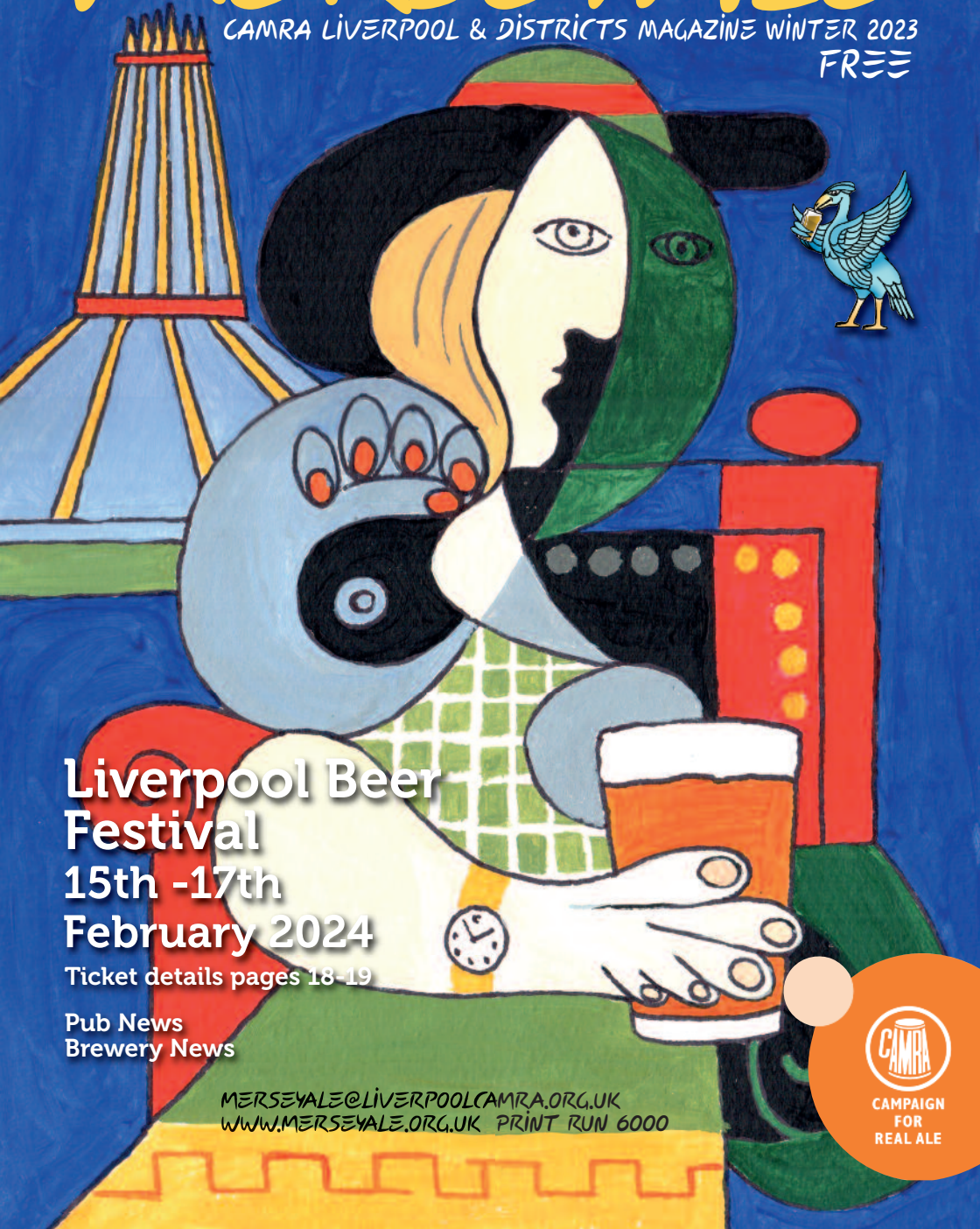


MERSEYALE

CAMRA LIVERPOOL & DISTRICTS MAGAZINE WINTER 2023

FREE



Liverpool Beer
Festival
15th -17th
February 2024

Ticket details pages 18-19

Pub News
Brewery News

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MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool and Districts Branch

Branch Chair

Mel James-Henry
chair@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Treasurer

Michael Chandler
treasurer@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Branch Contact

Peter Elloy
contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

MerseyAle Contacts

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

Editor

Sonia James-Henry
Hope Lodge, 17 Victoria Rd, Crosby,
L23 7XY
Tel: 07425 174502
sonia.james-henry@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Advertising contacts

Mel James-Henry, Sonia James-Henry
and Pete Elloy
advert@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Supplies

For Supplies of MerseyAle and
CAMRA point of sale items
supplies@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



Websites and Social Media

Liverpool and Districts
www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk
www.liverpoolbeerfestival.org.uk

MerseyAle Read online at
www.merseyale.org.uk

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Designer Dennis Jones

Cover Dennis Jones
"The Woman with a Pint"
after "The Woman with a Watch" by
Pablo Picasso



Welcome to the MerseyAle

Hello and welcome to this slimmed down version of MerseyAle. Various circumstances have led to us not being able to produce a full issue this time but

we hope normal service will be resumed for the next issue. Our magazine may be smaller but it is packed with articles, a pub walk, a report on the **All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group Event**, held during the recent Labour Party Conference, which took place in the city centre (see page 7), and a review of a new pub recently opened in the city center, **the Eberle** (see page 13). In pub news you will read about **Frank Parratt** retiring from the **Waterpudlian** in Waterloo. Frank has always been a supporter of CAMRA, and LocAle in particular, we would like to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement. **Also in this issue we have details on pages 18-19 of our 2024 beer festival, tickets are on sale**

now and selling fast. Finally, thank you to all our advertisers and contributors without you there would be no MerseyAle.



15th - 17th February
Liverpool Beer Festival

Sonia James-Henry
MerseyAle Editor



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PUB NEWS

Contributors: Steve Downing Sonia James-Henry Tony Morgan Pete Elloy



The Angus Crosby

The team behind the Tap and Grind on Dale Street are opening a micro pub in Crosby opposite Stamps. There will be a launch party on Friday 15th December from midday.

