

KEIGHLEY & CRAVEN ALESMAN



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LOVERS OF GOOD BEER & GOOD PUBS

Virtual Spring 2021

Covering Airedale from Sandbeds upwards, Wharfedale from Addingham, and Ribblesdale from Hellifield

Looking forwards to pubs re-opening

At the time of writing many of us are looking forward to being able to meet friends and put the world to rights over a wonderful fresh glass of cask conditioned ale while soaking up the vitamin D in the spring sunshine in the beer garden.



The Talbot, Settle

We are waiting to see what pubs do. Many of us haven't been protected by the vaccine yet and very few have had both doses so there will still be physical measures in place when pubs initially start to reopen, capacity will be limited, and in many cases very weather dependent. Also rules on mixing mean that initially

we may be having to wave hello rather than having a proper conversation with lots of people.

Some pubs like The George at Hubberholme have suitable paved space for large ventilated tents and others have large adaptable gardens so hopefully they will be able to reopen as soon as the government permits.

Unfortunately the British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) trade body estimates that 60% of all pubs in the UK will still remain closed when outdoor service is permitted. It is easy to imagine pubs such as the Boltmakers in Keighley deciding that it is not worth opening yet, this particular pub has remained closed since March 2020.

We already know of two pubs that have decided to call it a day (see page 4), though we don't know yet whether these might reopen eventually with new operators or be converted to other use.

It seems likely that trade will be very weather dependent when pubs open for just outdoor seated service. This could make management of real ale stocks a challenge: how much to order, when to tap and vent it, when to put it on sale or seal a full cask back up to retain some quality until it is needed.

Overall it is exciting that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, though it will be quite a while before pubs, breweries and indeed everyone emerges from the shadows of what has been a strange year for many of us.



The George, Hubberholme

Carry on Campaigning

Keighley & Craven CAMRA members have continued campaigning while pubs have been closed, including writing to our MPs, contributing to the small victory that was won for wet-led pubs like the Keighley's Brown Cow to do tier 3 beer takeaway and Skipton's Boat House to deliver beer during lockdown 3, and contributing to the longer term debates on issues such as taxation and how pubs matter.

Wasted Beer

Pubs and breweries have been hit by the costs of wasted stock as an article from the [BBPA estimating 87 million pints of beer wasted](#) describes.

Breweries will be playing a guessing game of how much to brew to meet demand, some brewers have talked about the difficulty of buying ingredients in

small enough quantities so that they don't have store rooms of ingredients going off and Timothy Taylor's has said they expect to lose more money as they resume cask ale production to serve the partial reopening of pubs, as described on page 5.

Cask breathers could be an option in pubs to reduce waste. The beer can be properly conditioned in the cellar before it is connected to de-pressurised carbon dioxide instead of being left open to cellar air. This prevents the alcohol turning to vinegar and the beer tires less quickly, giving the publican longer to sell the beer and crucially less to pour down the drain. Some purists see cask breathers as a slippery slope but if the options are vinegar, keg, or cask breather...

Jeremy Brooksbank, Webmaster

With thanks to our advertisers, waiting patiently for the next edition in our usual printed format: **Bingley Brewery** (Wilsden), **Boltmakers Arms** (Keighley), **Brown Cow** (Keighley), **RLBS** (Keighley), **Flappit** (A629 near Cullingworth), **Goose Eye Brewery** (Crossflatts), **Timothy Taylor Brewery** (Keighley), **Wuthering Heights** (Stanbury), **Bar 13** (Settle), **Fleece Inn** (Haworth), **Talbot Arms** (Settle), **Boars Head** (Long Preston), **Counting House** (Silsden), **Fox & Goose** (Hebden Bridge), **Helwith Bridge Inn** (Ribblesdale).

INN BRIEF

Spring 2021

This article reflects the best of our knowledge at the start of March 2021.

The former Barclays at the end of Cross Hills Main Street is now **The Old Bank** bar and restaurant. Photos show 2 hand pumps along with wine and food. Restaurant reservations are being taken, opening is set for Friday 21st May.

The **Brown Cow, Keighley** features in a new Dementia Friendly Keighley video. The pub is normally the meeting place of a social group, where people with dementia plus their friends get together once a week in a relaxed safe and sociable environment by the bar. It is one of the many reasons why PUBS MATTER. Click on the Dementia Friendly Keighley logo to see the video on Facebook.



