

PARISH PUMP

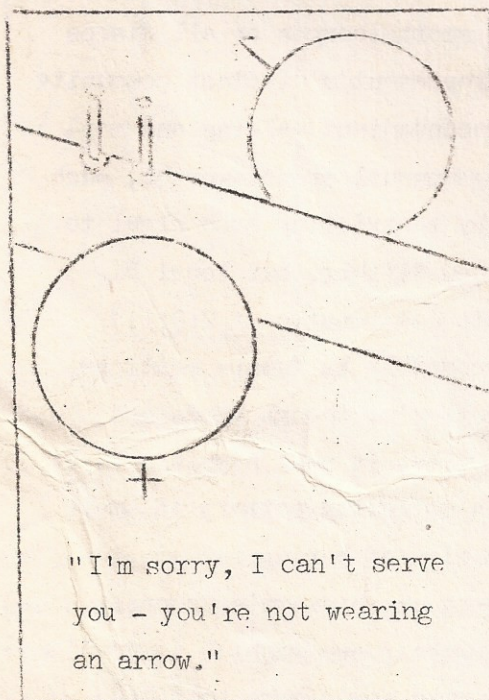
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Sheffield & District

TIME
GENTLEPEOPLE
PLEASE

Over the last few weeks a lot of time and effort has been spent in debating the consequences of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts. Much of the literature on the matter has rarely risen above the level of flippancy normally reserved for when men feel their 'superiority' is being threatened - for instance, remember when the Stock Exchange admitted women to their hallowed ranks a few years ago. The sad thing is not the legislation itself but the fact that a democratically-elected government has seen it as necessary: that for years we have urged men to put their own house in order but now the time for appealing to reason has ended.



So, rightly or wrongly, the Acts are with us. They mean that you now have to advertise for bar staff and not barmaids or barmen. But, equally important, it should mean an end to those revered but obnoxious establishments, the 'men only' bars. Don't misunderstand me, I like them - especially during Sunday lunchtime - but only the ones which have evolved naturally, not those which have been contrived by a notice on the door or a discreet whisper from behind the bar when you enter plus spouse. These bars are nothing short of obscene, especially if they happen to have the words 'public bar' over the entrance.

The constitution of CAMRA pronounces grandly that this organisation believes in no discrimination on the grounds of colour, religion or sex. Contrast

this with the inclusion of two York pubs (for example) in the national Good Beer Guide offering the delights of male chauvinism, namely the Bootham Tavern and the Rose & Crown.

Both these establishments had 'men only' bars, like El Vino's in London, the scene of recent protest. But, make no mistake, if the ladies of El Vino's have their way, for the age of masculine prejudice it's 'Time, gentlemen, please.'

Colin Walker.

OPINION One or two people have reminded me that two out of the three pub-crawls which I have so far published in Parish Pump have been set in Sheffield 9. The statistician in me would say, defensively, that three is a very small sample from which to draw conclusions, but I must agree that the comment is fair. But it is obvious that, just as the ant-eater must follow the ants, the real ale pub-crawl must follow the real ale pubs. There are as many real ale houses on Attercliffe Road alone as in the whole of Sheffield 11; if you set off from Lady's Bridge, walk along the Wicker and continue down the 'Cliffe, by the time you reach the Broughton Inn (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles) you will have passed - or entered - more real ale pubs than there are in postal districts 10 and 11 put together. Sheffield 9 contains almost twice as many real ale pubs as districts 7, 10 and 11 combined; this is approaching one quarter of the total for the whole of Sheffield.

I apologise for publishing crawls which are situated a long way from most CAMRA members' homes, but the sad fact is that most members just do not live on the side of the city where most of the real ale is. I believe that most readers of a pub-crawl would rather be introduced to new pubs, though faraway ones, than read someone else's much abbreviated opinion of those they already know well, interesting though that may be for its comparison value. Consolation, anyway; we are only a barrel' roll from the City centre this month.

Pub crawls are perhaps not so simple as they may seem. A group of real ale pubs must be found which satisfy several criteria, the first of which is that there should be a contrast of atmospheres - all quiet locals, all smart lounges or all discos would be boring - while the houses, taken together, should represent a distinct community identity. Secondly, they must be close enough together for convenient walking and map-drawing. Thirdly, they should if possible include something unusual or noteworthy, such as a set of handpumps. Fourthly, I try to create interest by restricting each crawl to a maximum of one entry in the 1975 local good beer guide. And fifthly, our local Big Three brewers should be roughly equally represented (I try to use a ratio of 2:2:1.)

It is this fifth rule I am breaking this month, and possibly in future editions, by publishing a lop-sided crawl (on this occasion towards Tetley's, though Wards and Stones may have their turns soon.) While I deny any unfair bias, it must be plain that the effect of mergers and takeovers on what was originally a molecular pattern of small breweries has left us with a very uneven distribution. The risk of boring readers is one I feel I must take, since many good pubs are surrounded by one brewery's monopoly. All the pubs in this month's crawl I consider interesting in their own right; it would be unfair to pass them over in favour of others which would make for a more balanced selection. These houses are worthy of publicising, and I believe that the pub-crawl is the best medium through which to do this, since it sets each pub in the context of the area and the other pubs around it.