Craft Bar, Garston

An application for a premises licence has been submitted to open a pub at 134 St Mary's Road in Garston. If they intend to sell real ale, would be a welcome addition to an area where real ale pubs are scarce.

The Eberle

This is a new pub which has opened in Liverpool City Centre, behind Thomas Rigby's/Lady of Mann, further details can be found on page 13.

Gardeners Arms, Woolton

The Gardeners Arms is down from six hand pulls to three. See our letters page 10 for more.

Halton Castle, West Derby

In even more depressing news, all the hand pulls have been ripped out of the Halton Castle.

The Lime Street Central

Now has three hand pulls and offers CAMRA members a 20% discount on its cask ales.

Urban 24, Crosby

Urban 24 in Moor Lane, Crosby (Previous The Village) is currently closed. Signs on the Windows say it will reopen as **The Crosby Townhouse**. No news about the beers.

The Waterpudlian, Waterloo

Frank Parratt from the Waterpudlian recently retired. A true legend we would like to thank Frank for all he did for Liverpool CAMRA. The Waterpudlian (then Stamps Too) was the first winner of our Locale Pub of the Year award and has been a constant supporter of our local breweries. We'd like to wish him well in his retirement. The pub has now been taken over by **Liverpool Brewing Company**. They will be stocking a mixture of their own beers and others.



BREWERY NEWS

Contributors: Tony Morgan Chris Riley Julie O'Grady Sonia James-Henry

BIG BOG

Congratulations to Big Bog who picked up 7 medals and scooped Bronze in the overall Champion Beer category at the recent SIBA regional awards held in Bolton.

Awards were:-

Peat Bog Porter - Gold in the British Dark Beer Category

Baltic Porter - Gold in the Imperial & Strong Beer Category

Overall Champion Bronze winner

Blueberry Hill - Silver in the Speciality Amber to Dark Beer Category

Padi - Bronze in the Speciality Light Beer Category



Strawberry Fields Help - Bronze in the IPA Category

Quagmire - Bronze in the Best British Bitter Category

Chris Riley



Rock the Boat Brewery does it again!

Rock the Boat Brewery in Little Crosby Village has been successful again in the CAMRA Champion Bottled Beer of Britain North West (NW CBBOB) competition 2023 with two winning beers.

Dragon's Teeth, the 4.3% Chocolate Stout, won a Bronze Award in the NW CBBOB Regional Finals in the **Real Ale in A Bottle (RAIB)** under 4.3% category. **Waterloo Sunset, a 4.2% session bitter**, also won a Bronze Award in the same finals in the RAIB under



4.3% category. The final blind judging was hosted by Isle Of Man CAMRA after selection of entrants by CAMRA members and panels of trained tasters.

You may recall that **Dave Barker** and his staff at Rock

the Boat were successful in the same competition in 2022, with awards for **Waterloo Sunset and Sittin' on the Dock**. Congratulations to Dave and all in the brewery for the continuing success.

Tony Morgan, Brewery Liaison Officer

Neptune Brewery

In October Neptune became the Official Beer Partner for **National Museums Liverpool** which they are very proud of. The beers a Pale Ale and Lager have been canned, and the



labels incorporate their logo and colours. These beers will be available in Museum of Liverpool and Maritime Museum from 1st December in the cafés and gift shops, spreading out to the remaining 5 venues in 2024.

Roxy Ballroom have opened a new venue in School Lane and Neptune have a permanent line



Ossett

Not one of our breweries but in October they launched a special beer called **'House White'** to celebrate one year since the passing of the Liverpool pub legend affectionately known as **'Boulder'**. The beer could be found

of Mosaic pouring with other lines being added to their other two venues before the end of the year.

Neptune's yearly limited-edition beer, **American Stout, Medusa's Gaze** is now out in draught and Cans. As well as the original there is also a Rum Barrel Aged version.

The Beerhouse in Maghull has updated its hours for Christmas and New Year period with an extra day.

There will be gift boxes available which can be purchased online and, in the Beerhouse, along with their 5L Mini casks.

Neptune are launching three new beers in collaboration with **Crosby Coffee**. They are holding a launch event in the Beerhouse 10th January 2024. Information and tickets can be purchased on their webstore and from the Beerhouse.

Julie O'Grady

in Boulder's favourite pubs, and on Monday 30th October representatives of the brewery came to Liverpool to partake in **'The Boulder Pub Crawl'**. The pubs on the pub crawl were The Bridewell, Denbigh Castle, Lion, Vernon Ship and Mitre and the Dispensary. We believe the beer didn't stay around for too long!

Sonia James-Henry

The plight of the wheelchair bound pub goer

For the majority of the public, steps at the entrance to a pub are not an issue, people think nothing of it, and why should they? It's not until you, or someone close to you is restricted by a physical disability that you become aware. Most CAMRA members, I guess, feel CAMRA is as inclusive and diverse as it can be, but can more be done for those of us who are confined to a wheelchair? The inclusion of disabled access in the facilities section of WhatPub is welcome, but in some cases, these can be misleading and not entirely accurate. As a branch we try and ensure that we cover all pubs with disabled access but with such a large area it is difficult. In Liverpool, there are many pubs that, at first glance, are not wheelchair accessible, some do have alternative entrances or ramps (and we do try to capture these in whatpub) but don't advertise the fact. There are others which are inaccessible to wheelchair users, due to the age and the layout of the building. Disabled facilities are even rarer, with the exception of Wetherspoons, where disabled toilets tend to be used by regulars unwilling to take the trek to the gents/ladies. As a result, they tend to be pretty gruesome. Most pubs that do have disabled facilities are those that serve food, which is understandable.

There are 1.2 million wheelchair users in the UK, that is a lot of potential customers to lose out on if pubs could install a ramp etc but don't. I think CAMRA should be encouraging pubs, where possible, to think about disabled access, or at least put forward the views of members that are wheelchair users, therefore representing views of all the membership.

This is particularly relevant to pubs that receive awards, particularly Pub of the Year, buried in the guidance notes for judging it does state 'where practicable access should be possible for people with disabilities who should be treated with care and attention'. But I do wonder if this is given much attention. I was Pub of the Year Coordinator for a few years, and this is the first time I have noticed this. CAMRA have made progress in recent years when it comes to inclusivity of minority groups, but I can't say I have heard anything from disabled members.

