

MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool & Districts Magazine

Autumn 2017

FREE

Inside:

**Cricketers
St Helens-**
Regional Pub of the Year

Head of Steam
returns to Liverpool



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

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WirrAle News

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MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool and Districts Branch

MerseyAle Editor

Dave MacBryde

Liverpool Branch Chair

Sonia James-Henry
 chair@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

MerseyAle Contacts

Comments/news/letters/photos
 merseyale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

MerseyAle Advertising Manager

Howard Perry
 howard.perry@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Distribution Manager

Andre Fu
 andre.fu@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

MerseyAle - Read online at

www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Liverpool and Districts CAMRA

Main Branch Contact

Sue Daniels
 contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Contact for Coach trips only

Ian Macadam 07521 741 586
 by email
 social@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Web Sites

Liverpool and Districts
 CAMRA Branch
 www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk
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The opinions expressed in MerseyAle are not necessarily those of the Editor, the CAMRA Liverpool Branch or CAMRA Ltd.

MerseyAle



Message from the Editor

Welcome to the Autumn edition of MerseyAle.

After a mixed summer weather-wise, we head into the latter half of the year with the light nights waning and beer gardens that bit less frequented. Of course, the welcoming interiors of our great pubs offer the perfect respite to drinkers everywhere, as we continue to enjoy and support them as best we can.

This issue, we highlight those pubs across our region that were honoured at our Awards Night in June, which took place in the picturesque gardens of the KIND charity premises in Liverpool city centre. Congratulations to the people and pubs that took part. All were more than worthy of the recognition.

As well as the usual news and features, we bring you the announcement that Head of Steam are returning to Liverpool, where they will take up residence on Hanover Street at what was The Abbey. The opening is scheduled for late September (see Page 17).

As ever, I sincerely hope you enjoy reading MerseyAle. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition. As ever, your input is invaluable and very much appreciated, with submissions always welcome.

Cheers.

Dave MacBryde
 MerseyAle Editor



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Liverpool Beer Festival

21st - 24th February 2018

Preparations have begun for next year's Beer Festival. The next meeting of the Beer Festival Organising Group is upstairs in **The Crown on Lime Street at 7.30pm on 18th September.**

The following posts remain unfilled:

Deputy Staffing Officer

Deputy Health & Safety Officer

Assistant Programme Editor

Publicity Officer

If you are interested in taking up any of these roles, please come along to the meeting.

Shortly, we will also be looking for volunteers to work both the public session of the festival and Set-Up (17th February) and Take Down (25th February). All volunteers will be offered a free coach trip as a thank you for their help. Anyone who works a

public session will be able to sample the beers on offer (within sensible limits) and subsidised meals will also be available.

Those working two sessions or more will receive a free T-shirt.

All volunteers must be CAMRA members (but not necessarily members of this branch). If you would like to help at next year's festival, please contact me at staffing@liverpoolbeerfestival.org Volunteer forms will be issued to everyone on our Volunteers register from the end of November.

Sonia James-Henry



MerseyAle PUB NEWS

The Old Bank (Waterloo), is selling real cider once again



due to numerous customer requests. Initially, the ciders on offer will be from the **Lilley's** range, starting with **Mango.**

34 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PE

Due to its popularity, **The Four Ashes** is continuing their 'Wednesday Special' until further notice. This means **ALL CASK REAL ALE is priced at £2.50/pint** (from 5-10pm.) In addition, containers are available free of charge and will hold up to two pints of your favourite tippie for you to enjoy at home.

23 Crosby Road North, Waterloo, L22 0LD

The Brooke Hotel has had a new leaseholder in place since May, who is running it on

behalf of Enterprise Inns. There are currently only two handpumps, although this had been due to increase to four by now, but nothing has materialised thus far. Beers are selected from a quarterly list. In addition, card-carrying



CAMRA members can now get a **10% discount on their real ale purchases** (pints or halves) all day, every day. The pub is also active on social media.

51 Brooke Road West, Crosby, L22 2BE

After many years of not doing so, two city centre pubs are now selling real ale once again. **The Old Post Office** (off School Lane, near the Bluecoat Chambers) has re-activated the



Photo by Rept0n1x

three hand pulls. On a recent visit, **Robinson's Dizzy Blonde** and **Sharp's Doom Bar** were on offer. Meanwhile, over on Dale Street, after an extensive refurbishment, **The Saddle Inn** has reinstated one of their three hand pulls: on recent visits, it was serving **Breakspear Shires and Black Sheep Bitter.**

Old Post Office, 17 Old Post Office Place, L1 3DH

The Saddle Inn, 13 Dale Street, L2 2EZ

Having reported in the last edition that The Belvedere is no longer using lined (over-sized) glasses, we have now had some more positive news that **The Corner Post** in Crosby are now using them.

25 Bridge Road, Crosby, L23 6SA

The Old Blind School closed suddenly in May, with a sign being placed in the window



stating that they were 'closed until further notice'. Since then, the owners (Carrwood), have said that the venue had to close temporarily due to an equipment failure in the kitchen, which meant they were unable to serve food.

A spokesperson stated that the company was also taking the opportunity to refurbish the restaurant and hoped to reopen within four weeks, but at present it is still closed.

The Old Blind School, 24 Hardman Street, L1 9AX

Allerton Hall (or Pub in the Park, as it used to be known) has closed for a significant and lengthy refurbishment.



Photo by SteH Liverpool

This pub/restaurant (owned by **Greene King**) shut on 8th August and will re-open on 6th November, re-branded as a **Farmhouse Inns** outlet.

Springwood Avenue, Woolton, L25 7UN

As a result of recent research and monitoring, three pubs /bars within the Crosby/

Waterloo area have been added to the list of **LocAle** pubs in this edition of MerseyAle. **The Barbacoa**, the **Royal Hotel** and **The Edinburgh** regularly sell beers from **Rock the Boat Brewery** in Crosby, as well as other local beers. These join the numerous other pubs who are LocAle accredited in this area.

Barbacoa, 47-51 Mersey View, L22 6QA
Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, L22 5PR
The Edinburgh, 119 College Rd, L23 3AS

The Abbey on Hanover Street closed its doors suddenly in June, but all is not lost. Soon after, we received a press



release from **Head of Steam** stating that this site had been identified as their new venue in the heart of the city centre. Some of you may remember the original Head of Steam, which was located within Lime Street Station. It went into decline several years ago and eventually closed two years back, only to be re-developed and re-opened by Wetherspoon as **The North Western.**

The Head of Steam brand is



now owned and operated by **Camerons Brewery** of Hartlepool. The Liverpool branch is the 11th in their

portfolio and will be based on the successful Sheffield site. The venue is due to open at the end of September and will feature an 'island' bar that has nine cask ale lines and one for real cider (from around the region and beyond). The food offering will include a brunch menu and a range of British pub classics (including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options), which will constantly be updated to offer a varied selection to customers. They have also confirmed that a discount will be available to CAMRA members on production of a valid card: 20p off a pint and 10p off halves will be offered on all real ales at all times.

85-89 Hanover Street, L1 3DZ

Hard Times & Misery now hosts a **Pie Club** on the last Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm.

The concept is simple: 'bring pies, share pies, eat pies...drink beer...be happy!'

2b Maryland Street, L1 9DE

Ranelagh's Tavern no longer offers an 'Ale of the Day' at £2/pt. Instead, all real ales (except Doom Bar) are priced at £2.55 ALL WEEK.



15-17, Ranelagh Street, L1 1JX

Meanwhile, the winner of the Regional Club of the Year (comprising Merseyside and Cheshire) is **Appleton Thorn Village Hall**. The presentation of this award is due to take place during their beer (and cider) festival on the evening of Friday 27th October. Details will be confirmed at the next regional meeting

Childwall News

The Londis convenience store on Penny Lane (L18) has a strong reputation amongst locals for the impressive beer



selection on its Off-license shelves. They contain ales from local breweries, highly regarded national brewers, as well as craft producers from Belgium, Germany and America. The popularity of the offerings seemed to surprise the owners, who now ensure that products are rotated and replenished weekly, which keeps footfall high.

In July, the family that owns this outlet acquired the former newsagents next to the Halfway House pub on Woolton Road and swiftly converted that into another Londis (an identical real ale Off-license, mirroring their Penny Lane outlet). Lucky residents in L16 now have a short stroll for excellent ales when having a night in: perfect timing for the start of the new football season!

By Andre Fu

BREWERY NEWS

Big Bog Brewery in Speke re-brewed their **Cherry Rye** as a seasonal beer in June, due to popular demand. For those of you that are unfamiliar with this beer, it is described as



'a light-coloured ale, brewed with Rye malt for dryness and flavoured subtly with Montmorency cherries'.

In addition, they have now started to offer some of their beers in key keg format. Currently, **Hinky Punk and Peat Bog Porter** are available, with **Morast and Quagmire** to follow.

Ad Hop Brewery have



now moved to larger premises and have incorporated the ex-brewing kit from the Baltic Fleet with their own original plant to make an 8bbl plant in total. Brewer, Andy, intends to brew a core range of four cask beers in the next month or so, though the recipes / styles are yet to be decided.

The Ship & Mitre Brewery launched a new beer in July. **Lupa (3.6%)** is described as a sweeter, balanced pale ale, using a blend of citrus peels

and Styrian Wolf hops. However, since then it has been re-formulated and is now 4.1%.

The expansion at **Neptune Brewery** continues with the installation of two additional 6bbl



fermenters. Some of their beers are now available in cans for the first time.

There were two new beers produced in July: **Sea Monkeys** was the first of a series of single-hopped beers and used Citra, with more to follow. **Mutiny on the Bounty (5.8%)** is a chocolate and coconut stout, whereas **Mutiny off the Bounty** is the same beer without the coconut. There was a



Tap Takeover at the **Tap & Bottles** in Southport, where 10 different casks were on sale over the course of a week in mid-July. Tap & Bottles is the current Southport & West Lancashire CAMRA Pub of the Year.



The Republic of Liverpool Beer Company, operating out of

Stamps Brewery, produced two beers for the recent General Election. One was



called **'Strong & Stable, My Arse'** (4.4%), whilst the other was named **'Vote'** (4.4%) and described as a light and hoppy beer.

Handyman Brewery



had their opening night in August. Details can be found at either www.handymansupermarket.co.uk or [@handymanbrewery](https://twitter.com/handymanbrewery). They currently have five hand-pulls.



