

Heading off to Wakefield (my regular drinking venue) to tackle the core of the pubs on offer. The rich picking of the Westgate End area giving ample selection.

The Union (Horbury Road), The Clothiers (Dewsbury Road) then the famous Redoubt.

The journey continues along Westgate End towards the railway station and city centre with visits to The Waterloo, The Globe, The Harlequin and Swan with Two Necks.

The final city centre selections included The Jockey, Talbot and Falcon (Northgate), The Fleece (Brook Street) and Shakespeare along with The Black Rock. Not to forget two of my favourites The Graziers double (Market Street and Belle Vue).

The final lap and a trip into Leeds – the then home of the Tetley brewery. The selection likely included The Templar (Vicar Lane) and three along the Headrow - Three Legs, Horse and Trumpet & The Guildford.

How many was that!! So, mission completed and sadly

many of these establishments no longer exist either demolished, converted or no longer selling real ale. Readers (of a certain age) may have taken a different route



Been there, done it and got the T-shirt (if only I could find it and I am sure it wouldn't fit)

Neil Whitehouse



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## Lost Cause, Castleford/Wakefield

The brewery move is now happening with a new site in Wakefield secured and the equipment is being installed.



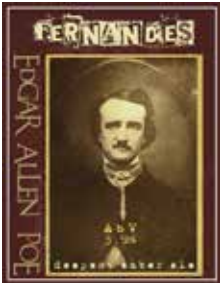
The left picture above showing brewing at the new Wakefield site.

For now the pop-up social dates will continue at the Whitwood site on the following dates:

FEBRUARY: 27th 15:00 - 21:00 & 28th 13:00 - 21:00

MARCH: 27th 15:00 - 21:00 & 28th 13:00 - 21:00

## Fernandes, Wakefield



Recent new beers have included:

Edgar Allen Poe - 3.9% - a traditional dark amber beer brewed with Lemondrop & Cascade hops.

Angus MacTavern - 4.3% Dark Oat Stout brewed with Centennial hops

Spanish Black - 4.3% - Dark Licorice Oat Stout

## Ossett Brewery

The monthly range for 2026 is Trip Hop, twelve beers combining 3 hop flavours.

The first beer in January using Amarillo, Citra and Nelson Sauvin.

Meet the latest Rat to join the pack - a 4.5% Apple + Blackberry Crumble Sour.



Just like the pud, this 3rd edition of Lab Rat brings a sharp snap of apple and juicy blackberries, finished off with the sweetness you'd expect from the classic crumble topping to leave you wanting more (custard pairing recommended).

This can be bought from the Ossett Webshop.



The 2026 collab series starts with a bang. Swally Rat is a cask collab with none other than mega-flavour experts Vault City Brewing.

Swally Rat is a deliciously decadent, silky smooth 5% salted caramel coffee stout, available exclusively on cask.

## Boddingtons Returns!

The brand now owned by AB Inbev is being brewed for cask by Manchester Brewer JW Lees.

Once revered by real ale enthusiasts the beer went national in the 1990's with the famous adverts dubbing it the Cream Of Manchester before falling to corporate stupidity and brewery closed.

It's a golden ale at 4% brewed to be Boddington like although it's a completely new recipe and uses Lees own yeast. It's pretty good to be fair.

The revival comes off the back of AB Inbev's increased promotion of Bass which you can take one of two ways, either an international giant promoting real ale being a good thing or an international giant taking up valuable bar space from independents. You decide...

## Chin Chin Brewery Open Days

It was another successful open weekend in December at South Kirkby's finest brewery Chin Chin. David Currie owner and brewer is going from strength to strength with his open brewery weekends. Another well attended event plenty of Real Ales on



from his brewery and also some from Five Towns courtesy of Malcolm Bastow plus Ciders, Craft and even catered for my other half who is a staunch wine drinker!

I visited on the Saturday early doors and it was already filling up there was a nice atmosphere. A great selection on the bar Chin Chin beers- Secret Santa 3.8%, Nectaron Dreams IPA 6%, White Light 4.2% pale, Jive Juice 4.7% pale, Dark Mild 4%, Momentary Bliss 5.5% Irish Cream Stout (it was bliss). Five Towns beers Dance Like John Travolta and Drinks Like Richard Burton. Had to try them all! plus a couple of craft too finishing with a cracking pizza from Tiny IDEA (with the van outside).



Through the afternoon we were entertained with tunes by Tim Howard hailing from Horbury and keeping the crowds happy with his excellent guitar playing and song choices. The previous night was The Cadavers and Sunday was to be Mrs R's Retro Roadshow.

Having had my fill had to head back to Moorthorpe Station quick pit stop in the Mallard before train back to Wakefield. Excellent afternoon/evening and i can not wait for the next open weekend which is on the 6th-8th March.

**Russell Gaunt**

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**Deadline for all advertising and feature copy for Issue 99 is April 1st 2026**

### Thank you for putting up with us!

Thanks to the following establishments for allowing the Branch to hold meetings recently:

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If you have a concern about any aspect of hygiene in a Wakefield District pub, ring Food & Consumer Safety on 0345 8 506 506.

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