

MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool & Districts Magazine

Summer 2025 FREE



Liverpool CAMRA

Pub of the Year The COOP



Wirral Pub of the
Year the Black Toad

Merseyside Pub of the
Year the Cricketers Arms

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MerseyAle

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Designer

Dennis Jones
Cover: COOP
Photos: sjpphotographs.com



Welcome to MerseyAle

Hello and welcome to the summer edition of MerseyAle. In this edition you can read all about our **Pub of the Year, the Coop** in Crosby on pages 18-19 and the **Merseyside Pub of the Year, The Cricketers** on page 25. We also have three opinion pieces which I'm sure will be debated amongst our readers, if you have a view any of the pieces you are more than welcome to contact us and offer your take, we are always happy to include these in a letters page. Once again **Gary Donnelly** has submitted one of his excellent walks, this time venturing a little further afield over the water to **Heswall** read all about it on page 22-23 We have some pics from this year's beer festival which was another great success, and marked the last one as **Cider Bar Manager for Linda Harris**. We hope Linda will continue to join us at the festival but on the other side of the bar! Have you considered joining us on one of our socials? You can read about our most recent days out in this edition, we are always looking for suggestions for social event, details of who to contact if you would like to organise or lead a social event are on page 11 Finally, as ever, a big thank you to everyone who made this edition of MerseyAle possible, to our advertisers, contributors and to you, the readers. Until next time....

Sonia James-Henry
MerseyAle Editor

email editor@merseyale.co.uk

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Liverpool & Districts CAMRA Branch PUB NEWS



Brunswick Vaults on Tithebarn now has new owners again after Jimmy Monaghan who had come out of retirement to run it, retired a second time.



The Caledonia unfortunately were unable to pay the rent, after struggling for some time, and therefore ownership reverted to the freeholders who have applied to convert it to a



hotel. The Caley, as it was affectionately known was a fantastic community pub and music venue for local and visiting international bands, and will be sorely missed.



The Font behind the Everyman has closed.

The Handyman has had an increase in cask ale sales, staff say this is due to students drinking more cask,

The Pig & Whistle reopened



after a period of closure and is back serving cask beer.

Ye Cracker remains closed with a lot of rumours about the future plans. As far as we know it will remain a pub as it is.



The Pilgrim, Cracker and Swan were owned by Victoria Printing, but they have decided to sell up. **The Pilgrim** was sold to the 1936 pub company and refurbished into two pubs.



The upstairs portion of the pub has been rebranded as the Mayflower, and is decorated in the typical style of the other 1936 co pubs, with stuffed animals and nic-naks, similar to the White Hart or Red Lion. The downstairs area retains the Pilgrim name and has retained its previous music oriented style with benches etc.

Steve Downing

BREWERY NEWS



Colbier Brewery

Colbier are continuing to brew different beers, including a Tropical summer Stout (**Pentatonic 4.5%**) and a 2nd Collaboration with Vibrant Forest (**Chanson 6.0%**) Following on from success at the craft beer expo, they are now expanding their sales team.

Handyman Brewery

Handyman have a new



brewer, ex-Chapter brewer Damien, initial reports regarding his beers from customers and staff are most favourable.

Neptune Brewery



Back in April Neptune were very proud to celebrate their 10th birthday, which they were, quite rightly very proud of. In honour of this prestigious event they produced a number of new beers, and brought back a couple of favourites.



The brewery were thrilled to have won a number of awards for **Abyss Oatmeal Stout**.

Again it won National Gold at the recent SIBA awards in the dark beers cask category, alongside a second award in the CAMRA regional competition, held at the recent Liverpool CAMRA Festival, where it won Silver in the strong stouts and porter category. It also won beer of the festival at Saltburn Beer Festival at the end of last year.

On the Bounty, Chocolate and Coconut Stout, won Silver in the regional competi-

tion at Wigan Camra beer festival in March.

The presentation of the awards Neptune won at the Liverpool Beer Festival will be made on Saturday 26th July during a party in celebration of the Brewery's 10th birthday.



Rock the Boat Brewery

The brewery are now producing **Big Bog** beers in cask,

Stamps Brewery

Stamps Brewery in Bootle is brewing around two days each week and

spare capacity was taken up by Flagship Brewery. Sadly, Flagship have suspended brewing so there is spare capacity at Stamps Brewery. There is an opportunity for another brewery or keen start-up to use the equipment at Stamps as a "Cuckoo" brewery without the need to lay out substantial finance. Brewing could start immediately. Contact Stamps Brewery direct if interested.