The 3 Acres, Cross Roads will not be reopened by the Hudson family who ran it for the best part of 10 years. The dramatic difficulty caused by the coronavirus pandemic means that the business concept is no longer viable for them. At this stage there is no word on what they might do with the premises.

Pickles Pubs Company will not be re-opening the **White Lion, Kildwick**. In a statement they said that combined investment plans had not come to fruition, and they cannot run the pub in its current state of repair without commitment to restore it. The company added that they understand and appreciate that this is a disappointment to the community of Kildwick and Farnhill.

Work continues apace to refurbish the **Old Sun, Haworth** with a hope to open the beer garden in April.

Kirkstall Brewery has bought **The Crown in Addingham**. They are going to spend time and money putting the interior back the way it should be, so maybe a late autumn opening.

BREWERY BRIEF

Tim Dewey, chief executive of **Timothy Taylor's** believes that on whatever date the hospitality industry reopens it needs to be given conditions where it can at least break-even after months and months of losses. He argues that instead it is once again a 'no man's land' of the worst of all worlds - brewing to support those few customers who do return in April but without the economies of scale of production or distribution to make this profitable. He reckons Taylor's will lose more money from mid-April to mid-May than it has been doing with all pubs shut and cask production suspended. They will start to brew in order to support customer loyalty.

Goose Eye Brewery in Crossflatts has expanded the mezzanine floor to create more space for tables in the main bar area. The mezzanine is, of course, indoors so we'll have to wait a bit longer before we can use it. Crossflatts is in Bradford branch area but the brewery has strong links with Keighley.

Robert Naylor of **Naylors Brewery, Cross Hills** says that hopefully once the government confirms the start of hospitality opening they will continue to brew their core range beers to begin with - these are Yorkshire Ale, Gold, Mosaic, Velvet, Pinnacle Blonde, Black & Tan and Old Ale - but that there will certainly not be a lot of new brews for the foreseeable future. They will reopen the brewery bar as soon as they can.



There is a list of pub re-opening dates on the front page of the Keighley & Craven CAMRA website.

Each pub has a link to its whatpub.com entry, with regular updates to show the latest temporary arrangements and plans.

If you think the information is out of date please let us know what is out of date and what you think it should be. One easy way to do this is from the link in WhatPub.

KEN ARMITAGE

An Obituary

In February we received the sad news of the death of Ken Armitage from prostate cancer, at the age of 73, one of the longest serving members of the Keighley and Craven branch of CAMRA.

Ken joined the branch not long after it formed in the 1980s. At the time he was warden at Earby Youth Hostel, having previously been a cook in the Navy, and thought nothing of walking to branch events in the Skipton area. When he left the youth hostel he went to live in a caravan above Eastby, then later to rented accommodation in the village. He was a regular visitor at The Masons Arms in Eastby before it closed as a pub in 2010. Later he moved to Embsay and was a regular at The Elm Tree in the village for several years.



Cleaning windows,
Fox & Hounds,
Starbotton, 1994

He took on the job of window cleaner, using ladders and leathers rather than the more 'modern' methods. He had a round covering Embsay, Eastby, Hetton, Cracoe and a few other small dales villages scattered about in upper Wharfedale. He didn't drive, and initially had a business partner, Dave Bingley, who drove to their various clients, but later he worked alone. So how did he get ladders etc. between villages? He didn't, he had ladders 'stashed' in various peoples' gardens etc. and travelled by bus to get to the various locations and then carried them round. He kept doing it because he knew they would be of little interest to more commercially minded "so who would do it for them?"

Ken also spent some time working for a builder and learned wall building. When the (new) pedestrian tunnel was built under the Clitheroe railway line at Hellifield, Ken built all the retaining walls on the two approaches, so there is a lasting memorial to him in the branch area – every time we go from the railway station to the Black Horse or Hellifield House, we can think of Ken!



Advertising The Magic Of Real Ale – theme of 1994's Keighley Beer Festival

Ken was a regular volunteer helper at Keighley and Skipton Beer Festivals and on the organising committee of the first beer festivals held in Worth Brewery, Keighley in the 1990s.

As anyone who attended these festivals will know, we had to hire portable toilets. It was a bit tricky finding the best place to park outside so that the waste would go down into a drain. Unfortunately, at one of these festivals there was a blockage, and the waste stopped flowing. We were worried that we would have to close the festival. Ken saved the day by going down into the manhole above the drain and getting the waste moving again, for which everyone was very grateful!

Ken also took on the role of managing the beer festival tombola for several years and remembered by many as the Tombola King employing his famously taciturn sales technique.