461, Smithdown Road, L15 3JL

Contributors:

Andre Fu
Mel James-Henry
Steve Downing
Ian Rayner
Tony Morgan
Sue Daniels
Howard Perry

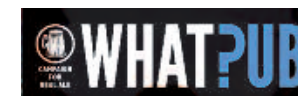
Please remember to send in ANY Pub or Brewery news you have to news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk or post to Twitter and include [@LiverpoolCAMRA](https://twitter.com/LiverpoolCAMRA).

If you wish to receive the monthly branch newsletter by email, please contact the same address.

By Andre Fu

Coming soon:

a charity auction of beer memorabilia. Date and venue TBC via monthly newsletter and social media.



HELP SELECT THE BEST PUBS FOR THE CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE BY COMPLETING A BEER SCORE AT whatpub.com





After beating off stiff competition, following a stringent judging process undertaken by members of all the Merseyside branches, The Cricketers Arms in St Helens has once again been crowned - for the third year in a row - the top pub in Merseyside. This fantastic achievement was marked at a ceremony during the pub's popular summer beer festival in July, when landlord, **Andy Evans**, was presented with a certificate by the CAMRA Merseyside Co-ordinator and Southport Branch Chair, **Doug Macadam**.

The event was attended by both St Helens and Liverpool branch members, who enjoyed the wide range of different beer styles on offer from both an indoor and well-appointed outdoor bar. For once, the great British weather did not let us down and members of both branches came together to enjoy a few pints and a barbecue in the beer garden. The beers on offer were all in tip-top condition and it is easy to see how the pub has man-

aged to yet again win Merseyside's top accolade.

Following on from this prestigious award, The Cricketers has also been confirmed as the **Regional Pub of the Year**, beating **The Tap and Bottle** in Knutsford (Cheshire POTY) to land the prize. There will be an official presentation in the pub on Saturday, 30th September, starting at 3pm.

If you haven't visited for a while, Andy has made yet more changes to his award-winning pub. Not only is the Boundary Bar a fully operational outside bar that can be booked for private functions (as well as providing extra bar space for his quarterly beer



festivals), he now has a second beer garden tucked away round the back of the pub.

This is a recycled garden, where pallets act as seating and the flower baskets are



made from used line-cleaning containers! It is well worth a look - and don't forget to try one or two of Andy's hand-pull range and ten ciders. Add to this a gin



bar and cheeseboard and you have the perfect evening. Coming soon....The micro-brewery in the garden is coming along nicely and should be in production early next year, providing yet another feature to this great pub.



Liverpool Pubs CAMRA Discount



Discounts on production of a valid CAMRA card

- **Central & Commercial**, Ranelagh St - **20p off (pints only)**
 - **Willow Bank Tavern**, Smithdown Road - **10% off except Tuesday after 6pm (see below)**
 - **Flute**, Hardman Street - **10% off except Tuesday (see below)**
 - **Ma Egerton's**, Pudsey St - **10% off**
 - **Pumphouse**, Albert Dock - **25p off (pints only)**
 - **Hare & Hounds**, Liverpool Road North, Maghull - **20p off (pints only) ex Monday: £2.49/pt**
 - **Richmond Tavern**, Church Rd, Wavertree - **20p off (pints only), ex Monday: £2.49/pt**
 - **The Liver**, South Rd, Waterloo - **20% off**
 - **Yates**, Queens Square - **10% off**
 - **Ale House**, Prescot Road, Old Swan - **20p off (pints only)**
 - **The Baltic Fleet**, Wapping - **20p off pints and 10p off a half**
 - **The Punchbowl**, Lunt Road, Sefton Village - **20p off pints and 10p off a half**
 - **Victoria Cross**, Sir Thomas St - **20p off (pints only, except Saturday)**
 - **Sanctuary**, 72 Lime Street, Liverpool - **10% off**
 - **Head of Steam**, 85-89 Hanover Street, Liverpool - **20p off pints and 10p off a half**
- Discount available all day, every day unless stated otherwise**

Discount Days (available to anyone)

- **Flute**, Hardman St - **Tuesday ONLY: £2.10/pt**
- **Willow Bank Tavern**, Smithdown Road - **Tuesday ONLY: from 6pm - £2.25/pt**
- **Masonic**, Gladstone Road, Garston - **Discount Card (£1) 10% off real ale for a year. Tues (from 6pm) 4 pints for £6 (discount card cannot be used)**
- **Mackenzie's**, Rodney Street - **£2 Monday to Thursday (pints only)**
- **The John Brodie**, Allerton Road - **Tuesday ONLY: £1.95/pt**
- **Hard Times & Misery**, Maryland St - **Cask Ale Club (Tuesday - Thursday): 50p off pints + Buy 10, get 1 free; ask for stamp card at the bar.**
- **The George**, Moor Lane, Crosby Village - **Tuesday ONLY: £1.95/pt**
- **The Lion Tavern**, 67 Moorfields - **Monday ONLY: 20p off a pint**
- **Sanctuary**, Lime Street - **Monday Madness: £3/pt & 10% off with CAMRA Card**

Note: All discounts at management's discretion; Subject to change at short notice.

This list is correct as of 31st August 2017; E&OE

Any new offers since the last issue are in **RED**

Message to licensees / real ale drinkers:

This list is not exhaustive, so if we have left anyone off OR if the discount no longer applies, please let me know by emailing: locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk with details.

By Andre Fu



Vegan friendly and gluten free beers



For many vegetarians and vegans, the use of isinglass in the brewing of cask-conditioned beer prevents them from enjoying quality beer in a pub.

Isinglass may also deter omnivores when they realise it is derived from the swim bladders of fish. The ingredient does not affect the taste of beer, but is regarded as essential to those who equate the quality of beer with its appearance. To be technical, isinglass is used to fine or clarify the beer; it attaches itself to the live yeast, causing it to fall to the bottom of the cask.

To help vegetarians and vegans enjoy local beers free of isinglass, breweries in the Liverpool & Districts area were contacted to ascertain if their beers were vegan-friendly. The response is as follows:

Ad Hop: all beers are vegan.

Neptune: all beers are vegan.

Rock the Boat: all bottled beers are vegan. It is likely that other Merseyside brewers are producing vegan-friendly beers and that pubs sell beers from outside the area that are suitable. To further consumer choice and promote inclusivity, it is important that customers can clearly see which beers are suitable for them. **Hard Times & Misery** in Maryland Street and **The Grapes** in Knight Street have taken a lead by identifying beers as vegan on their boards.

Alas, for those requiring gluten free beer, the news is bad. The response to my enquiry suggests no Merseyside brewer currently brews a gluten free beer.

Aldi sell bottle-conditioned beer from **Hepworth & Co**, which is gluten free. This is good for those who suffer from gluten intolerance and are content sitting at home drinking, whilst watching the latest Netflix blockbuster. However, It is not so good for those who enjoy a beer while socialising in a pub. This is particularly regrettable, as gluten intolerance is not a matter of customer preference.

On a more positive note, there is a gap in the market, which provides an opportunity for a brewer to fill a niche.

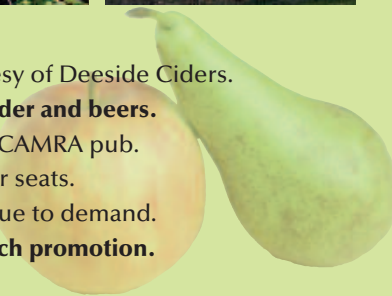
By Paul Grunnill

Cider Trip

Following last year's highly enjoyable cider trip to North Wales, we are proud to announce our latest Cider Month coach trip details.



- Saturday October 7th. Depart Ship & Mitre, 11am.
- The Blue Bell at Halkyn. See an apple-pressing, courtesy of Deeside Ciders.
- The Raven at Llanarmon Yn Ial. Specialising in local cider and beers.
- The Helter Skelter at Frodsham. Multi award-winning CAMRA pub.
- Send names to steve.berks@liverpoolcamra.org.uk for seats.
- Please Note: a max of two names per email booking due to demand.
- Seat price is free due to 'Cider Month' Liverpool branch promotion.



Where to Find Local Ales in Liverpool (correct as of August 2017)

Augustus John, Peach Street, L3 5TX
Baltic Fleet, 33 Wapping, L1 8DQ
Barkers Brewery, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9UJ
Barbacoa, 47-51 Mersey View, L22 6QA
Belvedere, 8 Sugnall Street, L7 7EB
Blackburne, 24 Catharine Street, L8 7NL
Butchers, Booker Avenue, L18 4QZ
Caledonia, 22 Caledonia Street, L7 7DX
Cat & Fiddle, St Martin's House, Bootle, L20 3LG
Cavern Pub, 5 Mathew Street, L2 6RE
Central, 31 Ranelagh Street, L1 1JP
Childwall Fiveways, 79 Queens Drive, L15 6XS
Clove Hitch, 23 Hope Street, L1 9BQ
Cobden, 89 Quarry Street, Woolton, L25 6HA
Corner Post, 25 Bridge Road, Crosby, L23 6SA
Crown, 43 Lime Street, L1 1JQ
Dispensary, 87 Renshaw St, L1 2SP
Edinburgh, 119 College Rd, L23 3AS
Excelsior, 121-123 Dale Street, L2 2JH
Fall Well, Roe Street, L1 1LS
Flanagan's Apple, Mathew Street, L2 6RE
Font, Unit 3, Arrad Street, L7 7JE
Four Ashes, 23 Crosby Rd, North, Waterloo, L22 0LD
Frank Hornby, 38 Eastway, Maghull, L31 6BR
Gold Balance, Newton Gardens, Kirkby, L32 8RR
Grapes, 60 Roscoe Street, L1 9DW
Hard Times & Misery, 2b Maryland Street, L1 9DE
Hub, 16 Hanover Street, L1 4AA
Jawbone Tavern, 12 Litherland Rd, Bootle, L20 3BZ
Lime Kiln, Fleet Street, L1 4NR
Lion Tavern, Moorfields, L2 2BP
Liver, 137 South Road, Waterloo, L22 0LT
Liverpool Pigeon, 14 Endbutt Lane, Crosby, L23 0TR
Love & Rockets, 52 Lark Lane, Aigburth, L17 8UU
Masonic, 35 Gladstone Road, Garston, L19 1RR

