

## Pubs Officer's Annual Report August 2019

We have been fortunate this year in that we end the year with one more pub than we started with and I wonder how many branches can say that. The Merry Monk, after being closed for four years for extensive building work, has now reopened.

The P.O.T.S. and P.O.T.Y. competitions have been very successful and while the beer scoring within the branch cannot be said to be excellent it has been sufficient to enable us to successfully run our competitions and select our Good Beer Guide entries. The seasonal winners in 2018 were: the Empingham Cricket and Social Club; the Blue Bell, Belmesthorpe ; the Wheatsheaf, Langham and The Lord Nelson in Oakham. Our Highly Commended pub which just missed out in the seasonal competition was the White Lion in Whissendine went on to take our Pub of the Year award. So far the winners in this years POTS competition are the Exeter Arms in Uppingham and the Railway in Ketton both of which have never before featured in our competitions and I welcome the change away from the old regulars.

It would be helpful to have a Clubs Officer to research the clubs in the county but we are still waiting for someone to take on this task.

The current database listing shows 61 pubs/hotels/clubs/restaurants with 57 serving real ale.

After seven years in post I feel that it is time for me to relinquish the Pubs Officer role and while I will be spending more time in Norfolk I will be remaining as a member of the branch and look forward to having nothing to say at the branch meetings, for a change.

David Laughton

Pubs Officer

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