Contributors:-

Ian Holden, Geoff Kirkham, Julie O'Grady, Tony Morgan

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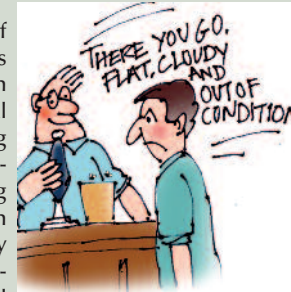


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Opinion Piece

Like many of you reading this I have been drinking real beer for as long as I can remember. Being brought up in Kirkby, the only place I remember having real



beer was the Golden Eagle. At 16 I was at the bar at 9.00pm and a pint was waiting for me, brown mix if I remember correctly, not big not clever, I know but it happened. I was taught to drink by my peers, I behaved myself, so I got away with it. Back then I even knew what a decent pint tasted like.

As a camra member of some 30 years now my biggest bug bear is poorly conditioned beer. Beer that a trained landlord would not put on because it's not ready yet. I recall a Sunday afternoon wandering down one of Liverpool's main streets going in well respected estab-

lishments one after another and pulling a face because the beer was poor. Now accepting that as a real product it's possible to get the end of the barrel, but not every pint I had that Sunday afternoon. Brewers would cry sometimes if they knew their hard work was offered in poor condition.

Readers might remember a landlord of some notoriety, Dave Williams. Here was a man who ran his establishment on his terms, to be fair it didn't suit everyone but one thing nobody could moan about was the quality of his beer. It was always spot on. Didn't matter what style of beer it was always served when it was ready and not before.

Bearing in mind the price of a pint, in my opinion we should point out poor beer, without doubt noses will be put out but if it's done politely why not? Camra is in the position where we can actually help landlords with their cellar. Courses are available to help, it's our national drink, let's get the quality back in our pubs and our glasses.

Ian Garner

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
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CLUB CORNER

As well as campaigning to protect and promote real ale and pubs, CAMRA also works to protect and promote clubs where cask beer is sold. Social and sports clubs are important local assets that promote the social wellbeing of their communities and provide well needed sport and social amenities. Find out more on the CAMRA website clubs link: Clubs - CAMRA - The Campaign for Real Ale
Liverpool & Districts CAMRA branch wants to increase knowledge of these clubs, but we need your help. If you know of a club that sells real ale, please let us know.

This will:

- Help us to compile a more accurate list of real ale outlets.
- Increase the effectiveness of the What-Pub database.
- Help visitors to the area discover good real ale.
- Give us a wider choice of clubs from which to pick future local Clubs of the Year and make the COTY competition more interesting.

Beware! Beer in some clubs may not be what it appears to be.

Carlsberg Britvic supply a number of clubs in our branch area. Sadly, this company have developed a marketing con called "Fresh Ale" where keg beer is dispensed through a fake hand pump.

The 'Fresh Ale' concept sees keg beer masquerading as cask beer as it is served through hand pulls at the bar. This is what CAMRA calls "misleading dispense" - sell-

ing brewery-conditioned beer and non-traditional cider through hand-pumps.

Recent reports claim that 'Fresh Ale' sales have been 'growing steadily'. The danger is customers will be misled and real cask beer will be removed from bars in favour of 'Fresh Ale'. Currently Carlsberg Britvic are marketing these beers as "Fresh Ale": **Wainwright Gold, Wainwright Amber and Hobgoblin IPA**. If you see these in any members clubs please check to see if the pump clip says: **"Brewery Conditioned"**. This should indicate the keg version and not Real Ale. If in doubt, ask a member of the bar team.



If you find any of these keg beers being served through hand-pumps, please get in touch with your local CAMRA branch.

Several ways to get in touch:
Contact Tony Morgan by email on publicaffairs@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Use the branch contact emails in Merseyale.

Speak to a Committee member at one of our events - see this edition of Merseyale or branch social media.

Tony Morgan

Liverpool CAMRA Branch Socials 2025

Following feedback received last year we have resolved this year to put more focus on socials, setting ourselves the target of one organised meetup each month. With the exception of our beer festival in February, the organised events this quarter have been aimed at bringing people away from their familiar surroundings in Liverpool. Firstly, there was the **Preston Pub Walk** on 11th January led by Pete Elloy.

Our meeting place was **The Old Vic** (Formerly the Vic & Station) which is just across from the station on Fishergate. It's a popular waiting place for train travellers and an easy one to find but equally or probably more importantly we were guaranteed to be offered a wide selection of well-kept cask condition beers whilst we waited for the stragglers to

arrive. I have been on many pub crawls to Preston where a pub crawl has turned into a one pub visit because we started in the Vic. With this in the back of my mind I was possibly a little too quick to move us on, and perhaps should of allowed time for at least another round to be taken.