Mackenzie's Whisky Bar, 32 Rodney Street, L1 2TQ
Navigator, 694 Queens Drive, Old Swan, L13 5UH
Newington Temple, 8 Newington, L1 4ED
North Western, 7 Lime Street, L1 1RJ
Old Bank, 34 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PE
Old Bank, 301 Aigburth Road, Aigburth, L17 0BJ
Pen Factory, 13 Hope Street, L1 9BQ
Pumphouse, The Colonnades, Albert Dock, L3 4AN
Queen's Picturehouse, 47 South Rd, Waterloo, L22 5PE
Que Pasa Cantina, 94, Lark Lane, L17 8UX
Ranelagh's Tavern, 15-17 Ranelagh Street, L1 1JX
Raven, 72-74 Walton Vale, Walton, L9 2BU
Refinery, Josephine Butler Building, Hope Street, L1 9BP
Richard John Blackler, 1-2, Charlotte Row, L1 1HU
Richmond Tavern, 23a Church Rd, Wavertree, L15 9EA
Roscoe Head, 24 Roscoe Street, L1 2SX
Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, L22 5PR
Sanctuary, 72 Lime Street, Liverpool, L1 1JN
Ship & Mitre, 133 Dale Street, L2 2JH
Sphinx, 160 Mount Pleasant, University, L3 5TR
Stamps Bar, 5 Crown Buildings, Crosby, L23 5SR
Stamps Too, 99 South Road, Waterloo, L22 0LR
Thomas Frost, 77-187 Walton Road, Kirkdale, L4 4AJ
Vernon Arms, 69 Dale Street, L2 2HJ
Victoria Cross, 1-3 Sir Thomas Street, L1 6BW
Volunteer Canteen, 45 East Street, Waterloo, L22 8QR
Welkin, 7 Whitechapel, L1 6DS
Willow Bank Tavern, 329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree, L15 3JA
Ye Hole in Ye Wall, 4 Hackins Hey, L2 2AW

Total 64 **New additions are highlighted in RED**

A MESSAGE TO PUBS:

If you think your pub should be included in this feature, please email: locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk explaining why.

A Local Ales beer is a REAL ALE BREWED WITHIN 30 miles of the pub by road.

NB. Other terms and conditions apply; E&OE.



Family brewery crafting tasty ales in the heart of St Helens

1st Saturday of every month
12-10pm

Visit Us!

TRY OUR CASK & BOTTLED BEERS

Tel: 07921 83 88 31 www.connoisseurales.com

Welcome to the
Vernon Arms

Cheers from Jimmy and Barbara Monaghan
The Vernon Arms, Dale Street, Liverpool

7 Handpumps (4 ever-changing, 1 cider)
Regulars: The Rev. James, Johnny Handsome, Rum Porter

- Gitane Zarah's Rum Porter (exclusive to The Vernon Arms)
- Food served Mon-Thur 12-7pm, Fri-Sun 12-4pm
- Belgian speciality bottled beers
- Large screen sports in HD
- Private function room available (The Latham Lounge)

The Vernon Arms offers all of the above in a friendly and safe atmosphere plus:
Live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays

Opening times: Sun-Thur 12pm-11pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-12am

 @VernonArmsL2 www.vernonarms.net 69 Dale Street, L2 2HJ, 0151 236 6132



Do your membership details need updating?

Are you missing out on what CAMRA offers? Is your registered email address up to date?



As your local branch, we don't want you to miss out on what is happening locally. Rest assured, we only send relevant and important information that we feel you as a local member may be interested in - or that is important for your local branch, such as meeting dates and Pub of the Year voting information. **We NEVER send spam.**

Liverpool & Districts CAMRA keep in touch with members by email on a regular basis, providing a synopsis on all real ale/cider/perry events (both CAMRA and non-CAMRA), as well as special news such as pub awards and reminders about branch socials and meetings.

If you want to be kept up to date with what's happening - both locally and nationally - and wish to receive the newsletter, please ensure that your current email address is registered with CAMRA.

This is very easy to do:

We are keeping members up to date with what is going on within the branch without using CAMRA funds on postage costs.

- Log on to the national CAMRA website - www.camra.org.uk
- Click the **Sign In** tab and sign in with your membership number and password. If you have forgotten your password, you can re-set it by going to <https://password.camra.org.uk/>
- Click on 'Edit your membership information'.
- Click 'Enter/Amend My Record'. Click in the third Edit button and enter your email address. In the 'Preferences' tab, ensure you select YES to the 'Allow Email?' option. Click on 'Add' and Save your changes.

At the beginning of this year, we began sending branch members a monthly email newsletter. This was originally compiled by our much-missed colleague, Tony Williams, who thought it was important to keep members abreast of what was going on in local pubs and breweries, without having to wait for the next issue of MerseyAle to be published. Now that role is fulfilled by yours truly.

Any problems? Just email the branch Membership Secretary on membership@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

If you don't currently receive the newsletter, this could be for a number of reasons, the main one being if the email address you registered with CAMRA is missing, incorrect or out of date.

Don't forget, we are also on **Twitter** (@Liverpool CAMRA) and **Facebook** (CAMRA Liverpool)

- Have you changed your email address since you became a member and not advised us?
- When you joined CAMRA, did you even have an email address at the time?
- Sometimes a simple typo may be the cause of the problem.

By Andre Fu



ROCK THE BOAT
BOTTLE CONDITIONED ALES



Liverpool CAMRA Award Winner
"Brewer of the year 2017"



HAND CRAFTED REAL LOCAL ALE

We have nine traditional ales all inspired by the Mersey region. Rock the Boat Ales are only ever brewed and hand bottled with care at the brewery in Little Crosby Village on Merseyside. We proudly brew all our ales with British malt & hops.

Also available in cask, ask your landlord.

SEE OUR STORY ON YOUTUBE SEARCH FOR
"Rock the Boat Brewery"



KEEP UP TO DATE, ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

T: 0151 924 7936
WWW.ROCKTHEBOATBREWERY.CO.UK



LITTLE CROSBY VILLAGE
BREWING CO. L23.



Voting for Pub of the Year 2018

We will begin to accept nominations for **Liverpool & Districts Branch Pub of the Year (POTY) 2018** in September. Paper forms will be made available on the remaining coach trips this year, including the cider trip to North Wales in October and at all future get togethers (as well as the Christmas Party).

POTY Terms and Conditions

To nominate a pub for POTY 2018, you **MUST** be a member of the Liverpool & Districts CAMRA branch. Your membership card should state if you are a member of the branch. If it doesn't – or if you have a gold card – please contact Membership Services on **01727 867201** or email membership@camra.org.uk to confirm.

Members are invited to vote for their favourite city centre pub and/or their favourite suburban pub, **but you do not have to vote for both**. You may vote for a city centre pub and leave the suburban box blank or vice versa. This is the means by which we select the pubs that go forward to be judged. Nominated pub(s) must be within the branch area (i.e. not in St Helens, Wirral or Formby etc.), so please don't waste your vote.

We define city centre pubs as

those on the main body of the pub map, which can be found on the website, along with a list of the suburbs contained within our branch. If you are unsure whether a pub is within the branch area, you can check by searching on the WhatPub database (www.whatpub.com). The responsible branch will be stated at the bottom of the entry.

Only one vote per member will be allowed. Nominations can be made via the Liverpool CAMRA website (from October). Nomination forms will also be made available at all future get togethers and coach trips.

You can also email poty@liverpoolcamra.org.uk (from October) with your name, membership number and nominations. Reminders will be issued through Twitter / Facebook and the monthly branch newsletter. The closing date for nominations is **Saturday, 29th January 2018 at 6pm**. This is to give ample time for the judging process.

As in previous years, the **three city centre pubs and two suburban pubs** that get the most nominations will go forward for judging. This process has been devised to recognise the fact that there are so many good pubs in our branch area - and is a means of fairly reflecting this



in the voting system. Each pub will then be visited twice by a panel of judges chosen by the competition Co-ordinator. The judging process will be conducted according to national guidelines. The results of the competition will be announced at a future get together (TBC).

There will be ONE Pub of the Year winner.

Finally, I would like to make it clear that I compile the results and therefore do not get involved in the judging process. Intimidation of any member of the Liverpool & Districts CAMRA committee regarding this - or any other matter - will not be tolerated. Action will be taken against licensees or members who initiate any form of intimidation (including via social media). Any comments or queries regarding the competition should be raised either at a get together or committee meeting.

Andre Fu
Pub of the Year Co-ordinator

Can you volunteer to help us distribute MerseyAle?

We need volunteers to deliver MerseyAle to pubs in places such as **Huyton, Garston and Old Swan**. Or if you could to take some copies to pubs anywhere

on Merseyside where you know they would be appreciated, please contact me on the email address below.

Andre Fu
MerseyAle Distribution Manager
andre.fu@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



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Camerons Brewery has announced its eleventh Head of Steam venue will open in the centre of Liverpool this autumn.

The venue will be located on Hanover Street, at the site that was trading as **The Abbey**. Work began in August, with the new venue due to open at the end of September. The Head of Steam, which is renowned for its array of great beers, will have **34 keg lines**



(with a selection of rotating craft beers from UK and world brewers), **10 cask ale lines** - including beers and real cider from around the region and beyond - plus a selection of premium cocktails, spirits and soft drinks. These will all be served from an island bar in the centre of the pub, which the brewer feels gives 'a more welcoming and engaging experience to its customers'. The food offering will include a brunch menu - as well as a great range of British pub classics - with a focus on fresh, local ingredients. A key part of the menu is the great range of vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free

options, which will constantly be updated to offer a varied selection to customers. This will be similar to the menus the brewer has recently introduced at its Sheffield and Newcastle (Quayside) venues.

Chris Soley, Chief Executive at Camerons Brewery, said:

"As part of the expansion plans in place to increase our retail pub division, we have been looking at a number of potential opportunities across the UK for our Head of Steam brand. We have specifically been looking at venues in the North West - and Liverpool was a city in which we were really keen to open a site. Liverpool is a large, vibrant city and we feel our mix of craft beer and live music will be a perfect fit to complement the already fantastic pub and bar offerings in the area."

"We will be putting some significant investment into the development of the site and creating new jobs for the area as part of this acquisition" Chris continued.

"This venue will be a very different proposition to the Head of Steam pub that previously traded in Liverpool and will be modelled on the success we have had at our site in Sheffield."

Camerons, which took over The Head of Steam group in December 2013, has continued to grow its retail estate. Last year, the brewer opened venues in **Headingley, Hull, Newcastle and Sheffield** -and plans to open around six new venues a year.

Tom Hodgson (of Pudney Shuttleworth) acted for Camerons Brewery on the acquisition.

CAMRA Awards Evening 2017

Our annual awards ceremony took place in June at the KIND Centre in Liverpool. Yet again, the weather was kind (excuse the pun!) and we enjoyed a pleasant evening in the wonderful garden overlooked by the magnificent Anglican Cathedral.

