

Back on tap but conditions attached to Donkeystone planning application success

DONKEYSTONE brewery tap is back in business with regulars toasting the pre-Christmas move with a pint of their favourite tipple.

Owner Steven James successfully applied to Oldham Council to re-open the tap room, which has been closed since August 2019, in Donkeystone's premises at Boarshurst Business Park, Greenfield.

The decision was made at last month's meeting of the council's planning committee attended by supporters and opponents of the brewery's retrospective application for "change of use of industrial floorspace to use as a drinking establishment".

A previous application had been rejected in July 2019 after some local residents complained of noise nuisance.

Now, the beer is flowing again though with



restrictions introduced by committee members "to protect the amenity of adjacent residents".

The tap room can open on Monday to Saturday between 11am and 6pm with the condition: "All customers shall leave the premises by the defined closing time".

Other conditions include no drinking outside the area designated as 'tap room' nor shall "any furniture or related paraphernalia be taken

outside for use by customers". Additionally, any music or amplified sound from within the building shall not exceed 24dBA when measured at the external boundary of any residential property."

Since opening in the summer of 2017, Donkeystone has won a succession of awards for its ales and stouts and has become a regular feature in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.



Wood you believe it?

New trees added to Diggle landscape

ONE thousand new trees have found a home on a plot of land off Huddersfield Road in Diggle.

A collective effort involving the Woodland Trust, Conservation Volunteers Charity (CVC), Diggers Charitable Trust (DCT) and a local farmer ensured all trees were safely delivered and planted.

Providing the collection of common alder, aspen, downy birch, field maple, common oak, Rowan, Blackthorn, Dog Rose and Hazel survive any arctic onslaught, they are expected to bud for the first time this spring.

CVC members visited the 0.93 hectares plot of rough grazing ground before Christmas and braving inclement weather planted the trees brought from the Woodland Trust's Thorpe Park Nurseries.

Kathleen Pearson, chairwoman of the DCT who instigated the project, then recruited an extra pair of hands to ensure all saplings were firmly rooted into the soil.

The Trust's main focus is to provide bursaries to students hoping to become vets via a secondary degree route. It is also heavily into conservation via its small holding in Diggle.

Hannah Marshall, outreach advisor for the Woodland Trust designed the new woodland dedicated to the memory of Lady Mary Herries, the daughter of the late Duke of Norfolk, the Diggers' former patron.

A plaque denoting the name of the new woodland and a secondary one dedicated to trees lost in the Amazon rain forest have also been erected.

Kath knew Lady Mary Herries, who died in April 2017, aged 76, for many years.

"Lady Mary left a legacy in her will to the charity. I miss her friendship so therefore this wood will be dedicated to her memory," she said.

Since 2015, the CVC and local communities, in conjunction with OVO Energy, will have planted nearly one million carbon-busting trees.

Throughout the bare-root planting season of 2019/20, the aim is to plant another 350,000+ trees in over 800 green spaces across the UK.

To find out how to become involved visit www.tev.org.uk

To see how the Diggers Trust can help students visit www.thediggers.co.uk/bursary_index

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