One point, though - I found that the Tetley's sold in these pubs, while good beer in all cases, varied quite noticeably in flavour as this brew tends to do. So it does not necessarily become boring, despite the lop-sidedness - which could, by the way, have

been avoided by including two other pubs in the area, not owned by Tetley's but whose beer, though real, has been poor on the occasions I have visited them. I am sure that you will agree that including examples of mediocre beer merely for the sake of ensuring a neat balance would be against the spirit of this publication, and indeed of CAMRA itself.

Tony Scholes.

**PARK
HILL**

One could be forgiven for imagining oneself in Leeds when among the flats of the Duke Street area, where seven out of the eleven pubs sell Tetleys. Nine of this eleven still sell real ale, though, and five of the best can be visited by starting at the New Inn, (1) a large Tetley house which, in common with the other older pubs in the area, was refurbished when the new flats were built. It is clean and comfortable, with occasional live music and excellent beer. There is a dartboard, but also a juke-box whose tentacles reach into every room.

The next pub down Duke Street, the Red Lion (2,) has no juke box, though there is a tape system. A gas-fire heated 'snug' bar area where the older regulars gather is the heart of the pub, but there are also a lounge and the tap room, complete with piano and dartboard; altogether an archetypal 'local.'



Just across the road is a great surprise: The Link (3) is a part of the Park Hill construction itself, with flats on top of it, and surely one of the last places one would expect to find hand-pumped Stones. Yet this is indeed what this extremely clean and pleasant pub sells, along with an excellent cold buffet at lunch-time when the customers tend to be City business types rather than the local residents who drink here in the evenings. The beer is as good as the best handpumped Stones anywhere. For the record, The Link has a dartboard, juke-box and pinball machine in the tap-room, very unusual porcelain handpumps in the lounge with a red lion symbol on each (possibly originally destined for some Red Lion pub?)

and what must surely be the biggest and clearest price list; but the main point is that this pub is such an unexpected gem, and it is fast becoming one of my favourite places in the whole city.

Down in the small shopping precinct which is part of the flats complex is the third of our Tetley houses, the Earl George (4,) a more typical estate pub with the schizophrenic outlook often found in such places; the lounge is so very plush as to detract from, rather than enhance, atmosphere, while the tap-room is completely dominated by an incredibly ostentatious juke-box which reposes like Buddha in state at one side of the room, sneering at the dartboard at the other side. The beer, though, is first class, one of the best examples of electric-pump Tetleys, and tasting all the better because I had just had the misfortune of drinking a half of bright beer (in the name of research, of course.)

One good thing I saw was that all the customers in the Earl George tap-room were drinking bitter, as was the case in the final pub in this crawl, the (or rather Ye) Old

Harrow (5.) As the Ye would indicate, this is one of those pubs which use sham beams to try to create an atmosphere but usually achieve the opposite. And yet I like the Harrow; it does have an atmosphere despite the beams, and the decor of wood panelling and brick (both genuine) and the homely feel of the place gave me the feeling that this pub really would seem at home in a rural rather than an urban situation. It is certainly much more than the usual city Brewer's Bucolic pub; even the mention of Ploughman's Lunch on the reasonably-priced and simple menu doesn't seem as contrived as it might have done. Good beer, slightly sweeter and smoother than the other Tetley houses, and a competitive dartboard made it my personal favourite of the four Tetley houses visited.

When I set out to revisit the Park Hill area with the idea of writing a pub-crawl in mind, I had fears that the imbalance of brews might render this impracticable. But now that both the crawl and the writing are done, I am reassured that not only the individuality of the Tetley bitter available in each house but also the characteristics of the five pubs fully justifies the crawl. I hope that you will try it, and I feel sure that it will provide an interesting evening out.

Tony Scholes

ACTIVITIES Social and other meetings so far arranged for the period of this newsletter are as follows:

Friday 30 Jan Travellers' Rest, Holmesfield: how many pints in 18 gallons?
Friday 6 Feb Social at Red Lion, Litton, nr. Tideswell: Theakston's.
Wednesday 18 Feb Branch meeting, Red Deer, 8.00 p.m.
Friday 27 Feb (unconfirmed) Visit to Worksop chemist's shop, now selling Ruddle's County since Yorkshire Clubs stopped brewing.

There is a possibility of a minibus trip to the Brahms & Liszt, Leeds, where many real beers are on sale - who's interested?

CHANGES Some Tetleys news this month: the Red Lion at Gleadless Town End has changed over to bright beer, leaving Gleadless a sadly deprived area for real beer drinkers, since it is joining the Heeley & Sheffield House, which seems to have been selling bright Stones for some time. This leaves only the New Inn on Hollinsend Road, which is a small pub and consequently soon becomes crowded with those drinkers who appreciate the best beer in the area - or, if you like, the only beer in the area!

Better news, though of the Three Tuns, Silver Street Head, in the City office region of Sheffield 1. This pub was converted to bright Tetleys around a year ago, but last week was selling real ale again. We don't know how long for; but it might pay to look in occasionally on Tetley houses which have been converted. If it's real beer again, tell the landlord his beer's improved!

A pint of Brew Ten is rapidly becoming a collector's item. Stones (sadly bright, of course,) has replaced it almost everywhere, recent examples being the Hare & Hounds, Nursery Street, and the Duke of York, Darnall.

The opinions expressed in Parish Pump are not necessarily those of CAMRA or Sheffield branch