This year's award winners were wide-ranging, embracing the eclectic mix of drinking establishments we have in the city centre and beyond.

Our first category was **Best Newcomer**, won by **Hard Times**



& **Misery**. A pub like no other - and a real hidden gem - HT&M serve up to six real ales from pins on a gravity dispense. If you haven't already, we urge you to check it out and try some of their outstanding ales.

The winner of the **LocAle Pub**



of the Year award, which was presented by our LocAle co-ordinator, **Andre Fu**, was a stalwart of the Liverpool real ale scene (and the 2016 recipient of the award), the **Baltic Fleet**.

Although no longer a brew pub, the **Baltic** continues to champion local ales, with knowledgeable bar staff able to recommend beers to the large number of visitors attracted to the waterfront.

The next category was voted for by members, with more votes cast this year than ever before



for our **Bar Person of the Year** award. The winner was **Sian Seely** from **The Volunteer Canteen** in Waterloo. Liverpool & Districts CAMRA member, Ian Holden, was the first person to nominate Sian and he came along to the ceremony to present the award. Congratulations to Sian - and long may you continue pulling quality pints and sharing friendly banter with the customers of 'The Volly'.

The **Brewer of the Year** award was given to **Dave Barker** of



Rock the Boat Brewery, which is based in Little Crosby Village. Although Rock the Boat only started brewing in 2015, Dave

has built up a reputation for distinctive and flavoursome beers. With a range of nine of varying gravities, there is something to suit everyone's palate. The award was presented by Liverpool & Districts Committee member and Brewery Liaison Officer for Rock the Boat, **Tony Morgan**.

Another of our well-established suburban pubs was awarded the **Community Pub of the Year** award. **The Storrdsdale** in Mossley Hill hosts a wide range



of events, which attracts customers both young and old from the local area. With a warm welcome guaranteed for all, the pub is a well-deserved winner of the award.

The next two awards were presented by our Cider Offer, **Steve Berks**. The first was **Cider**



Pub of the Year, which this year went to **The Ship and Mitre**. The Ship always offers three ciders at a fair price, which are well selected, regularly changed and served in top condition.

Another key point was that real cider is difficult to find in this part of the city centre. We then had an extra award, with the **Special Cider Award** being presented to a pub that has served real cider continuously for 40 years! That



pub is **The Swan** on Wood Street. Congratulations to Nick and his team on the award and here's to the next 40 years of real cider.

Last, but not least, we presented our 2017 **Pubs of Excellence** with their awards.

First up was a pub that has won our Pub of the Year award not once, but twice, and has been a constant Excellence Award winner ever since - **The Dispensary** - a pub that arguably has the best-kept cellar in Liverpool.

Next was a suburban Wetherspoon pub, that is an



oasis in an area with very few real ale pubs, **The Frank Hornby**. Providing a good range of real ales and a spacious beer garden in the heart of a residential estate, the pub is

clearly very popular with the real ale drinkers of Maghull, having now won an Excellence Award for two years in a row.

The Grapes was our next Excellence Award winner. A very popular pub with a superb choice of well-kept ales, there is something for everyone here. Having recently been refurbished, the pub now has even more space for you to



enjoy your pint, but has not lost any of its unique style and charm.

Another Wetherspoon pub - and one that has also been on



this list before - our next winner was **The Lime Kiln**. Loved by its regulars, the pub has a wide range of beers at fantastic prices and a cellar team that really know how to keep their beers. Finally, we come to our most prestigious award, **Pub of the Year**. As I'm sure everyone is now aware, this was won for the second year in a row by **Cask**. I don't think there is much more that I can add to what was said about the pub when we presented them with the award



back in May, other than **Ian and Michelle** go out of their way to source top-quality beers from all over the country.

Service is second to none and - to quote one competition judge - you go in as a stranger and come out as a friend. To win this award once is an achievement. To win it twice in a row takes a special kind of establishment - and Cask fits that definition perfectly.

Following the presentation of the awards, our Beer Festival



Organiser, **Doug Macadam**, presented the Chief Executive of **KIND**, **Stephen Yip**, with a donation of £1,500. A big thank you to Stephen and his team for yet again letting us host the event at KIND. We would also like to thank **Big Bog**, **Liverpool Organic** and **Neptune breweries** for donating their beers to the event and to the **Augustus John** pub for the cider. Thank you to everyone who came to the event - and once again, congratulations to all the award winners.

Sonia James-Henry
Branch Chair

MORE TAKEOVERS BY MULTINATIONAL BEER COMPANIES



Photo by Ewan Monroe



In a previous edition of MerseyAle, it was suggested that the brewing industry may soon see a series of takeovers and consolidations, as large brewers get on the 'craft beer' bandwagon (*'Is the independent beer bubble about to burst?' MerseyAle, Summer 2017*).

A number of acquisitions were cited in the USA and UK, with mention of Carlsberg's intention to obtain a UK craft brewer, so they can expand their portfolio of beers and use a popular brand name.

This has now happened, as on July 3rd 2017, Carlsberg UK announced that they had bought London Fields Brewery, based in Hackney. Carlsberg say that London Fields will operate as an independent business, but will work closely with staff from Brooklyn Brewery (New York) to develop the London Fields beer range. Recall that Carlsberg UK bought the rights to sell Brooklyn Lager in the UK. According to Carlsberg, this relationship gives them the experience to talk about 'craft beer'.

One must wonder how independent London Fields will be after getting involved with Brooklyn, a company who can afford to spend \$70 million to relocate and build a new 200,000 square-foot facility on Staten Islandⁱ. No doubt London Fields beers will soon be appearing in supermarkets and off-licenses once Carlsberg

gets its advertising and distribution sections working on the 'new' brand.

As a brewery, London Fields does not actually exist, having closed down its Hackney brewing operation in 2015 and contracted out its beer to companies such as Tom Wood in Lincolnshire. Carlsberg say they will invest in London Fields and return the brewery to its home under the



railway arches in Hackney. If the investment and marketing is successful, surely demand will outstrip production and the brewery will have to move again?

Brooklyn Brewery took over 21st Amendment Brewery of San Francisco and Funkwerks Brewing Company of Colorado on 13th July 2017. Apparently, both are well-liked and respected brewers in their areas. The three companies will

work together to form a distribution company with the aim of co-developing "annual sales and marketing plans and together look for additional beverage companies to join the fun."ⁱⁱ

So it appears that Brooklyn Brewery are 'assisting' other regional brewers - particularly in the USA - with their sales and marketing, as well as their brewing in the case of London Fields. This may be good for beer drinkers, as it



could provide more choice over a wider territory.

Heineken UK have not yet acquired a regional brewer to obtain a 'craft' brand, but have developed their own. In March 2017, they launched two beers under a new Maltsmiths Brewery label. The first beers are a Bavarian-style Pilsner and an American-style IPA (both at 4.6% ABV) in 330ml can and bottle, with a recommended selling price (RSP) of £1.85ⁱⁱⁱ.

This pricing suggests the new beers are for supermarket sales, helping to further undermine beer sales in our local pubs. These beers will be produced in the well-established 'craft' centre in Edinburgh, known as Caledonian Brewery - home to the fine example of the India Pale Ale style, Deuchar's IPA.

Another branch of the Heineken empire - Lagunitas Brewing of California, USA - has taken a ¼ stake in a company called Short's Brewing of Michigan. This makes Lagunitas - and therefore Heineken - an investor in four US craft breweries. Now, Sapporo Breweries of Japan are



getting in on the act, having in early August bought Anchor Brewing in San Francisco - the makers of Anchor Steam Beer, Liberty Ale and Anchor Porter. Apparently, full control by Sapporo will support Anchor's long-term future and allow further international expansion^{iv}.

As suggested above, this may be good for beer drinkers, with more quality US beers in our pubs and bottle shops. However, with all this marketing and distribution power, will the remaining independent brewers be able to compete? The process reminds me of the 'Whitbread Umbrella' scheme, where regional breweries were given distribution support by the larger company. Whitbread took over 26 brewery companies during the time the 'umbrella' operated (1955 to 1971).



Initially, Heineken and Carlsberg are likely to just offer discounts and deals to pubs, clubs and chain off-licenses to stock their range at the expense of others. What is likely to happen is a diminishing of the range available to consumers. Perhaps shoppers grabbing a large pack of cans for a BBQ or party won't worry, but discerning drinkers - whatever container their beer comes in - should.



By Tony Morgan

ⁱThe Real Deal. New York Real Estate News. <https://therealdeal.com/2016/02/23/brooklyn-brewery-looking-for-60k-sf-for-brewing-operations/>
ⁱⁱ<http://21st-amendment.com/were-teaming-up-with-brooklyn-brewery-and-funkwerks/>
ⁱⁱⁱThe Grocer. <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/buying-and-supplying/categories/alcohol/heineken-launches-new-craft-brand-maltsmiths-brewing/549145.article>
^{iv}<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/san-francisco-chronicle/20170803/281509341269949>

Cathay Pacific introduces Betsy Beer



A sizeable number of real ale drinkers are transport fans, with many in that group - like myself - being aircraft enthusiasts. One of the niggles of air travel is the quality of beer in airports and on board the aircraft itself.

Choice is usually restricted to big brands such as Heineken, Carlsberg, Budweiser, Fuller's London Pride (cans) if you travel with British Airways or Flybe. With Lufthansa, you can get Warsteiner or Beck's in bottles, which is very unusual.

These are all mass-produced beers, brewed for drinking near ground level, not at 35,000 feet where the

cabin pressure and filtered air can dramatically affect the taste of food and drink. Cathay Pacific Airways have tried to give their beer-drinking passengers a better experience by introducing **Betsy Beer**, which the airline claims to be the world's first bottled beer, specially brewed to suit cabin conditions at 35,000 feet.

The 5.1% unfiltered wheat beer is named after 'Betsy', Cathay Pacific's first aircraft, a Douglas DC-3 that flew passengers around the region in the 1940s and 1950s. The beer is brewed by the Hong Kong Beer Co, with a combination of Hong Kong and UK-sourced ingredients, including 'Dragon Eye' fruit (used for its aromatic properties), a small component of New Territories-sourced honey for

sweetness, and Fuggle hops from Kent for bitterness and aroma.

Betsy Beer will be available on Cathay Pacific flights between Hong Kong and Manchester, Gatwick and Heathrow, but initially only in First and Business Class, as well as the airline's lounges in Hong Kong and Heathrow, so us poorer travellers may not get any unless we can get a serious upgrade.