As a wheelchair user, you feel excluded if you are unable to enter a pub, I have had the humiliation of visiting a pub I have never visited before only to find it inaccessible

and having to drink outside on the street. This is a plea to CAMRA to become more proactive when it comes to members with disabilities, this would help both members and pubs. Raising awareness is what we need to improve the situation so that pubs at least think about people with disabilities and, if they can, introduce ramps or utilise an alternative entrance, so that the number of pubs accessible to us increases. Regarding WhatPub, if anyone knows of a pub in our branch that has disabled access but is not listed, please contact whatpub@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



James-Henry
MerseyAle Editor

Sonia

All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group Event at the Labour Party Conference



Lord Roy Kennedy



The Labour Party Conference was in Liverpool between the 8th and 11th October 2023. Amongst the social events was a reception hosted jointly by CAMRA and the All-Party Parliamentary Beer group (APPBG). The aim of the APPBG is: To promote the wholesomeness and enjoyment of beer and the unique role of the pub in UK society; to increase understanding of the social, cultural and historic role of brewing and pubs in the UK and their value to tourism; to broaden recognition of the contribution of brewing and pubs to employment and to the UK's economy; to promote understanding of the social responsibility exercised by the brewing and pub industries; to support the UK's brewing industry worldwide.

The reception was held in the Pumhouse and hosted by Lord Roy Kennedy the Vice Chair of APPBG and a winner of the CAMRA Parliamentarian of the Year award for his work on planning protection for English pubs.

A group of local CAMRA members attended, joined by Nick Bosley our Regional Director and other members from the region. All our branch MPs were invited, but

sadly none turned up. We did get a reply from Paula Barker MP (Labour, Liverpool Wavertree) who gave her apologies as she was at another fringe meeting that evening. In addition to Lord Kennedy, who gave a welcome address and an introduction to proceedings, the other speakers were Nik Antona, CAMRA Chairman, and Nick Mackenzie, Greene King Chief Executive, the Pumhouse is a Greene King pub. The APPBG chose the venue. All three speakers spoke about the importance of the pub as a social hub and as a place of wellbeing, where people can drink in safety and as part of the community. There were calls for changes to excise duty and VAT so that pubs are not at a disadvantage compared to take-away beer bought in supermarkets. Nick Mackenzie covered similar ground but also spoke about other pressures on keeping pubs viable such as high en-

ergy costs and the need for changes to the business rates system. Pubs currently pay 2.8% of the business rates bill but only account for 0.5% of total business turnover, which is an overpayment of around £500 million by the sector each year. Speeches over, it was time to mingle with the delegates. We bumped into some colleagues from Wigan branch who were there as union delegates. Some of us had a chat with Tom Stainer, CAMRA Chief Executive, and Jane Eason, Chief of Campaigns and Communications.

We were nicely surprised with the beer on offer - three LocAles to choose from: Mussel Wreck and Green Hops from Rock the Boat, and Marmalade Skies from Strawberry Fields, as well as IPA and Belhaven 60/-from Greene King.

The Labour Party Conference will be returning to Liverpool next year. Encourage your MP to get involved with the APPBG and ask them to attend next years CAMRA/APPBG reception to show their support for pubs.

Tony Morgan
Vice Chair & Public Affairs Officer

Pub Companies - HOW THEY MAKE MONEY part 2

In the last article, we examined how pub companies make money from their tenanted/leased pubs, notably through operation of the tie, which requires tenants both to pay rent and to buy, at inflated prices, most products from the company. This arrangement has been a source of tension ever since the tied house system was introduced in the late 18th century but those tensions were exacerbated by the 1989 Beer Orders and the consequent rise of the pub companies.

Various attempts at self-regulated controls were tried but the imbalance of power persisted. By 2013, the Business Secretary, Vince Cable, had concluded that statutory regulation was necessary. The result was the Pubs Code Regulations 2016, or Pubs Code for short. Sadly, it was decided that the Code would only apply to companies owning more than 500 tenanted/leased pubs.

The Code, which applies only in England and Wales, is based on two principles:

- fair and lawful dealing by pub-owning businesses in their dealings with their tied tenants;
- tied tenants should be no worse off than if they were free of tie.

In pursuit of the second principle, the Code introduced the option for tied ten-

ants to request a Market Rent Only (MRO) option. This provides for tenants to break free from the tie on beer and other products and simply pay a 'market rent' for the property. The Code specifies the rent assessment process to be followed.



A Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) was appointed to issue advice and guidance about the Code, arbitrate individual disputes and carry out regulatory functions, including a power to investigate suspected breaches of the Code. The current PCA is **Fiona Dickie**.

The PCA office has mostly concentrated on the first two sets of responsibilities. However, in 2019 it launched an investigation into **Star Pubs & Bars**. The allegation was that the company was obliging tenants negotiating MRO to carry on stocking some of their products. The PCA found that Star had frustrated the principles of the Code and fined them £2m (an appeal is working its way through the courts).

In its first five years, the PCA received 536 arbitration referrals; of these, 272 related to Stonegate or its predecessor Ei, 116 to Star and just one to Admiral Taverns.



A Government review of the Code kicked off in 2019. The main points in CAMRA's submission to the review were that:

- the Code was not working as intended;
- pub companies were 'gaming' the Code, exploiting gaps in the regulations and failing to discharge their MRO duties;
- surveys of tenants revealed high levels of concern around the ineffectiveness of the Code and exploitative behaviour by companies;
- **the PCA was under-resourced and lacked teeth;**
- **the playing field was unequal, with companies enjoying access to a much higher level of legal resource;**
- **changes were urgently needed to allow tenants to make a decent living and prevent them walking away from the trade.**

The Government published its response to the consultation in November 2020. Although it accepted that the Code was not working as well as it should, it restricted its proposals for action to fur-

ther consultations on a range of relatively minor matters where it felt there was room for improvement. Those consultations did not start until July 2021 so any resultant changes are some way off yet and may not amount to a great deal.