We did move on, after just one beer in the Old Vic, and our second stop was a micro pub called the **Plug & Taps**



which is a 5 minutes' walk away on Lune Street. Small but perfectly formed. 6 hand pulls but only three in use at that time.

Our next stop, was only 3 minutes away on Friargate, and was in my opinion the best stop on our tour, the **Black Horse**. Rightfully Pre-



ston's Pub of The Year with bags of historical character inside and out, a strong social community feel and a selection of 10 cask beers to choose from. We anticipated people would want to stay a little longer here so scheduled to stop for two anyway, but it could easily have been much more.

Only a few seconds walk, around the corner from the Black Horse, was our 4th stop, the **Market Tavern**, it is a pub with lots of character although it does have a limited offering of cask ales and perhaps not as good quality as some others nearby.

Moving swiftly on and only a few paces away, sitting within the old covered market square, **Orchard Craft Beer Bar**. Small and with



two cask beers on offer, this was worth a visit but perhaps not one to stay in for long on a cold winter's afternoon. With outside space on offer this one probably comes into its own in the spring and summer.

On the other side of the Market, a 2 minute walk away on Lancaster Road, was our last port of call, **The Guild Ale House**. Understandably busy this was one of the best pubs on our tour with 7 well-kept cask ales available, it's well worth a visit if you're looking for cask beer in Preston.

After a pause for a month to let us get our annual beer festival out of the way on 15th March Geoff Kirkham led the:

Warrington Pub Walk

The meeting place was **Barley Mow**, in the Old Market Place. There were 6 hand pulls on the bar, although only two were in use; the others were clipped and endorsed 'coming soon'. Anyway, the two available were Old Speckled Hen, which I decided to go for, and was in good condition, and Marston's Pedigree. 5 minutes' walk away, oppo-



site the 'new' Market, was **Costello's Bar**. Probably a bit too modern for me but an excellent selection of nine beers, mostly from Dunham Massey (Altrincham) and Lymm. I went for the Lymm bitter and heard favourable comments about the IPA's and Dunham Dark.

Into the market next and to the **Hop Emporium**. This bar



is part of The Cookhouse which is a large area with families having meals so was a bit crowded, but service at the bar was no problem. I opted for the house bitter, which a helpful staff member advised was by Ossett, again in very good condition. Other choices were pale ales from the Silent Brewing Company (Buxton). Our longest walk of 10 minutes took us to **the Tavern**, on the edge of the town centre. This was much more tra-

ditional and is the 4T's brewery tap; one of two breweries in Warrington, the other being Coach House. I once again selected the bitter. Predictable I know; this time a Skinful from Beartown (Congleton) no complaints once more. Colleagues picks included Late Sun, a wheat beer by Fell (Grange-over-Sands) and Market Porter (Thornbridge).

Back to the centre and our final venue, the **Lower Angel**; another excellent traditional pub. For a change, I selected a Ruby Porter (Three Acre-Sussex) smooth and flavoursome. We de-



cided to have one more here and I reverted to my old favourite, the bitter, which was a Crafty Fox from Wily Fox (Wigan) tip top condition! Another popular choice was the IPA from Moorhouse's (Burnley).

Just 5 minutes, or so, walk back to the station and train home to a busy city centre, with St Patrick's celebrations in full swing!

You can read about our May social to Maghull on page 15.

Forthcoming Socials:

If you'd like to propose a social or even organise or lead one, please get in touch contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Written by: Pete Elloy & Geoff Kirkham

THE BRUNSWICK VAULTS

After 28 years of running Shenanigans, we've taken over The Brunswick Vaults, just next door on Tithebarn Street. While our focus at Shenanigans was naturally on Irish stout, we've always had a passion for cask ale. Our journey began at the Masons Arms, a legendary Robinsons pub known for its Old Tom and unique small-keg ciders, which shaped our appreciation for well-kept real ale.



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While White Rat is a staple, we plan to introduce rotating guest bitters. Summer will bring an exciting range of ciders, and as we move toward winter 2025, we aim to expand our stout selection to match the growing demand.