For the aircraft enthusiasts, 'Betsy' (VR-HDB) was Cathay Pacific's first aircraft, obtained as World War 2 surplus in 1946. 'Betsy' was sold in 1955, but rediscovered working as a cargo plane in Australia in the mid-1980s. Cathay Pacific bought the aircraft back and restored it to its original livery. It can now be seen in the Hong Kong Science Museum.

By Tony Morgan



Betsy



St Helens CAMRA News

St Helens Pub, Club and Brewery News

The Cricketers Arms in St Helens is once again the top pub in Merseyside and has also been confirmed as the **Regional Pub of the Year**, beating The Tap and Bottle in Knutsford (Cheshire POTY) to land the prize. For more details, see Page 8.

The Talbot Alehouse is going from strength to strength, with



five hand-pulls serving beers from around the country, plus two more serving local **George Wright** beers. The newly refurbished beer garden makes this the perfect place to relax and enjoy a well-kept pint or three.

The Turks Head has 14 hand-pulls and up to 12 ciders, plus a gin bar to die for. This relaxing pub has a separate, quiet lounge if you want to avoid big screen TV. It also has a small, but quiet beer garden at the back of the pub. Add to this the fabulous food and knowledgeable bar staff and the uphill walk is well worth it.

The Phoenix is under new management, with a commitment to keep a range of real ales and hopefully ciders and

perries too. A successful re-launch night was held in July, when the beer was in top form. **Well worth a visit.**

These are just some of our great pubs and all are within walking distance of the train or bus station. Why not add The News Room, The Sefton, The Lamb and the Wetherspoon and Lloyds bars to give you a perfect pub crawl for a summer's day. Other town centre pubs include The George, The Union and The Market Tavern.

Connoisseur Brewery celebrates its third birthday in September and to celebrate is



having a two-day mini festival on September 1st and 2nd, with 12 of their own ales available (many of which are new), plus a mini cider festival featuring 20 real ciders and perries. They offer a CAMRA discount on their ales, and this will be extended to the ciders/perries as well for their birthday weekend. As always, they also have a range of their own ales available in bottles, as well as fruit wines, mead and a variety of soft drinks. They're open Fri 1st (4-10pm) and Sat 2nd (12-10pm). Why not pop along and help them celebrate?

Rainford
If you are around the Rainford

end of St Helens, a brand-new bottle shop, **CatHop**, has opened in Inglenook Farm (on the Rainford Bypass) and is selling a great range of local beers, as well as some from further away. Great idea to stock up for an evening in.

Our branch meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month and all are welcome to attend. We are currently conducting surveys of all our pubs and if you would like to join us, check the website for details.

We recently went on a trip to Bury to do the Rail Ale trail along the East Lancashire Railway - and you can read all about it in our newsletter.

If you would like a copy of our monthly newsletter to be sent to you via email, just let us know at sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

Our next trip is to Ossett Brewery and Rat Craft Beer Festival on Saturday September 9th, 2017. Anybody wishing to join this trip needs to contact Andy Evans at The Cricketers Arms ASAP, as there are only seven places left on the bus. The cost of the trip is £15, including the bus, food, four pints and a tour of the brewery. The coach will leave The Cricketers at 11am.

Gillian Yates
(Branch Chair)

The Storrsdale

Liverpool & Districts Community Pub of the Year



The Storrsdale is Liverpool & Districts Branch Community Pub of the Year 2017. A worthy winner, this suburban gem is justifiably regarded as a particularly welcoming pub, whose ethos is firmly centred around its customers and the wider community as a whole. Landlady Sandra Lund has been at the helm for twelve years now and is rightly proud of the role the pub plays in the local community and the focal point it provides.

Locals, students and occasional visitors are all made to feel at home in this cosy two-roomed establishment. The wood-panelled lounge oozes warmth and comfort, whilst the spacious bar area is notable for its dart board,



which is frequently used by The Storrsdale's own darts team, who compete in the Garston League. With Heron Eccles playing fields only a stone's throw away, the pub has also been an essential post-match watering



hole for many a thirsty sports participant over the years. Being a dog-friendly pub, it is not uncommon to see regulars accompanied by their faithful pooches, whilst enjoying a quiet pint. Dog treats and bowls of water are regularly provided by staff to ensure that all who enter – two legged or four! – feel as comfortable as possible. Indeed, it has been known for

Sandra to walk dogs for customers who happen to be away on holiday. Talk about going the extra mile! Located in Storrsdale Road – a quiet residential street in L18 – the pub has stood since the 1930's, when it was originally known as The Barkhill. Storrsdale Road itself was originally planned as an extension of Barkhill Road, with a road bridge due to feature over the railway line. This never materialised and the pub kept the name 'Barkhill', before later being changed to 'The Storrsdale'. Original fittings survive to this day, including the interior ceiling lights and most notably, the high-level cistern in the Men's toilets. The latter attracts no small amount of



attention from visitors and bears the names of its Liverpool manufacturers, 'Dodd and Oulton'. The copper piping still gleams – and is another example of the care and attention to detail afforded by Sandra and her staff.



Recognition has been forthcoming from other organisations too, with owner's Punch Taverns awarding The Storrsdale with a 'Regional Highly Commended' certificate in the 'Best Pub and Back Bar' division. Yet again, it is recognition that is well merited.

There is occasional live music, with bookings sometimes taken for birthdays and other special occasions. Meanwhile, Quiz Night each Wednesday



proves to be very popular and is always well-attended. Starting at 9.30pm, entry into the quiz is free, with a cash prize for the winning team. All are welcome.

The pub is a particularly popular venue for watching live football. Should Liverpool and Everton happen to kick off at the same time, matches can be simultaneously screened, with Reds congregating in one room and Blues the other. With a friendly clientele, the

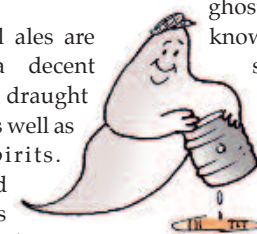
atmosphere is only ever amicable. Four changing real ales are available, with a decent selection of other draught and bottled beers, as well as ciders, wine and spirits. Although food isn't on sale, snacks are usually offered when live football is being shown.

Interestingly, The Storrsdale is no stranger to television, having featured on our screens on more than one occasion in recent times. In 2012, the fly-on-the-wall Liverpool FC documentary 'Being: Liverpool' was partly shot in the pub, where punters were filmed as they watched the Reds 2-1 defeat to Chelsea in that year's FA Cup Final. The programme was narrated by actor and Liverpool fan, Clive Owen.

Three years later, the pub was chosen as the setting for 'The Scouse Alehouse', the screen version of writer and actor Lynne Fitzgerald's play, 'Show us your Tips'. The Storrsdale was chosen ahead of over 80 other Merseyside pubs.

Understandably, The Storrsdale is a difficult place to leave – and this may explain some of the more unusual goings on in the pub: it is believed that Walter, an old cellarman from the late 40's or early 50's, still likes to make his presence felt

even today. Though no ghostly apparition is known to have been seen, many regulars have witnessed the door between the lounge and the bar suddenly swing



open - or indeed close - after being held open for hours by the bolt that is fixed into the stone floor. Also, taps often turn on in the cellar when nobody has been down there. Very strange...

Meanwhile, the beer garden is a big draw for patrons - especially during the warmer months. However, with it being heated, it is also well-frequented even when the weather isn't what might be described as tropical.



All in all, The Storrsdale is everything you'd want your 'local' to be. From friendly staff, homely surroundings and great ale, this side-street pub is as good as it gets. Visit for yourself – you won't be disappointed.

By Dave MacBryde

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**WIRRAL CAMRA BRANCH RUNNER UP
PUB OF THE YEAR 2017**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**



Wirral Branch

MerseyAle co-ordinator & Editor,
Branch Contact, Social Media,
Press and Publicity:

■ **Rob Carter**
robcarter@wirral.camra.org.uk

Chairman:

■ **Gareth Owen**
garethowen@wirral.camra.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

■ **Paul Mossman**
paulmossman@wirral.camra.org.uk

Social Secretary:

■ **Dave Hutchinson**
davehutchinson@wirral.camra.org.uk

Pubs Officer:

■ **Dave Goodwin**
davegoodwin@wirral.camra.org.uk

Cider & Perry Officer:

■ **Jan Lawton**
janlawton@wirral.camra.org.uk

Pub Protection Officer:

■ **Lee Reynolds**
leereynolds@wirral.camra.org.uk

www.wirral.camra.org.uk

WirrAle Drinker

WirrAle Drinker is 25 Years Old



have a cover price to pay its way. It was useful for volunteer distributors to liaise with pubs, but proved difficult to get pubs to take it, as many licensees did not like handling money (which often went missing) on behalf of CAMRA.

July 1992 saw the publication of the first edition of WirrAle Drinker – the first free CAMRA single Branch newsletter in the Merseyside area. Until that time, the whole of Merseyside had been covered by Mersey Drinker, produced jointly by members from Merseyside (now Liverpool & Districts) and Wirral Branches.

Mersey Drinker included reports from Liverpool, Southport, St Helens and Wirral, as well as Chester occasionally. Although an excellent magazine and much sought after by its many readers, it had to

WirrAle Drinker was to be different. It was to be distributed to Wirral pubs free of charge, with advertising to cover the production costs. Furthermore, instead of the Mersey Drinker A4 format, it was a much more manageable A5. The first issue looked very amateur (produced on a dot matrix printer), but the eight pages focused on promoting independent breweries and exposing the big brewers using names of long-closed breweries to con the public into believing the beers were from independent breweries.

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There was also a page of pub news and a short (real ale), three-pub crawl of Birkenhead, which included the Old Colonial in Bridge street (now closed and converted to other uses), The Commodore in Lord Street (now demolished) and The Crown in Conway Street (which sadly no longer sells any real ale). Those three pubs at the time probably sold about 30 different real ales between them at any one time - how things have changed.

Subsequent editions - published every two months with a print run of over 4000 -

looked much more professional, with easy to read print, but retained the same formula of campaigning stories, local pub news and a Wirral pub crawl. After two years and 12 editions, the magazine had grown to 12 pages and the founding editor passed the reins to others to develop the publication. Circulation grew and WirrAle Drinker became one of the most popular local branch magazines, developing into a full-colour, professional publication, distributed in Wirral pubs.