Interviewed that month, Fiona Dickie, the PCA, claimed to have done a lot both to improve the processes she had inherited and to encourage tenants to find out more about their rights. 'The MRO process is better' she said 'but it's not good enough and there's more to do'.

In August 2021, two academics, Dr Jed Meers and Dr Liz Hind, published a detailed study on 'The Pubs Code, Statutory arbitration and the tied lease'. They concluded that 'there are a series of limitations with both the function of the Pubs Code Regulations and the "code adjudicator" model itself. In particular, our findings demonstrate the use of delaying tactics, the interaction of code adjudication with the parties' existing contractual relationships, and issues with the application of arbitration "burden of proof" standards to the exercise of duties under the statutory code'. They note that the Scottish Parliament had recently agreed a similar system for Scotland but which seeks to "avoid problems experienced in implementing (the Code) in England and Wales".

To sum up, the Code clearly isn't working as intended. Consultation on improvements is underway but the scope is limited and the radical changes needed are not on the horizon. Nonetheless, CAMRA will continue to fight for proper reform of the Code and the rights of tied tenants across the UK.

Paul Ainsworth



CAMRA Liverpool & Districts PUB of the YEAR 2024

Branch members, please continue entering your beer scores into Whatpub and help decide which pub will be our Pub of the Year for our 50th Anniversary. You have until **31st December** to enter your scores, whilst you are out and about this festive season. The top ten scoring pubs (six city centre and four suburban) will then go through to the nomination process, when members will be invited to put forward up to 3 pubs for the final judging (also completed by branch members).

This year we have added an extra judging criteria, disabled access, where we expect pubs to make a reasonable effort to be accessible, which might just involve having a portable ramp.



Steve Downing

Letters to the Editor



We welcome feedback on articles, especially if they lead to you visiting different pubs or trying different beers. If you have comments on MerseyAle or just want to get something off your chest, you can email us at merseyale@liverpoolCAMRA.org.uk or DM us via Twitter or Facebook.

Dear MerseyAle

The Gardeners Arms is featured in the 2024 Good Beer Guide but since a change of landlord the number and variety of real ales it sells has significantly reduced. Whereas they had 6 hand pumps previously these have been reduced to 3 with the other 3 being removed completely from the bar. The remaining three hand pumps are often unused or only one beer is available. Granted most available real ale is well kept and often locally produced.

Overall I think the reduction in the availability and choice of beer would justify the removal of the pub from the Good Beer Guide and a mention of these changes in the newsletter.

Cheers,
Steve Jopson.

Response from our Good Beer Guide Coordinator, Steve Downing

The GBG entries are judged on beer scores sent in by members via whatpub. Although the range of beers might affect some people's beer scores, especially if it happened that the only choice was something like Doom Bar, it does not affect a GBG entry per se.

A pub with one very well-kept beer on is perfectly adequate for a GBG entry. In fact, more of a problem, are those pubs with too many cask beers on for the demand, which then results in some of them going past their best.

Steve

Welcome to the Vernon Arms



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WANTED Local News Reporters

Although Liverpool CAMRA branch does cover a wide area of Merseyside, we are aware that some areas don't get the news coverage they deserve.

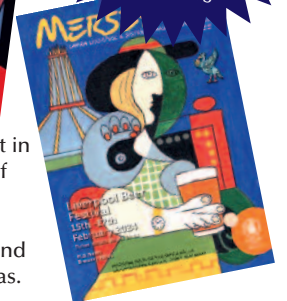


This includes the areas of Aigburth, Allerton, Garston, Gateacre, Huyton, Maghull, Woolton and Wavertree.

We would love more articles on pubs in these areas, these can vary from snippets for pub news to full page pieces.

If any of our readers are interested please email merseyale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

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THE EBERLE PUB

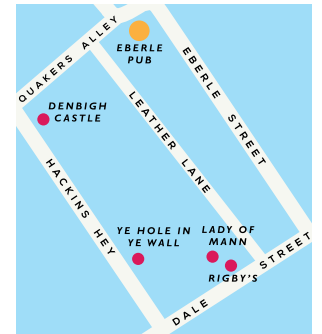
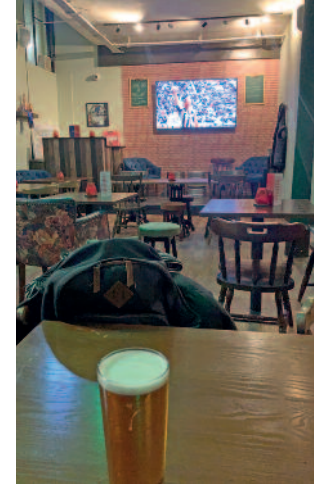


Situated on the site of the old Blackberry Lane, behind Thomas Rigby/Lady of Man, the Eberle Pub takes its name from Eberle Street on which it stands. Owner **Sean McDermott** opened the doors to the



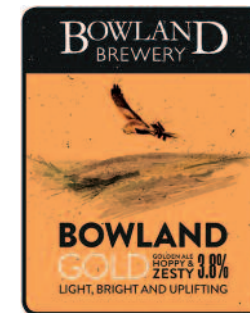
pub in mid-September. Sean is a scouser born and bred, and after 15 years' experience in hospitality, is delighted to open his own pub

in his beloved home city. Sean's aim is to create a sports bar with cask ale and proudly describes his intention to source the Real Ale predominantly from Local Breweries. They had some difficulty and delay in getting the beer engines installed, but they are now in use and initially offered a very well-conditioned **Bowland Gold**. Although the pub isn't yet ac-



cessible to disabled customers yet, it is in the plan. Sean is working with the council to prepare for the installation of an access ramp and there are disabled toilet facilities already in place. Sky sports, live music every Sat night at 9pm and pool are all available.

Pete Elloy



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Campaign
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Real Ale

Autumn Statement November 2023 Good news for pubs?

