



Gorleston Ale Trail 2018

Gorleston Ale Trail

We will start at the **Short Blue** (NR31 6RR) on the High Street. But before we go in look about you. Go back to the day when of Gorleston smelt ever so slightly of ... fish. What you see is a little bit of Barking near London. Every single visible building and quite a few you can't see were built by the owners for the sailors and managers of the Short Blue fishing fleet. At the time In the middle part of Victoria's reign the business was the largest fishing fleet in the world. It moved from Barking to Gorleston so they could follow the catches. Then of course when a fisherman came home what he wanted was his wife, a bath and a beer. Possibly not in that order. Over the length of about a mile of the the High Road there were 12 pubs. This is the last one. It was opened as a Bullard's house in 1867 but has been a Free House for the last 30 years. Inside you will find a cosy pleasant single room bar and a good garden out the back with excellent high views of the river and sea beyond. Below you is the Victorian ice house with it's thick walls and thatched roof for storing the ice used by the company to keep the fish fresh.



Leaving the Blue turn left and head towards the town centre. Just before you get to the 20 mph signs turn left down the narrow Black Lane. This is of course a corruption of "Back Lane". Follow this around along the cliff top behind the shops and for the next 300



yards or so you will get often missed views of riverside Gorleston. At nearly the bottom, before Morrison's turn left into Dock Lane and you will see your next stop. The **Dock Tavern** (NR31 6PY) is named after a dry dock which was nearby under what is now the

supermarket car park. Notice as you go in the high tide marks on the walls showing where various floods, including the '53 one came up to. Inside you will find a busy multi hand pumped bar. This place has been in the Good Beer Guide for the last 2 years. It has a sunny outside drinking area and a bit for kids out the back. If you are here in the summer dont miss the charity event with music and BBQ.

From there walk over the car park and turn right into Baker Street. You will detect neither Gerry Rafferty nor No 221B. But Bakers Brewery which was in the large building on the corner. When you get to that corner turn left. On the other side of the road is Cozies. This was the Crown & Anchor, a S&P house built in 1826 but now a good restaurant. About 200 yards down the road, on the right is **Gorleston Conservative Club** (NR31 6PE). Card carrying CAMRA members are welcome to use the snooker, pool, darts and green bowling facilities (in the summer) and of course the 4 well kept real ales always on tap. There is a nominal day membership fee which is probably covered after your first pint. Leaving there look at the houses below the road. It was here that in the 1953 January flood when the water was up to the first floor Fireman Fred Sadd single handedly rescued 27 people and was quite rightly given the George Medal for his trouble.

Carry on to the **New Entertainer** (NR31 6PG) which is another 100 yards further on down the road. The entrance is at what appears to be the back. In happier times before Gorleston was down graded to Norfolk this place was called the Suffolk. A Bells Brewery then a Lacons pub. It is an odd thin, triangular sort of place. Ten or so real ales. Mostly at least one dark, sometimes more, several ciders. Justifiably been in the GBG more times than you could shake a stick. Character in spades. Dont miss it. As you leave if you step



out of the door without looking you will be knocked down by a car or possibly a van. Take care. Turn left and then left again.

At the corner, on the opposite side is **Bar 1**, (NR31 6DA) formerly Peggoty's and before that the Ship. A bright and breezy pub with 3 hand pumps usually with Greene King beers. Regular evening music.



From there go straight ahead and slightly up Cliff Hill for another 100 yards to The **Oddfellows** (NR31 6DG). Oddies is a pleasant two room pub with an excellent westward facing garden. Always 4 beers on. Bitters between 3.8-4.5%. No milds, stouts, porters, strong beers or olds. Just highly hopped bitters. But if that is your thing then enjoy! Been in the

GBG these last couple of years. Always a selection of Lacons beers. A focus for live music, take your Stratocaster and you might get to play

And if you are still thirsty then by the river you will find the **King William IV** (NR31 6PH), **the Celt** NR31 6PJ) and the Pub on the Pier. It's grim here but we struggle on.

All the pubs mentioned are listed in Whatpub www.whatpub.com The trail is available to download from eastnorfolkcamra.org.uk along with another Ale Trail for Yarmouth.