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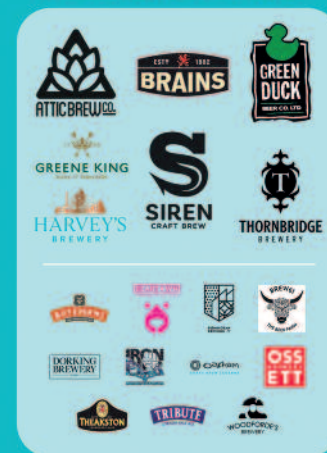
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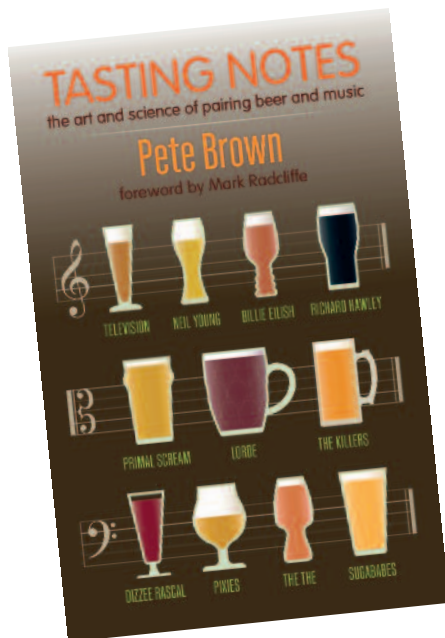
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CAMRA books



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Does your beer taste even better when your favourite music is playing? Turns out, it is not a coincidence.

Tasting Notes is the new book by author Pete Brown, blending music, beer and science to show how sound changes flavour. It will transform your appreciation of both beer and music.

Some of the beer and music pairings include:

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Thornbridge Jaipur x New Order's 'Temptation'

There has never been a beer book quite like it.

RRP £16.99 / Member price 14.99

Beer and cider festivals have been mainstays of the British drinking calendar for more than 50 years, and have played a huge role in shaping the beer landscape of the UK, in all its richness and diversity.

The book, by award-winning beer writer Laura Hadland, is an homage to these events, and a show of appreciation to all of the people who make them happen. So, grab a glass, buy some tokens and join us on a leisurely stroll around British and Irish beer festivals past and present.

RRP £15.99 / Member price 12.99



Liverpool CAMRA Branch Socials 2025 Maghull pub tour 17th May



On Saturday 17th May 2025 Liverpool & Districts branch held one of our suburban pub tours, this time around Maghull. It was ably led by Sue Daniels and her dog Benji. The starting point was the **Scotch Piper** in Lydiate, right at the top end of the branch area. Most attendees travelled there on the half-hourly 300 Arriva bus service with most arriving just after 12 noon. The Scotch Piper is a wonderful pub worthy of a



visit anytime of year, lots of small rooms, but the main attraction must be the well kept cask beers. On our visit three beers were on offer: **Titanic Plum Porter**; **St Austell Tribute** and **Moorhouse's White Witch**. You may also find a house beer called **Pipers 1320 Ale** which is brewed by Marston's. We stayed in the Scotch for quite a while so it was around 15.40 before the group, now consisting of fourteen people, headed out to the next pub. For this we got the 300 bus towards Liverpool, alighting in Maghull town centre where we headed for the **Neptune Beerhouse** on Liverpool Road. Usually four or five cask beers are



available here and a good range of styles including **Mersey Pale** and the ever lovely **Abyss**. All too soon it was time to think about the next pub so it was out and across the road to wait for another 300 bus and a short ride to **Maghull Cask**. Five cask beers on offer including this day beers from **Beowulf**



Brewing, Exmoor Ales, Castle Rock and Salopian. Maghull Cask has a nice sun-trap outside drinking area where most of us spent the rest of the afternoon.



The branch would like to thank all who attended, but particularly Sue and Benji for leading the tour.

Tony Morgan

Liverpool Beer Festival 2025



Once again a big THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's beer festival a great success, from attendees to volunteers and, of course all our sponsors. This year marked the final one as cider bar manager, for our very own Linda Harris. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda for the many years she has given up her time to run the bar, and for this years great cider and perry choices, she will be a very hard act to follow! We can announce that the dates for next year's festival will be from 19th February to 21st February. Until then enjoy these great pics from this year's festival.

BEER of the FESTIVAL

This years beer of the festival was Titanic Plum Porter Grand Reserve. Congratulations to them!



Pub of the Year 2025

THE COOP

A small street-corner pub in the heart of Crosby was packed out with enthusiastic drinkers on the night of Tuesday April 22nd, to celebrate it receiving the greatest local CAMRA accolade, the award of Pub of the Year, no mean feat in a Branch that covers the whole of Liverpool where there are many great pubs!

