

CAMRA LOCAL[®]

Latest news

Pubs continue to join LocAle at a steady rate; here's a round up of the recent new starters.

The **Edinburgh Arms**, run by Dave and Lorraine for the last eleven years, is worth crossing the road to the Fishergate island for. A cellar refurbishment has allowed a second handpump to be installed and Dave is featuring beers supplied by the SIBA Direct Delivery Scheme, concentrating on local ones. He has had beers from **Rooster's** and **Leeds** amongst others and when we visited on two separate occasions recently we enjoyed **Daleside Bitter** followed by **Old Leg Over**. It's a well-kept local, with plenty going on in its two rooms. Both have a pool table and darts board and the pub has no fewer than five darts teams and two dominoes teams. There's a big screen for both Sky and Setanta sports, regular karaoke nights and occasional live music. There's food every evening, including curry and chilli nights, as well as Sunday lunchtime, and reasonably-priced bed and breakfast accommodation.



The **Bay Horse** on Marygate, a large pub by the River Ouse which had been closed for about five years, has opened again. While it was closed, there had been applications to convert it to flats and we'd given up on ever seeing it as a pub again. That all changed towards the end of 2008 when news reached us that it was going to reopen as a pub. Not just that, but it would focus on

real ale, like its sister pub, the **Green Cross** in **Huddersfield**, both trading under the brand **Little Tap**. It opened just before Christmas following a six week refurbishment; it's been tastefully redecorated, retaining an original fireplace and there are six handpumps. These will have a mix of local and nationally available beers. The LocAle on opening night was **Rudgate Viking**, with **Great Heck** and **Rooster's** to follow. Of the six handpumps, three will be for regular beers (**John Smith's Cask**, **Greene King IPA** and **Abbot**) and three will be for guests. One of these will be for a LocAle, the second will also be from Yorkshire (**Yorkshire Dales of Askrigg** and **Summer Wine** from **Holmfirth** – their first appearance in York – have been among the early examples from further afield) and the third could be from anywhere in the country, giving drinkers a good range to choose from. The pub is a welcome addition to the York beer scene and is sure to be popular with real ale drinkers, locals and tourists alike. Breakfast (but not beer!) will be available from 9am, with the pub opening for alcohol sales at 11am, with food available.

Some of you may remember landlord Andy Henstock (below) from his time at the **Marcia Grey** in **Acomb** and before that the **City of Mabgate** in **Leeds**. More recently, at the **Green Cross**, he built a good reputation for selling local beers; the pub was chosen as the Huddersfield CAMRA's Pub of the Season and Andy gained Cask Marque accreditation just before he left. He has a real interest in cask beer, and especially Yorkshire ale. He plans to have a Yorkshire Day beer festival at the beginning of August, making use of the large function room on the first floor. Expect to see many of our LocAles along with micro breweries from across Yorkshire in what already promises to be a must-visit York event.





Stephen Gillick (above), Beer Manager at the second **Wetherspoons** pub in York, the **Postern Gate**, is keen to promote real ale at reasonable prices and as well as putting on a good range of beer is investing time and effort into training staff to keep and serve it properly. The beer festival, with a wide variety of interesting, non-regular beers, was on when he signed up; the LocAle was **Hambleton** seasonal **Whizz Bang Hop**. A new build on the ground floor of a Travelodge, this open plan pub is a modern slant on an old fashioned drinking hall. Meals are served all day when it is fairly quiet, but it can get very full in the evening. There is a pleasant conservatory and an outdoor area overlooking the River Foss.



The **Bay Horse** at **Terrington** features very LocAles, with landlord Robert Franklin (above) serving his own beer from the **Storyteller Brewery** at the back of the pub. Robert won three awards at the Craft Brewing Festival in Derby in April 2008, so he decided to take on a pub with the room for a micro brewery. He has already outgrown his one barrel plant and is planning to upgrade to four barrels as soon as

possible. This is a big change of direction for someone who has had a successful career as a DJ. The brewery is called **Storyteller** because of a connection with the **Canterbury Tales**; one of the pilgrims is called the **Franklin**, the name for a free man under the feudal system. The **Franklin** describes himself as a 'storyteller', hence the name of the brewery. Robert has already had one professional storytelling evening and plans to have a special chair made for future events. The **Bay Horse** is a large, white painted building set back from the road and occupying a prominent position in the middle of the village. There are several drinking areas around the attractive rectangular bar, a restaurant serving high quality meals, a conservatory and a beer garden.

The **New Inn** at **Cropton** is home to one of our oldest micro breweries, **Cropton**, established in 1984. At that time brewing was done in the pub cellars, which would have made it the shortest journey of any LocAle! In 1994 a brewery was built in the expansive grounds at the back of the pub; they had outgrown this by 2006, when the current plant, capable of producing up to 100 barrels per week, was built. The pub itself is a solid, traditional village inn, with a cosy bar, pool room and conservatory. A highlight of the drinkers' year is the annual beer festival in November; from humble beginnings this has grown to a monster event in a big marquee, with live music, which attracts crowds from miles around – the really dedicated camp all weekend! Our picture shows brewer Alan Jeffreys (left) and 'top barman' (his own words!) Joe Turnbull.



The **Lysander Arms**, on **Manor Lane** in **Rawcliffe**, is slightly off the beaten track, but well worth seeking out. It's on the site of a caravan park, with 10 pitches available; it makes a good base to explore York from. It's a popular venue for Dutch and German visitors during the summer and has a loyal local following. The

present building replaced the former club house for the park, when the area around it was redeveloped for housing about five years ago. It's an open plan bar, with large TV screens showing sports on most days; only the TV at the games end is used, leaving the other half as a quiet section. There's a restaurant area serving high quality meals every evening except Monday, plus their famous Sunday lunch, when half the lounge is turned over to dining depending on demand. The pub always has three real ales on: **John Smith's Cask**, **Thwaites Original** and its **LocAle**, a **York Brewery** beer, usually **Guzzler**. Landlady Christine doubles up as the chef. Opening times are 11-11 Sunday to Friday and 11-12.30 Saturday.

The **Spotted Ox** in **Tockwith** was signed up in December 2008. Ian and Sheila Robinson, pictured below with their **LocAle** poster, have been at the pub since October 2004. The permanent **LocAle** is **Tetley's Bitter** with **Timothy Taylor Landlord** and **Black Sheep Best Bitter**, which also qualifies here, as guest beers when we visited. This is a large pub right on the main road through the village. There's a central bar surrounded by a lounge, snug and tap room which are all sparkling and clean. The pub serves meals from a menu and also from a blackboard of specials. There's a beer garden at the back and a function room for 80 in the Old Forge, a separate building behind the pub.



The **Nags Head** in **Heworth** is a community pub which always sells **York Yorkshire**



Terrier. There's a separate bar leading to a pool room, while the lounge has a sunny conservatory attached, which also serves as a family room. There are quiz nights, curry nights and, a beer garden: the pub is handily placed on the Coastliner bus route.

The **Wadkin Arms** at **Osgodby** joined shortly after being chosen as our Winter Country Pub of the Season. The **Greyhound** in **Riccall** has also joined; we hope to have more on this one next time.

In other news, the **Oak Tree** in **Helperby** is closed at the moment. Lee and Kate Dawson had worked very hard to improve this pub; they'd increased the number of handpumps to three, including a **LocAle**. They were told by owners **Punch** that they could either buy the pub for £350,000 or get out: sadly, they've chosen the latter. We'll keep an eye on it to check if it continues to qualify for **LocAle**.

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