22nd November saw the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt deliver his Autumn Statement. In it he announced a freeze on alcohol duty until next August and he extended the business rate relief scheme for small businesses. In reply to the announcement, CAMRA national chairman Nik Antona said: *“Extending the 75 per cent discount on business rates for pubs in England for another year beyond next April is very much welcome. It’s much needed for pubs facing rising prices and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. “The chancellor admitted temporary measures like this couldn’t go on forever, so it is vital the government urgently reforms the grossly unfair business rates system which penalises pubs and puts their future at risk. “CAMRA is calling on the Scottish and Welsh governments to commit, now, to offering similar help for pubs with the burden of business rates. We’d also like to see the UK government find a way to help with business rates for the beer and pub sector in Northern Ireland if there continues to be no executive ministers in post to do so. “Freezing all alcohol duty until August 2024 is certainly to be welcomed. However, this is a missed opportunity to give targeted help to protect the nation’s pubs, social clubs and taprooms by cutting tax on draught beer and cider served there instead of an across-the-board*



freeze in all alcohol duty. “Reducing the tax burden specifically on pints in pubs must be extended in the future to keep pub-going affordable and to help keep them open and by giving them a fighting chance of competing against cheap supermarket alcohol.”

The duty freeze looks good, as does the Business Rates discount, but it is not going to result in a fall in the price of your pint. There are many other costs pubs have to juggle such as heating and staff costs, the latter will rise with the change in the National Living Wage. Breweries and PubCos will still have to cover increased materials and transport costs. Does the 75% rates discount even apply to all pubs? The wording the Chancellor used said **“This will save the average independent pub over £12,800 next year”**. What does he mean by “Independent”? To me it suggests a free house, not one owned or run by a pub chain or PubCo., which are the majority of pubs where I live. If previous freezes are any yardstick, expect the price of your beer to go up. It may not be before Christmas but it will happen soon as other costs have to be passed on. This budget as it stands is not going to help pubs survive. We can only hope that in the next budget the Chancellor sees sense and does something positive to help pubs fight against cheap alcohol available in the off-trade, as Nik Antona notes above.

Tony Morgan
Vice Chair & Public Affairs
Officer

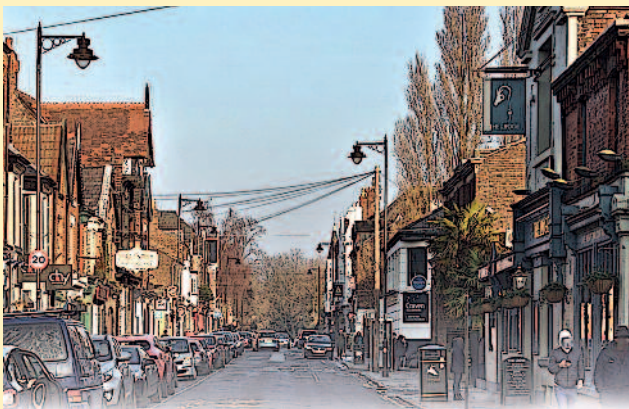


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LARK LANE PUB WALK

If you were to ask anyone to name their favourite pub-walk outside of Liverpool City Centre, then Lark Lane has to be one of the front runners. "The Lane" as it is known locally, is an amazing single road neatly positioned between Sefton Park and Aigburth Road, which basically consists of Pubs, Restaurants and a number of eclectic shops selling anything from Liverpool Souvenirs to 1960's style clothing – definitely, one for the Hipsters! It takes less than 5 minutes to walk down the entire Lane which is well served by local buses (60 and 82 to Aigburth Road) whilst St Michael's Railway station is a nearby 8 minute walk.

My Journey started at the Sefton Park end of the Lane. Walking past Minna (Sadly no longer selling Cask Ales since the demise of Que Pasa Cantina) and Milo Lounge (Both selling Craft beer), you arrive at **The Albert**. This Victorian Pub is truly the Gem of Lark Lane and on my visit had 3 handpumps in action selling **Purple Moose Whakahari (4.3%)**, **Ossett Voodoo Chocolate Orange**



Stout (5.0%) and MBH Bunji Pale Ale (3.8%). I elected for the Orange Stout and very tasty it was too! The Albert has a quiz on Wednesday, and live acoustic music on a Friday as well as an Open-Mic Night on Sunday. It also sells **Pieminister Pies**.

Coming out of the Albert,

walk past the Love & Rockets and Maranto's (Both craft only) and you arrive at the **Green Man**. This is one of several outlets on Lark Lane owned by the Rob Gutman 1936 Pub Company (They also own the **Vines**, **Red Lion** and the recently opened **Queen of Hope Street** in town, amongst others!). The



Green Man is a considerable improvement on the previous incarnation **The Ink in the Well** and now offers 5 hand-pumps, 3 regulars, **Titanic Plum Porter (4.9%)**, **Weewood Cheshire Cat (4.0%)** and **Timothy Taylor Bolt-maker (4.0%)**. On my visit they also had **St Austell Proper Job (4.5%)** and **Ossett White Rat (4.0%)**. I opted for the Proper Job, which was in fine form. The stripped back bare brick walls give this a feel of a Proper Pub, and they play an excellent range of rock and contemporary music at the weekends.

Immediately across the road from the Green Man is the **Old School House** (Ex Este-



ban). This is mainly a Foodie establishment, but they do sell a regular cask beer in **Ossett White Rat (4.0%)**, as well as **Lilley's Mango Cider (4.0%)**. Considering the emphasis on food, I am pleased to report that the White Rat was of a good quality. As well as Pizza's etc, the pub also does a nice Sunday Lunch. The next pub along is **The**

Lodge (ex Masonic), and you will note by now that Lark Lane does have a propensity for changing Pub Names (Thank goodness for the



Abert!). The Lodge has 3 handpumps but only one was on offer on my visit which was **Big Bog Hinky Punk (4.1%)**, however this was in fine form. The Lodge has a quiz on Wednesday's, DJ's on Friday and Saturday and a live singer on Sunday, when they also do a Sunday Lunch.