Difficulties in finding interesting news, volunteers

to provide articles, advertising income and most important - an editor - eventually led to the cessation of production of a hard copy magazine. A valiant attempt was made to produce an online copy a few years later, but did not provide the solution and Wirral news was instead restricted to the branch website, plus more recently, social media. The successful revamp of MerseyAle in the last couple of years has allowed Wirral Branch to resurrect WirrAle Drinker within MerseyAle.

By Dave Goodwin

Wirral Pub and Brewery News

Stanley's Cask, New Brighton, has signed up to CAMRA's LocAle scheme and will now be serving one or more locally-brewed ales from a variety of local breweries.

Brimstage Brewery are now brewing **Elderflower Wheat** as a regular beer.

The John Laird, Birkenhead, closed in August. JD Wetherspoon issued the following state-



ment: "Wetherspoon has to make commercial decisions and on occasion closes some of its pubs. This is the case with **The John Laird**."

The Ship Hotel, Parkgate, has signed up to CAMRA's LocAle scheme. **Brimstage Trapper's Hat** is a permanent beer and there are regular guest beers from other local breweries, including Peerless and Facer's.

The Twelfth Man in Greasby has shut and re-opened as **Goodwin's Bar and Kitchen**, which no longer serves real ale.

Brooks Brewhouse is a new, small real ale brewery in Hoylake. Currently only producing bottles, which are available at **The Lazy Landlord**, Liscard. The brewery plans to produce cask beer in the future.

The Irby Mill has signed up to CAMRA's LocAle Scheme and is permanently serving one locally-brewed beer from breweries including **Peerless** and **Cwrw Ial**.

Wirral Pubs offering CAMRA discount

The Three Stags,

Bebington

The Greave Dunning,

Greasby

The Magazine Hotel,

New Brighton

Lady Hamilton,

Little Neston

Brewers Arms,

Neston

Hinderton Arms,

Neston

The Stork,

Birkenhead

Harvest Mouse,

Heswall

Caernarvon Castle,

Oxtun

Homebrew (off licence),

Oxtun



The
Red Fox
Thornton Hough

“ ...the outstanding feature was the staff. What a great crew. ”
They made our experience so enjoyable I want to send them out to other places to show how it should be done. I definitely want a return visit.

- Trip Advisor review

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2017: A WirrAle Odyssey



A journey that lasted three months, not ten years (Odysseus was so lazy), in which I encountered no nymphs, although we did meet Cyclops (subtle CAMRA campaign reference there) and I believe there may have been some issue with wind, but I'd rather not go there. I definitely remember one pub where the beautiful music of the Sirens seduced me to my Doom...bar (cringe) and one place was indeed definitely Hades. I digress.

My mission was to get round all the real ale pubs in the Wirral branch area, updating WhatPub.com surveys, scoring beers and carrying out a beer census as I went.

Here is what I found (this is a snapshot and was correct on the day of the visit):

- ◆ Pubs with cask ale: 118
- ◆ Different beers: 192
- ◆ Total cask ales available: 415 - of which 20% were from the Greene King stable and a further 15% were Marston's associated breweries.
- ◆ LocAle casks available: 59 (14% of total casks) - Brimstige (17), Peerless (16) Weetwood, Facer's, Spitting Feathers, Liverpool Organic, Liverpool Craft, Big Bog, George Wright and Big Hand.
- ◆ Most frequent beers: Doom Bar (36), Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale, Wainwright, Trapper's Hat.
- ◆ Most frequent beers from independent brewers: Trapper's Hat (13), Landlord, Black Sheep Bitter, White Rat, Salopian Shropshire Gold, Timothy Taylor's Boltmaker, Titanic Plum Porter.
- ◆ Most different beers from independent brewer: Peerless (8), Titanic, Hydes, Theakston's, Facer's, Thwaites, Weetwood.
- ◆ Pubs with the most beers: John Laird (10), Caernarvon Castle (9), Dee Hotel (9), Wheatsheaf (Raby) (9), The Clairville, The John Masefield, Irby Mill, Travellers Rest, Greave Dunning, West Kirby Tap, Master Mariner, Three Stags, Red Fox, The Ship (Hoylake).
- ◆ Pubs with the most LocAles: The Ship (Parkgate) (4), John Laird (4), Viking, West Kirby Tap, Red Fox, Wheatsheaf (Raby).
- ◆ The dark side - where did we find the milds, stouts and porters?: Magazine (3), Lazy Landlord, Mockbeggar Hall, Wheatsheaf (Raby), Red Fox, Three Stags, Telegraph, West Kirby Tap, Dee Hotel, The Ship (Parkgate), Gallaghers.

By Paul Mossman



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WirrAle Walks: West Kirby to Thornton Hough

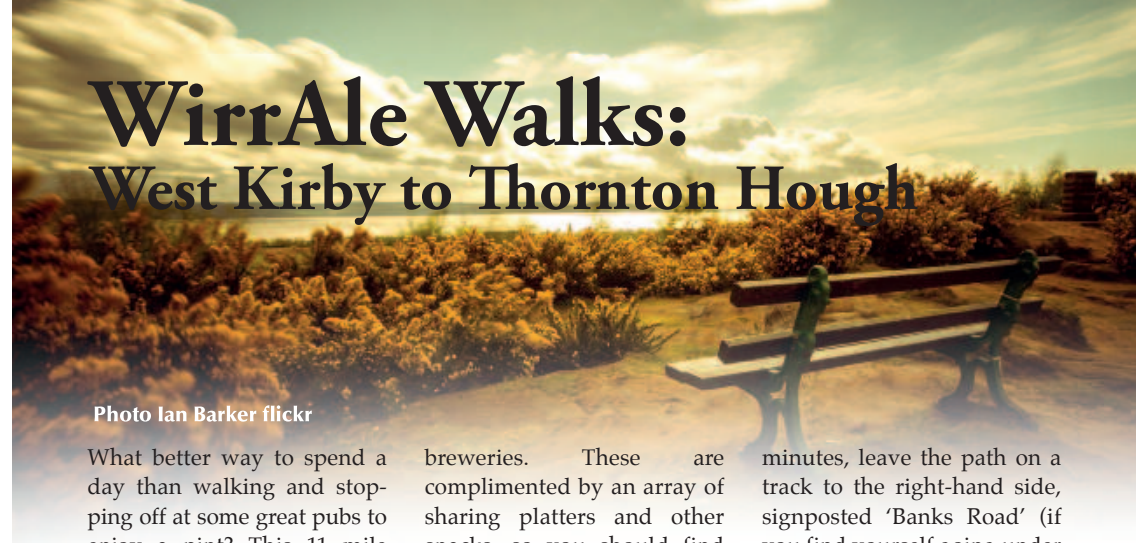


Photo Ian Barker flickr

What better way to spend a day than walking and stopping off at some great pubs to enjoy a pint? This 11 mile (approx.) walk in pleasant countryside takes in five real ale pubs and has options for adding a few more along the way, should you wish to do so. I'd advise taking a map and wearing some sensible footwear. If you don't fancy the whole thing, why not just try one section?

The starting point is **The West Kirby Tap** on Grange Road, which is a stone's throw from West Kirby train station and



West Kirby Tap

easily accessible by numerous bus routes. The Tap is a modern open-plan pub owned by Spitting Feathers brewery, whose beers are served in the pub (giving it CAMRA LocAle accreditation), along with a good choice of guest beers from a variety of UK

breweries. These are complimented by an array of sharing platters and other snacks, so you should find something as well as a pint to fortify you for the journey ahead.

Leave The Tap and turn left along Grange Road, which will take you past **Le Jardin** and **Dee Hotel** (both real ale



Dee Hotel

pubs). After a four-minute walk (approx.), cross Grange Road using the crossing and join the Wirral Way, signposted 'Thurstaston' (if you fancy it, a short detour up the hill will allow you to visit **The White Lion**. The footpath is well-maintained and largely easy going). After 50 minutes or so, you will reach the Visitors Centre at Thurstaston, which has toilet facilities should you need them. These can be accessed by leaving the path via the old disused platform. After a further 30

minutes, leave the path on a track to the right-hand side, signposted 'Banks Road' (if you find yourself going under Delavor Bridge, you've missed it!). At the road, turn left and follow the road round over the bridge above the Wirral Way. Be wary of traffic, as there is no footway for this short section. Once over the bridge, continue up Delavor Road, which is rather steep, but don't panic - beer isn't far away! At the crossroads, go straight on up Dee View Road, again taking care of traffic due to the lack of footway. The road bears round to the right and you will see



Dee View

the **Dee View Inn** on your left. The pub serves four national beers, plus Brimstage **Trapper's Hat**, giving the pub LocAle status.

Leaving the Dee View, turn left and continue up the hill, before turning left up the



hairpin on The Mount. Continue up here for a short distance, before turning right on to Mount Avenue - at the end of which you will see The



Jug and Bottle. It is a large, busy gastropub, serving six real ales. It is another LocAle pub, again serving **Brimstage Trapper's Hat**. The house beer is from **Coach House** brewery and the other pumps are taken up by both regionally-sourced and national beers.

Exit The Jug and Bottle by the back door, turn right into the park, then right again down Rocky Lane. At the bottom, cross to the cenotaph and then go left down the footpath with bollards at the top, before the Dee View Road sign to join School Lane. Go left and head down the hill to **The Black Horse** (closed at time of writing), then take a left turn on to Village Road and a right on to The Lydiate, then right again on to Station Road. At the bottom, turn left, then you will pick up the Wirral Way once again. Head left following the signposting for Parkgate, continuing for roughly 30 minutes. You'll pass under Boathouse Lane - about five minutes after which, you'll see a wooden

footbridge ahead on the path. Leave the Wirral Way to the left on the track before this bridge.

Turn immediately right to go under the bridge (under the Wirral Way) and into Brooklands Road. Follow the road down to Coastguard Lane, leading into Mostyn Square. When you reach the bottom, turn left onto the Parade and after a short distance, you will see **The Red Lion** on your left. This is a charming old multi-roomed



pub, with a central bar serving four cask ales - mainly from national breweries, but occasionally with a guest ale from a local brewery. Other pubs you can visit in Parkgate



include **The Old Quay**, **The Ship Hotel** and **The Boathouse**.

Leave the Red Lion, go right and retrace your steps along the Parade. Then turn right into Mostyn Square, up Coastguard Lane, join Brooklands Road and head

back to where you turned off the Wirral Way. However, do not rejoin it. Instead, head straight on, taking the footpath going up the hill. After approx. four minutes, you will hit an unmetalled road. Turn left and continue to the end, where you will hit Boathouse Lane. Turn right and walk up the hill, along the pavement on the right-hand side of the road. After crossing Leighton Road, there is a property called 'West Point' and beyond that to your right is a wall. There is a footpath signposted to the right, which sends you over a stone stile, set into the wall. Climb this and take the path that follows the edge of the field. Go through the gate, where a bridge then takes you over the railway and brings you through a small farm. The path bears to the right and then takes you up to the A540 via two gates. Cross the A540 carefully to Gayton Motors and head left.

