

“AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT – BREWING STORIES”

INTERVIEW SUMMARY – WILLIAM THEAKSTON

Interviewee:	William Theakston (known as Will)
Year of birth:	1985
Current Employment:	Fullers Brewery
Position:	Export Manager for Europe
Interview Location:	Fullers Griffin Brewery, Chiswick
Date:	15 th March 2019
Interviewer:	Ioana Constantinescu

Will kindly stepped in at very short notice, when a colleague had to pull out due to other work commitments.

In contrast to most other interviewees, Will has had a very short and recent career in the brewing industry joining Fullers only two years ago. After a short induction, Will was taken on by Fullers in a permanent role as “Export Manager for Europe”. His main outlet areas are Sweden, Finland, Russia and Italy.

The name of “Theakston” seemed more than a coincidence, and when asked, Will confirmed that he was part of the famous Theakston family brewing company based in Masham in the Yorkshire Dales. Indeed his father is currently the managing director. The story of the Theakston company goes back six generations.

Will studied at Leeds University and spent time in the army before joining Fullers.

Will goes on to enthusiastically tell about his first experiences of working at Fullers and how he really enjoyed the family friendly atmosphere there. He relishes the fact that the work place and offices retained their original character and was much happier working in these conditions rather than being in a modern open-plan office environment.

Continuing, he relates to his business travels to meet his clients in order to discuss existing and future orders. This can include special requests to produce new brews or to modify the standard products, for example by reducing or increasing the alcohol strength to suit their requirements. In this scenario, Will then meets up with the brewers back at the Griffin Brewery to arrange for the new or revised products to be created using the Fullers “pilot brewing” equipment.

Will emphasises his good working relationship with everybody at Fullers and confirms the “family friendly” environment shared by other interviewees. Asked what was best about working at Fullers, his answer “the people”.

Outside work, Will told us that he was a keen sportsman, and had recently joined a group of friends that rowed across the Atlantic.

Summariser: Bob Hall