Coming out of The Lodge, walk past Rhubarb and Bar 25 (Both Keg only) and Blondies (Craft only) and you will arrive at the **The Bookbinder**. This looks very much like a restaurant from the exterior, but it was pleasing to note that they have 3 handpumps selling changeable cask beers. On my visit, **Titanic Plum Porter (4.9%)**, **Timothy Taylor Landlord (4.3%)** and **Ossett White Rat (4.0%)** were on offer. I opted for the Landlord (Probably my favourite na-

tional brew) which was in superb form. By now I was peckish and joined by the good lady, we both opted for a BLT on sour-dough bread which we both agreed was both very tasty and filling. The Bookbinder has a **Chess Night on Tuesday's**, **Live music on Thursday / Friday** and a DJ on Saturday. They



also do an excellent Brunch.

From the Bookbinder, it is only a short walk to Aigburth Road and the bus back home. It is great to report that all 5 cask pubs, sold beer of the highest quality and the other gratifying thing to note was given I chose to make my visit on the same day as storm Ciara, I was never more than 10 yards from a pub, which is very handy when trying to dodge the rain!

Gary Donnelly

Liverpool Beer Festival 2024

15th to 17th February

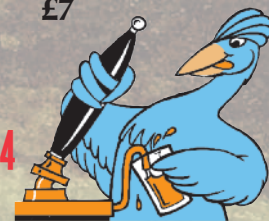


The 2024 festival will once again be held in the Crypt of the Catholic Cathedral from 15th to 17th February

Session times and Ticket Prices

Thursday 15th February	Eve 6pm - 10pm	£4
Friday 16th February (limited availability)	Midday - 4pm	£10
Friday 16th February	Eve 6pm - 10.30pm	£9
Saturday 17th February	Midday - 4pm	£10
Saturday 17th February	Eve 6pm - 10pm	£7

Tickets for the beer festival are on sale now. Visit <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/189/liverpool-beer-festival-2024>





Parliamentary debate on Heritage Pubs



Thursday 16th November saw a debate in Westminster Hall on Heritage Pubs, brought by Marco Longhi MP (Dudley North, Conservative) in the aftermath of the destruction of the **Crooked House** pub in Himley, near Dudley.

The destruction of The Crooked House pub has highlighted a big issue nationwide. That the framework in place to protect pubs is currently not strong enough to deter unscrupulous developers from simply destroying a pub.

Many councils underappreciate the risks to pubs. Not enough pubs have any form of protection and the system as it is does not compel local authorities to keep a register of heritage pubs.

Marco Longhi, in his introduction to the debate, said:



I would like to see local authorities being required to hold and review, perhaps yearly, a register listing all heritage pubs. Local authorities should also develop their own risk register so that any event, such as an advert for sale, triggers a system for closer monitoring of what happens to the building. I am also calling for heritage pubs that do not have a listing status to receive immediate temporary listing protections upon an application for listing being made.

When The Crooked House was sold, an immediate listing application was made, but the building was burned and demolished within days. The listing process never stood a chance of becoming effective.

Pubs can be at risk when they are sold to developers who do not wish to keep the building as a pub.

Marco Longhi stated: That is also why I am calling the local planning authorities to treat said buildings with a presumption against change of use. I am also calling for the sale of heritage pubs to be restricted initially, for a period of 12 months, to buyers who intend to continue running them as pubs. Such a sale would be at a value predetermined by independent valuers assessing the pub as a going concern....it would allow for time to find a prospective buyer who wishes to continue using the pub as a pub.

Justin Madders (Ellesmere Port and Neston, Labour) pointed out that since 2017, planning permission has been a requirement for a change of use or demolition of a pub. The Crooked House destruction shows that these laws are not always adhered to. CAMRA has investigated 30 potentially unlawful conversions or demolitions between January and June this year. Some had the relevant permissions, but CAMRA reports that there are eight outstanding cases in England in which enforcement investigations are under way or local authorities have not yet confirmed that a planning permission exists.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, **Simon Hoare MP**, replied to the issues raised by saying that some of the potential legislative changes and policy suggestions, will be considered. But in the end this was a 52 minute long debate which ended without any firm commitment from anyone to strengthen pub protection. None of our branch MPs attended the debate.

Tony Morgan
Vice Chair & Public Affairs Officer

CIDER and PERRY news



Regional Cider Pub of the Year

This year I awarded the **Red Fox** in Thornton Hough with the regional cider pub of the year award. All applicants were judged separately by two independent judges who then meet and tally up the scores. The criteria against which all applicants are judged is ambience, customer service, clientele mix, accessibility to public transport, price, grading and tasting. Finally, and most importantly, supporting the aims of CAMRA, including compliance with the cider definition. I am happy to say that the Red Fox scored highly in each category.

National Cider Pub of the Year

Congratulations to the **Tom Copley Tavern** in Spreyton Devon on being crowned winner of this year's cider pub of the year competition. I was involved in the regional and super regional judging, which I enjoyed immensely.

Perry Month

This year, for the first time ever, CAMRA celebrated the perry pear and renamed October's Cider Month, Perry Month. The perry pear can be found in warmer parts of our county. If I find a cider producer lucky enough to have a perry pear tree on their farm, I always try and reserve the perry as early as possible in order to secure it for Liverpool Beer festival. That way I can ensure we source the best perries to delight our festival goers. A perry pear is not a dessert pear, you can't eat it, and perry is not pear cider, that is a myth, although both drinks are fabulous. Perry is a personal favourite of mine and I encourage you to try it if you are lucky enough to see it in a pub or come and have a taste at our beer festival.