You will see a footpath signposted to the right (at the corner of the first field beyond the garage), the other side of the small lane. It follows the hedge parallel to the A540 before bending round to the right and taking you firstly through some woods and then on a sunken path, through the grounds of Thornton Manor. The path is crossed by a couple of tracks, but keep straight on in both instances. The path finally comes to a road on to which you should turn right. Following this will bring you

into Thornton Hough. As you come into the village, take the road that forks to the right, Smithy Hill. If you want to add in an extra pub, don't take Smithy Hill, but stay straight on to bring you to **The Seven Stars**. At the bottom of Smithy Hill, turn right opposite the village green. Follow the road



as it snakes through the village. On your right, you will see the **Thornton Hall Hotel**. Cross Parkgate Lane and continue past the farm on your right. Ahead, you will see the sign for **The Red Fox**. The entrance gate is on your right and is the final pub stop on the journey.

The Red Fox is a large sandstone building. It's a Brunning and Price pub, serving excellent food and seven cask ales, plus a good selection of real ciders. One of its house beers is brewed by Facer's, giving the pub LocAle status and it often serves beers from **Brimstage**, **Peerless** and other local breweries. Conveniently, a stone's throw from the end of the drive on either side of the road are bus

stops on the 487 route, providing connections to Neston, Spital, Bebington, Birkenhead and Liverpool. Of course, it's also possible to do this route the other way round, starting in Thornton Hough and finishing in West Kirby if you prefer. Enjoy the walk - and your beers!

By Rob Carter and Paul Mossman



Wirral LocAle

West Kirby Tap, West Kirby

Le Jardin, West Kirby

Dee View Hotel, Heswall

Jug and Bottle, Heswall

Ship Hotel, Parkgate

Harp, Little Neston

Lazy Landlord, Liscard

Magazine Hotel, New Brighton

Stanley's Cask, New Brighton

Irby Mill, Greasby

Red Fox, Thornton Hough

OC Bar at Knockaloe

Hall, Bromborough

Dibbinsdale Hotel, Bromborough

Oxton Bar and Kitchen, Oxton

Freddie's Club, New Ferry

Wheatsheaf, Raby

Ship Inn, Hoylake

These LocAle accredited pubs all serve one or more locally brewed beer at all times. To find out more about the scheme, visit

<http://wirral.camra.org.uk/LocAle.php>

Obituary: Ralph Leech - The Fox & Hounds

It is with sadness that we report the death of Ralph Leech of The Fox & Hounds, Barnston, Wirral. Ralph died on July 8th in Arrowe Park Hospital. Our condolences go to his wife, Steph.

Ralph came from the Wirral, his family having run farms in Storeton and Raby - the latter fittingly behind The Wheatsheaf pub. After working in car sales, he spent many years in the pub trade. His first as a licensee was with Greenall Whitley at the Pickering Arms in Thelwall, Warrington, after which he spent several years as a Relief Manager, mainly in the Chester area.

He came to manage The Fox & Hounds in 1984, which had been acquired as a free-house from Whitbread. At the time, the hand pumps were for show, the pub being keg only. Ralph soon introduced real ales, initially with Webster's Bitter and Mild - and during its day, a beer aptly called Webster's Choice.

The range built up, with Theakston's Best Bitter and Old Peculier soon joined by the renowned Ruddles County which, in the 1980's, was much sought after. Thanks to Ralph's efforts, The Fox & Hounds was listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide in 1987 and has spent virtually every year since in the guide.

Over the years, there have been many good beers served at The Fox; Ralph was a great supporter of 'LocAle' before CAMRA came along with the idea and, as now, many beers from Cheshire micro-breweries appeared on the bar. Currently, the pub has two Brimstage beers, plus brews from Theakston's, Timothy Taylor and a rotating 'LocAle' guest.

Mind you, beers have to be properly kept - something which Ralph was a stickler for - and his cellar team will confirm that he ran a very tight ship! It was worth the hard work, with both Pub of the Month and Pub of the Year Awards being received. In earlier years, Ralph also had oversight of the pubs across the



Stange group, advising and guiding on the set-up of The Ship Hotel, Parkgate, The Jug & Bottle and pubs in Llandudno, Conway and Aberystwyth.

Ralph also influenced the traditional character of The Fox, with the bar's real fire and the many clocks, flying ducks and the thousand or so highly-polished brasses! He was also a great lover of gardening, as is evident on the Wirral July Pubs Walk, when it is difficult to tear yourself away from the sunny, flower-bedecked courtyard.

He was an animal lover - with dogs welcome in the bar - although Kev, the pub cat, likes to keep them in their place! He ensured that the pub looked perfect during the Christmas festivities and would photograph the decorations, to be certain that in the following year nothing was amiss.

He was also very generous on Christmas Day, with every customer getting their first drink on him.

His generosity also shone through with longstanding support for many charities - particularly St John's and Claire House Hospices, for whom many thousands have been raised.

There is no doubt Ralph set very high standards and will be missed at The Fox, but with the help of the current cellar team and all the staff, the fine traditions he established should live on.

By Dave Goodwin

Obituary: Peter Day

We are sorry to announce that Peter Day, former Wirral Branch Chairman, died in June at the age of 76. He had been ill for some time, but his death was still quite a shock. Pete was involved in CAMRA Wirral from the time it was founded in 1977. He and his wife Brenda served on the Branch Committee for many years, in several roles.

Pete took a leading role in beer festival organisation, often driving a van to collect beers from around the country. He would sometimes sacrifice a day's personal drinking to drive a mini-bus on a Branch Social, so the rest of us could enjoy our day out at a brewery or pub crawl in a distant town. He contributed to local newsletters, Mersey Drinker and WirrAle Drinker, with up-to-date local knowledge of Wirral pubs and then distributed those newsletters to pubs. He organised excellent local pub crawls which were well researched, some of which were published in WirrAle Drinker.

When the Branch Chairman retired part-way through the year, Pete - as Vice Chairman - was thrust into the role of Chairman, something he



didn't expect and a position in which he was unsure he could succeed. He was one of the nicest, most understanding people in the Branch. With his cheerful and positive outlook, he took to the role of Chairman naturally and continued in the position for many years in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

It was often said that he was the best Chairman the Wirral Branch ever had - and the Branch certainly thrived under his influence. He was always there if we needed advice and although he had not been active in CAMRA for a few years, he will be sadly missed by those of us who knew him.

By Dave Goodwin



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ManxAle

From Dave Halliwell, MerseyAle Isle of Man Correspondent

In this issue, we report on why the iconic Bushy's TT beer tent will no longer be on the promenade after a twenty-year stint and the underlying reasons for some of the worldwide TT fraternity having expressed dismay at the decision. We examine the rapidly expanding Hooded Ram brewing and pubs operation, as well as reflecting on

the tenth anniversary of world-renowned beer writer Michael Jackson's passing. In addition, there is the usual news roundup, with one of the island's premier real ale outlets closed for full refurbishment as we go to print.



Bushy's TT BEER TENT



Bushy's will no longer be hosting the TT beer tent at the end of the promenade after a twenty-year stint. The site is put out to tender on occasion, with **Hooded Ram brewery** having won the contract for the next five years. While this news may seem minor to those off island, it would be fair to say that within TT, motorbike and

race period for a generation and has become synonymous with the event, noted internationally as one of the premier motorcycle 'must attend' bars in the world.

Three core reasons - all playing into each other and interlinked - are at the root of the concern. Firstly, there has been a growing feeling among the traditionalist TT fans that there is a gradual creep



Martin Brunnschweiler

towards corporatisation of the TT in recent years. Losing the Bushy's tent from the site plays into this feeling, though the authorities argue they have to get the best deal for the Manx public and event in the round. Secondly, Bushy's - and in particular, owner **Martin Brunnschweiler** - have gained a unique reputation for



supporting the event through thick and thin, as well as in the lean years when the TT popularity was thought to be waning. Bushy's have traditionally supported the volunteer race marshals and are well-known for brewing charity beers and quietly supporting many charitable events and initiatives along the way - their history being littered with many such examples.

Price-wise, they have always remained value for money - and indeed were still offering beers available at £3 a pint this year at the tent, during a high-profile international motorcycling event.

There is wide recognition of this good-value.



island circles, the decision has not been without controversy. For those not aware, the Bushy's tent, which is in effect a huge beer marquee, has been in operation throughout the TT

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Bushy's

TT BEER TENT contd

Perhaps a prime example of the Bushy's culture was reported to me by a local care home manager, dismayed by the change. Quietly and without fuss or publicity, the home had visited the tent with adult special needs clients (from the care home) during race weeks, where Martin had given them his time and provided them with drinks. Rightly or wrongly, this and many other examples, play into an uneasy feeling that Bushy's loyalty to the event - in good times and, importantly, bad - has perhaps not been fully recognised or rewarded.

Thirdly, to Hooded Ram. This represents a fantastic opportunity to the fledgling group, who are right on the cusp of exponential development, as detailed later. This, their first heavyweight intervention on island, will dramatically raise the profile of the group locally, after opening their first pub units in Douglas and Wolverhampton in recent times. However, through no fault of their own, Hooded Ram has genuine heavyweight financial backing, which is starting to change the market in the Isle of Man - beer wise - in a way not seen for a generation. This, along with their high-end outlets leaning towards higher-priced beers, does however play into the aforementioned

concerns (beyond Hooded Ram's control of course) regarding the commercialisation of the TT event itself. Hooded Ram is promising a very different offering on the promenade site, and their reputation for meticulous attention to detail will undoubtedly be on show. The core challenge will be providing a competitive offering that simultaneously avoids an over-gentrification of the site for the regular race fan. Meanwhile, Bushy's have been offered - and are looking at - a number of alternative sites for the 2018 races, after a remarkable twenty years on the promenade, cemented world-wide in TT beer-drinking folklore.