Ken was the branch membership secretary for a few years but had to give it up as the post required more technology. He also distributed Alesman (the branch magazine) and his 'patch' covered all of Skipton, Embsay, Addingham, Appletreewick, Hebden, Cracoe and Burnsall and all by bus and walking. He considered it good etiquette to have at



Relaxing at the bar in 1998

least a half in any pub that took Alesman. The Clarendon at Hebden was a particular challenge, he would get off the bus; rush in; swift half; drop off Alesmen while the bus turned round. On one occasion he left it rather late in the evening before departing Appletreewick and stopped for a rest by the riverbank where he dozed off. Some time later he roused himself and set off again. After a while he realised that the river was on the wrong side of him – he had set off back towards Appletreewick so stoically turned towards home again.

Ken enjoyed watching football and rugby matches and was a keen Guiseley FC supporter. He tried to go to as many of their home games as he could (always had to leave before the final whistle at evening games to get the bus home).

Ken was keen on walking in the hills for pleasure as well as 'business' and sometimes joined other CAMRA members on CAMRAmbles and the occasional camping weekend.

He was never happier than when in the great outdoors away from the madding crowd. So long as there was a pub to go back to at the end of the day...



Ken was quiet and self-contained, very taciturn, with a dry sense of humour and sometimes difficult to engage in conversation, yet he was always ready to help others and will be missed by the people who got to know him.

Scafell Pike 2005

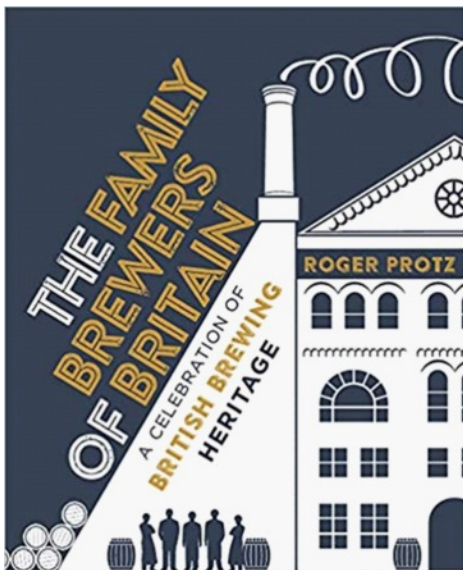
THE FAMILY BREWERS OF BRITAIN

(A Celebration of British Brewing Heritage)

The book was researched and written by Roger Protz - campaigner, broadcaster, and author of numerous books on beer and brewing. The Independent Family Brewers of Britain supported the production of this book.

A review by Colleen Holiday

The 276-page hard cover book highlights over 30 family-founded breweries, their beginnings and growth, family trials and tribulations, successes and failures, and overall contribution to the British brewing scene. The introduction takes you through the early years of the Industrial Revolution, the catalyst for ever-growing consumer demand for beer as well as the opportunity for entrepreneurs to establish commercial breweries.



Each chapter features breweries founded during historical timelines, the earliest being from 1698, or a particular geographical location.

The Pioneers:

Shepherd Neame to Elgood's

Early 19th Century Brewers:

Harvey's to Everard's

King Cotton & Beer:

Thwaites to Hydes

continued...

*Book review
continued...*

The Golden Age:

Arkell's to
Charles Wells
and including our
very own local
Timothy Taylor's

The Great Beer Battle of Masham:

Theakston's &
Black Sheep

White Knights of the Black Country:

Batham's &
Holden's

Welsh Dragons and Flagons:

Felinfoel & Brains

Brewing in Scotland:

Traquair House

New Brews on the Block:

Titanic

Each section is interspersed with historical references to technical advances, family events and local history. As well as each brewery's timeline, there are details on how they survived changes in society and government legislation such as the 1830 Beer Act and its revision in 1869, the turmoil of the 20th century, the brewing restrictions of two world wars, the economic crisis of the great depression, and the damaging consolidation of the big brewers throughout the 50's and 60's are all interwoven. The arrival of the Campaign for Real Ale in 1971 and Beer Orders of 1989 are also seen as game changers for family brewers as well as affecting the balance of the brewing industry.

Each brewery's write-up finishes with details of their current beer portfolio and plans for the future. The overall history of each brewery is smoothly interwoven with human endeavour and the vagaries of history, an enjoyable and informative read for beer and history buffs alike.

To purchase your copy visit
the CAMRA bookshop at:

<https://shop1.camra.org.uk/>

or www.camra.org.uk