Wassail

Linda Harris
Regional Cider Coordinator
Merseyside and Cheshire



City Centre

Angus Tap & Grind, 83-85 Dale Street, L2 2HT

Augustus John, Peach Street, L3 5TX

Baltic Fleet, 33 Wapping, L1 8DQ

Belvedere, 8 Sugnall Street, L7 7EB

Black Lodge Brewing Taproom, 3 Kings Dock Street, L1 8JU

Blackburne Pub & Eatery, 24 Catharine Street, L8 7NL

Bridewell, 1 Campbell Square, L1 5FB

Bundobust Restaurant, 17-19 Bold Street, Liverpool, L1 4DN

Cains Brewery Tap, 39 Stanhope Street, L8 5RE

Caledonia, 22 Caledonia Street, L7 7DX

Carnival Brewery Tap, Unit 3 King Edward Rise Industrial Estate, Gibraltar Row, L3 7HJ

Central, 31 Ranelagh Street, L1 1JP

Coach House, 2B Maryland Street, L1 9DE

Crown, 43 Lime Street, L1 1JQ

Dr Duncan's, St Johns Lane, L1 1HF

Dispensary, 87 Renshaw Street, L1 2SP

Fall Well, Roe Street, L1 1LS

Flute, 35 Hardman Street, L1 9AS

Grapes, 60 Roscoe Street, L1 9DW

Head of Steam, Hanover Street, 85-89 Hanover Street, L1 3DZ

Lime Kiln, Fleet Street, L1 4NR

Lion Tavern, Moorfields, L2 2BP

Love Lane Bar & Kitchen, 62-64 Bridgewater Street, L1 0AY

North Western, 7 Lime Street, L1 1RJ

Philharmonic Dining Rooms, 36 Hope Street, L1 9BX

Pumphouse, The Colonnades, Albert Dock, L3 4AN

Red Lion, 36 Slater Street, L1 4BX

Richard John Blackler, 1-2, Charlotte Row, L1 1HU

Roscoe Head, 24 Roscoe Street, L1 2SX

Ship & Mitre, 133 Dale Street, L2 2JH

Vernon Arms, 69 Dale Street, L2 2HJ

Victoria Cross, 1-3 Sir Thomas Street, L1 6BW

Welkin, 7 Whitechapel, L1 6DS

Ye Hole in Ye Wall, 4 Hackins Hey, L2 2AW

Outside City Centre

Barkers Brewery, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9UJ

Big Bog, 74 Venture Point West, Evans Road, Speke, L24 9PB

Butchers, Booker Avenue, L18 4QZ

Childwall Fiveways, 79 Queens Drive, L15 6XS

Cobden, 89 QuaIrry Street, Woolton, L25 6HA

Corner Post, 25 Bridge Road, Crosby, L23 6SA

Crow's Nest, 63 Victoria Road, Crosby, L23 7XY

Four Ashes, 23 Crosby Road, North, Waterloo, L22 0LD

Frank Hornby, 38 Eastway, Maghull, L31 6BR

Handyman Supermarket, 46, Smithdown Road, L15 3JL

Little Tap Room, 278 Aigburth Road, L17 9PJ

Liver, 137 South Road, Waterloo, L22 0LT

Navigator, 694 Queens Drive, Old Swan, L13 5UH

Neptune Brewery Beerhouse, 25-27 Liverpool Road North, Maghull, L31 2HB

Old Bank, 301 Aigburth Road, Aigburth, L17 0BJ



Punchbowl, Lunt Road, Sefton Village, L29 7WA

Queen's Picturehouse, 47 South Road, Waterloo, L22 5PE

Que Pasa Cantina, 94, Lark Lane, L17 8UX

Raven, 72-74 Walton Vale, Walton, L9 2BU

Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, L22 5PR

Stamps Bar, 5 Crown Buildings, Crosby, L23 5SR

Thomas Frost, 77-187 Walton Road, Kirkdale, L4 4AJ

Volunteer Canteen, 45 East Street, Waterloo, L22 8QR

Waterpudlian (previously Stamps Too), 99 South Road, Waterloo, L22 0LR

Willow Bank Tavern, 329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree, L15 3JA

TOTAL 62
****New additions are highlighted in RED****

CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes

pubs stocking locally brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of 'green' issues.

Launched 2009 in Liverpool. We are planning for a LocAle event in the City Centre early 2024 (after the Beer Festival) and full details will be sent to members on a newsletter closer to the time once arranged and advertised on our social media.

A MESSAGE TO PUBS:

If you think your pub should be included in this list, please email:

locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk giving details. A LocAle beer is a REAL ALE BREWED WITHIN 30 miles of the pub by road.

NB: Other terms and conditions apply

Free point of Sale (POS) materials are available including window stickers, leaflets and pump clip toppers. Email locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk



You can find all these pubs on www.whatpub.com or scan the QR Code.

Jonathan Hall



This list is correct as of November 2023.

Getting around Merseyside

Below are some useful contact details for transport operators in Merseyside.

Merseytravel: For Journey Planner and Timetables
Tel: 0151 330 1000
www.merseytravel.gov.uk

Merseyrail: Operators of trains across Merseyside
Tel: 0151 555 1111
www.merseyrail.org

Whatpub: Lists which buses or trains stop near the pub
www.whatpub.com

National Rail Enquiries
ojp.nationalrail.co.uk





Liverpool Pubs CAMRA Discount



Discounts on production of a valid CAMRA card

- **Angus Tap & Grind**, 83-85 Dale Street, City Centre: 10% Sun – Thur.
- **Arkles**, 77 Anfield Road: 10%
- **The Baltic Fleet**, 33a Wapping, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Bear & Staff**, 24-26 Gateacre Brow, Gateacre: 10%.
- **Birkey**, 35 Crooks Road: 10%
- **Black Horse**, 641 Prescot Road, Old Swan: 10%.
- **The Crown**, 43 Lime Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Endbutt**, 63-65 Endbutt Lane, Crosby: 10%.
- Fly in the Loaf, 13 Hardman Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Hare & Hounds**, 53 Liverpool Road North, Maghull: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Mon & Thur when all cask is £2.79/pint.*
- **Head of Steam**, 85-89 Hanover Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint.
- **Jolly Miller**, 176 Mill Lane, West Derby: 10%.
- **Lady of Mann**, 19 Dale Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Lime Street Central**, 51 Lime Street, City Centre: 20%.
- **The Liver**, 137 South Road, Waterloo: 20%.
- **Liverpool Brewing Company Tap**, 72 Lime Street, City Centre: £3.70 up to 5.0% and £4 above 5.0% (cask pints only).