News roundup



The White House, after an absence, has once again won the Isle of Man CAMRA Pub of the Year competition, with congratulations going to **Neil Keig** and family. The pub is the most prolific winner of the award in



The Albert

recent years. Runners-up included last year's winner, **The Albert** (Port St. Mary) and **The Prospect** (Douglas) - the bastion Heron & Brearley pub on island (real ale-wise), which features a dozen ales or more. In mid-August, the pub was closed for refurbishment and a



The Prospect

full report on the reopening will follow in the next issue. Elsewhere, **The Sulby Glen Hotel** featured its 13th annual beer festival - the longest continually running on island by some margin. As usual, the event took place in the outside marquee to the rear of the



hotel, with additional beers available inside, including at time of visit, a special-offer Hooded Ram bespoke **Tante Rosie beer** at a remarkable £2 a pint.

The core success of this event's longevity is the invariably, unusual range of guest ales, not regularly seen on island, as well as the modest size of the event. By not overstretching the beer range year on year in terms of number, **Eddie and Rosie Christian** once again were able to put on a fantastic and relaxed event, in rural surroundings, unique to the Isle of Man.



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Further north in Ramsey, almost simultaneously, Ben Sowrey (now tenant at The Trafalgar) has launched a bespoke **Trafalgar beer**, which is intended to be a permanent



house beer. Brewed especially for The Trafalgar by **Holt's** of Manchester (based half a mile from Victoria station), it is an excellent and very drinkable session beer, coming in at 3.8% with stylish pump clip.

The Trafalgar is also launching a CAMRA member's discount scheme. These are common place in the UK, most notably with the Wetherspoon voucher scheme, but also with many other real ale outlets and chains, in order to promote cask ales.

Over in the north east of the island, the superbly refurbished **Glen Mona Hotel** (see MerseyAle, Winter 2016, p45) had been closed for part of the summer. Now however, it has reopened, but on reduced hours. Serving food, the premise is currently open each weekend (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

Heron & Brearley news

As well as continuing with the re-introduced seasonal beer schedule (which is hoped to feature thoroughly in the next issue), the

Heron & Brearley pub refurbishment program continued in June with a full refurbishment of **The Cat with No Tail**, a large two-roomed pub on an



outer Douglas Housing estate. The pub has been given a thorough modern makeover, but retains the games and sports TV room to the right-hand bar, with dining on the left, conser-



vatory and outdoor seating and play areas to the rear, making it appealing to a broad section of the community, as is common with H & B refurbishments. The large mirrors featuring Okell's and H & B history remain in the saloon bar area, including one of Castletown Ales - a brewery taken over many years ago.

The food menu has been enhanced, and in common with a number of H & B pubs, pizzas are now also on the menu - ideal for sharing whilst enjoying a real ale or two when the football is on. The pub retains its true community feel -



not always easy to achieve on housing estate sites - and well-attended church services still regularly feature on Sunday

mornings. West Bromwich Albion fans need not despair at the removal of the team's memorabilia, as it now features only a mile away, in **The Archibald Knox pub**, after a change-around of landlords.

At 'The Cat', Lee Butterworth (formerly of the award-winning Woodbourne Hotel) has now taken over the reins. At the time of visit, several ales were available across the two bars, including **Okell's Bitter, Okell's MPA, Moorhouse's Pride of Pendle and Shepherd Neame Spitfire**. Quirky and unusual features often delight the pub aficionado - and despite the pub's name, celebrating the famous, tailless



Manx cat - proceedings in the dining area are overlooked intently by a painting of a large black hound! All in all, another superb outer Douglas estate pub refurbishment to complement **The Horse & Plough** (on the other side of Douglas), in what is recognised to be a difficult genre of refurbishment to master.

Bushy's Blonde Biere

Once again, in the interests of the island, a small team supported the vast Lorient festival in August, which attracted over 800,000 attendees. In typical understated style, Bushy's have supported this event for many years, and this year have brewed a special Bushy's Biere Blonde for the event, though it may be available again on island at a later date.



At 4%, the lighter beer was bespoke and specially brewed to appeal to the palate of our European friends at the event. In conjunction with **The Isle of**



Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin, the event promotes the island's produce to a wider audience and other Celtic nations. Meanwhile, Bushy's report that it appears to be a bumper year for Manx-grown barley, using **Maris Otter** variety. Though not the easiest of crops to grow



on the island, it has been trialled in various Isle of Man locations over the last ten years, in collaboration with farmer **Pentti Christain and Warminster Maltings** - a superb traditional maltings firm, in operation since 1855. In recent times, Bushy's have used and pioneered Manx-grown barley over a number of years.

Bushy's and Michael Jackson

Late August marked the tenth anniversary of **Michael Jackson's** passing. Michael was world-famous for his beer writings and books, which sold millions of copies worldwide. He was a pioneer in his field. Such was his high regard, that many beer writers and afi-



The Beer Hunter
Michael Jackson

cionados have recently been re-running many of his articles as the anniversary approached. Mr Jackson - despite already being famous and in demand at the time - made a special trip to the Isle of Man to open the new Bushy's brewery in 1990. In addition, he met up with the Bushy's crew down at Olympia at the Great British Beer festival



some years ago. He was particularly interested in local foods, as well as beer and whisky, and wrote an article on the Bushy's Oyster Stout at the time.

Hooded Ram developments

While there is little by way of tangible assets to physically see at present, the Hooded Ram group is about to grow exponentially. In October, the brewery is moving to a new site (close to Douglas South Quay)



in a building that cannot be missed, with an imposing thirty-foot Hooded Ram emblem on it.

Brewing tanks are under manufacture after a brief setback,



and a canning plant (capacity 35 cans per minute) is awaiting shipment from Calgary (Canada) to the island. Hooded Ram outlets are planned for **Huddersfield, Newcastle under Lyme, Chesterfield and Manchester**. The brewery has been busily picking up awards - particularly **Great Taste awards** for **The Little King Louis IPA, Black Pearl Oyster Stout and Mosaic**.

All 48 UK **Oddbins** are now stocking **Amber Ram, Mosaic, Little King Louis, Black Pearl and Pale Rider**. Negotiations are in progress with the **Co-Op** group to stock some of the beer range. Inevitably, the group has decided to switch tactics to provide a core range of three beers in their outlets: **Amber Ram, Jack the Ram and Mosaic**, with two rotating seasonals.

With the aforementioned promenade TT site secured, this is an Isle of Man group with major intentions and serious capital coming to the fore.

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Liverpool CAMRA Coach Trips

Coach trips are run every month to a variety of destinations.

Coach Trips depart at 10am from opposite the Ship and Mitre, Dale Street, and return there around 9pm. Cost is £12 for CAMRA members, £15 for non members – so it pays to join CAMRA!

***Any non-member considering coming on a CAMRA coach trip can save £15.**

For full details of upcoming trips and how to book, please check out the coach trip page on the branch website. To book, contact social@liverpoolcamra.org.uk or phone Ian Macadam 07521 741 586

***FREE COACH TRIP**

Anybody who joins CAMRA for the first time and affiliates to the Liverpool & Districts branch, will be offered a free seat on a future branch coach trip. Check Liverpool CAMRA website for details

The web page is updated after the 1st of each month with details of the next trip being launched.

Sep 9th: Harrogate and Otley.
Oct 14th: Nottingham (for beer festival. Date to be finalised).
Nov 11th: Shrewsbury area (possibly another brewery visit).



CAMRA Branch Diaries

Liverpool CAMRA Branch Diary

Sat 9th Sep: Coach to Harrogate/Otley – 9.50am Ship & Mitre.
Sun 24th Sep: Ferry Across the Mersey and Walk from Seacombe to New Brighton. Meet at Pier Head Ferry Terminal for 12 noon ferry.

For Coach trips, contact social@liverpoolcamra.org.uk or Ian Macadam on 07521741586.
 For further details, contact Steve Downing contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Wirral CAMRA Branch Diary

Thu 14th Sep: Branch Meeting. Meet in Gallaghers at 8.30pm for 9pm meeting, followed by social. **All welcome.**
Sat 23rd Sep: Coach trip to Bishops Castle. Michaelmas festival - coach will pick up from Ship & Mitre, Dale Street Liverpool at 9.45am, then the Brass Balance, Argyll St, Birkenhead at 10am. Still to be confirmed is a pickup in Neston. Please see wirral.camra.org.uk for updates.
Thu 28th Sep: Autumn Pub of the Season presentation to the John Masefield, New Ferry from 8.30pm.

Mon 9th Oct: Committee Meeting - Rose and Crown, Bebington. Start 8.30pm, followed by social. **All welcome.**

Thu 12th Oct: Branch Meeting at Gallaghers, 8pm for 8.30pm start.

Sat 21st Oct: Coach trip to York. Coach leaves The Brass Balance at 9.45am, followed by the Ship & Mitre at 10am. Come and enjoy all that York has to offer, including wonderful pubs, National Rail Museum, York Minster, Jorvik Museum and many more.

Mon 6th Nov: Committee Meeting at 8.30pm, venue TBC.

Thu 9th Nov: Branch Meeting at Gallaghers, 8pm for 8.30pm start.

Thu 16th Nov: Social - Meet in Stanley's Cask, New Brighton, from 8pm, then The Telegraph.

Bookings for any organised coach trip to Dave Hutchinson (07769 617986) / davehutchinson@wirral.camra.org.uk £5.00 deposit secures place (subject to sufficient numbers) for all organised coach and

bus trips. Cheques made payable to CAMRA Wirral Branch.

Non-members and inactive members particularly welcome to all events and trips.

Isle of Man CAMRA Branch Diary

Thu 15th Sep: Branch Meeting - Horse & Plough, Braddan, 7.30pm.

Sat 21st Oct: Branch AGM - The Prospect, 2pm (TBC).

Wed 15th Nov: Branch Meeting, Douglas. Start at Clinch's, 7.30pm.

MerseyAle Article and Photo Contributors	Dave MacBryde Dennis Jones Gillian Yates Howard Perry Mel James-Henry Andre Fu Dave Goodwin Dave Halliwell	Rob Carter Sonia James-Henry Steve Berks Steve Downing Sue Daniels Tony Morgan
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Liverpool CAMRA



MerseyAle

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St Georges Hall BEER FESTIVAL



28th - 30th September 2017

200⁺ Real Ales
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GIN ^{Indoor} GARDEN

Wines &
Prosecco



*Valid at Thursday evening and Friday daytime sessions only when showing a valid CAMRA card

Session Times:

Thursday 28th	September 18.00 - 22.30	£7
Friday 29th	September 11.30 - 16.00	£7
Friday 29th	September 18.00 - 22.30	£9
Saturday 30th	September 11.30 - 16.00	£8
Saturday 30th	September 18.00 - 22.30	£8



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www.realaleevents.com