- **Ma Egerton's**, 9 Pudsey Street, City Centre: 10%.
 - **Meadows Hotel**, Liverpool Road South: 10%
 - Netherpton Hotel, Church Road, Litherland: 10%.
 - **Northern Club**, Elm Avenue, Moor Park, Crosby: 10% on Thursday evenings only and also during cricket matches.
 - **Pen Factory**, 13 Hope Street, City Centre: 10%.
 - **Pumphouse**, The Colonnades, Royal Albert Dock: 25p off a pint (pints only).
 - **The Little Taproom**, 278 Aigburth Road, Aigburth: Loyalty card, buy 8 get 1 free.
 - **The Punchbowl**, Lunt Road, Sefton Village: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
 - **Richmond Tavern**, Church Road, Wavertree: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Mon & Thurs when all cask is £2.79/pint.*
 - **Thomas Rigby's**, 23-25 Dale Street, City Centre: 10%.
 - **Royal Standard**, Deysbrook Lane, West Derby: 10%.
 - **Sefton Arms**, 1 Mill Lane, West Derby: 10%.
 - **Victoria Cross**, 1-3 Sir Thomas Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Sat.
 - **Willow Bank Tavern**, 329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree: 10% except Tues after 6pm
- Discount available all day every day unless stated otherwise. This list is correct as of November 2023.

Discount Days which are available to anyone

- **Flute**, 35 Hardman Street, City Centre: Tues ONLY £2.10/pint.
- **Fly in the Loaf**, 13 Hardman Street, City Centre: Mon ONLY £3.35/pint.
- **The George**, 1 Moor Lane, Crosby Village: Tues ONLY £1.95/pint.
- **Hare & Hounds**, 53 Liverpool Road North, Maghull: Mon & Thurs. ONLY £2.79/pint.
- **The John Brodie**, Unit 1 Allerton Road, Allerton: Tues ONLY £1.95/pint.
- **Love Lane Brewery, Bar and Kitchen**, 62-64 Bridgewater Street, Baltic Triangle: Mon-Thurs 5pm - 7pm 25%.
- **Richmond Tavern**, Church Road, Wavertree: Mon & Thurs. ONLY £2.79/pint.
- **White Star**, Rainford Gardens, City Centre: Mon-Thurs selected beer £2.50.
- **Willow Bank Tavern**, 329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree: Tues ONLY from 6pm £2.25/pint.



Discounts available on production of new CAMRA Voucher



CAMRA have replaced the JD Wetherspoon Voucher scheme with a new 'CAMRA Voucher Scheme'. The new vouchers will be valid in JD Wetherspoon, Stonegate, Brains, Castle Rock and Amber Taverns managed pubs.

The New CAMRA Voucher Scheme entitles members to a discount of 50p off a pint of Real Ale, Cider or Perry. See www.camra.org.uk/vouchers for full terms and conditions.

Pubs accepting New CAMRA Voucher Scheme

- Albert**, 66-68 Lark Lane, Aigburth. (Stonegate)
- Barkers Brewery**, Archway Road, Huyton. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Captain Alexander**, 15 James Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Childwall Fiveways**, 179 Queens Drive, Childwall. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Fall Well**, Roe Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Flute**, 53 Hardman Street, City Centre. (Stonegate)
- Frank Hornby**, 38 Eastway, Maghull. (JD Wetherspoon)
- George**, 1 Moor Lane, Crosby Village. (Stonegate)
- John Brodie**, Unit 1 Allerton Road, Allerton. (Stonegate)
- Lime Kiln**, Fleet Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)

- Navigator**, 694 Queens Drive, Old Swan. (JD Wetherspoon)
- North Western**, 7 Lime Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Old Bank**, 34 South Road, Waterloo. (Stonegate)
- Queens Picture House**, 47-49 South Road, Waterloo. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Raven**, 72-74 Walton Vale, Walton. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Richard John Blackler**, Units 1 & 2 Charlotte Row, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Thomas Frost**, 177-187 Walton Road, Kirkdale. (JD Wetherspoon)
- Welkin**, 7 Whitechapel, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon)
- William Gladstone**, 18-20 North John Street, City Centre. (Stonegate)

This list is correct as of November 2023.

Any new discount offers since the last issue are highlighted in **RED**.

All discounts are at the discretion of the Pub or Club and can be as little or as large as the pub feels suits their business needs and maybe withdrawn or changed at any time.

Please remember discounts should never be expected.

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.

If you are a licensee/pub owner and are interested in joining the scheme then please email: contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk.

Jonathan Hall



Love beer?

Discover why we joined. camra.org.uk/10reasons



Love pubs?

From as little as **£28.50*** a year. That's less than a pint a month!

Includes **£30†** Real Ale Cider & Perry Vouchers

CAMRA Membership is for you!

We're leading the fight to keep pubs alive and thriving in every community, serving quality ales and ciders.

We offer you fantastic benefits and everything you need to find the perfect pint and pub – anytime, anywhere.

Find out more camra.org.uk/joinup

*Price for paying by Direct Debit and correct at 1 July 2021. Concessionary rates available. Please visit camra.org.uk/membership-rates
†Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.



Campaign for Real Ale

Branch Diary



17th December Crosby and Waterloo Christmas Pub Crawl

Our annual Crosby and Waterloo Pub Walk will be on Sunday 17th December. As usual we will be starting in the Waterpudlian at 12.15, for those who would like to go somewhere for breakfast the Queens Picturehouse serves food from 9am. The walk will include two recently opened pubs, **the Coop and the Angus Crosby.**

18th January Liverpool and Districts branch 50th Anniversary Event

Next year this branch will be 50 years old, to celebrate this milestone we will be hosting several events throughout the year. The first of which will be held on 18th January, further details will be released nearer the time so keep an eye on social media and our branch mailouts.



15th - 17th February Liverpool Beer Festival

Our annual festival will once again be held in Lutyens Crypt, in the Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets are now on sale and can be bought via <https://tckty.camra.org.uk/e/189/liverpool-beer-festival-2024>

MerseyAle Article and Photo Contributors
Anthony Morgan
Chris Sandison

Chris Riley
Gary Donnelly
Sonia James-Henry
Julie O'Grady
Linda Harris

John McGrath
Pete Elloy
Steve Downing

Apologies if we have left anyone anyone out.

Trading Standards Departments

The Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline responds to calls from Merseyside Residents on behalf of all local authority Trading Standards departments.

Tel: 0345 404 0506 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Further details of all trading standards departments www.tradingstandards.uk

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consistently high quality and honed the art of brewing beers that are
loved by all.