Many people present were CAMRA members, familiar with the judging process, but for those who were not, it was explained by Steve Downing who is the Pub of the Year (POTY) Co-ordinator. All members have a say in the initial shortlisting stage and then a team of judges is appointed, each of whom visits the five finalist pubs on at least two occasions and judges them according to criteria defined by National CAMRA. First and foremost is the quality and condition of the real ale served but other crucial factors include the service and welcome received, the pub's community focus and general atmosphere, its décor and furnishings and its



Steve Downing, Jean Pownceby and Rob Willis

overall cleanliness – not least in the toilets!

The Coop hit all the spots! To receive this award is a real achievement for a pub that only opened in October 2023 but its standards have been consistently high since Day One. It was set up by four men who had been regulars at the Liverpool Pigeon, the area's first micropub and a former POTY winner.



A great deal of thought and hard work went into converting and tastefully renovating what had been a restaurant into a community micropub which is very much in the style of a traditional pub. All this was closely monitored in excited anticipation by local people as they passed by, which was frequently, given its location on the corner of a busy main road and a residential avenue! It seemed a long wait but one that proved very worthwhile because these four guys were determined to get everything right – not least the art of cellar keeping – as far as they possibly could before opening, and it paid off. One of the four men, Rob Willis, subsequently became the sole owner and manager of the pub but the others remain loyal supporters and frequent customers!

Rob has built up a great staff team all of whom offer customers a spontaneous welcome and excellent service and clearly enjoy doing so! Beer is served in 'over-sized' glasses which ensure the customer gets a full pint! Real ale is dispensed from five handpumps which are always in use as needed to cope with the fast turnover – don't expect the beer you drank



today to necessarily be on the next day or, in some cases, by the end of the same evening! There is always a dark beer and one in the style of a traditional bitter with the other three pumps serving a variety of mostly paler beers, some from local breweries, others from well-known ones further afield and also some from more distant and sometimes quite obscure breweries. There is always an imaginative choice, providing a range of strengths and flavours, impeccably kept and served.



A welcome addition for many in recent weeks has been real cider, with three everchanging 'bag in the box' varieties served. Other drinks are available for those who have different tastes, including quality wines and craft lagers, but it is not unknown for those people to be



encouraged by fellow customers to sample a real ale or two, or now a cider and, in

some cases, become 'converts'! Crisps are nuts are sold for drinkers who may become peckish!

The pub is comfortable with carefully crafted dark wood features, including bookshelves that offer a range of interesting reading material, together with board games and dominoes, popular with families. The dark wood is complemented by stylish mirrors and tasteful lighting to give the pub a cosy feel, whilst large windows on both



the main road and avenue sides of the pub lend a bright and airy feel on lighter days and evenings. An opening opposite the attractive brass-topped bar leads into a conservatory area which is candlelit once dusk



falls, whilst on summer days double doors lead to outside seating. All areas are dog friendly and there are many regular dogs!!

The Coop is a pub that thrives on conversation with no distractions – they are not needed. It is a place for people to get together and talk and laugh and generally have a good time. It has really brought the local community together, with some people meeting others they never knew before! Staff are often customers on days off and everyone mingles together, at

the same time welcoming new people from far and near. Rob always makes a point of talking to, and taking an interest in, everyone – be they regulars or visitors. He welcomes feedback and his rule for himself is never to be complacent, but always to be mindful of little things that can enhance the pub. It really is a mission for him to make the pub the best it can be and his enthusiasm for the place spills over and plays a big part in its convivial atmosphere. But he is keen to acknowledge the part he feels both staff and customers play in the pub's success



'it's like a big family', he says, 'I love it'.

However, if you haven't been before, never fear, it's an ever-expanding family and you'll be made very welcome!



The Coop is situated on the corner of College Road and Brookfield Avenue in Crosby. It's about a 10-15-minute walk from Blundellsands and Crosby station and close to 63 and 53 bus stops. The pub is open every day, from 4-9 Monday to Thursday, 4 to 9.30 on Fridays, 1 to 9.30 Saturdays and 1 till 9 on Sundays.

Jean Pownceby
Photos: sjpphotographs.com

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Colbier

BREWERY EST. 2024

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PROPER SOUND BEERS +44 7565 536 843 sales@colbier.co.uk

To pee or not to pee?

I'm sure all of you who read this will have at least a bit of sympathy with the point I'm going to make. So, you've had a few and its time for the dam to break, so off you go to use the facilities. Depending on where you go this can be an extremely unpleasant experience. Accepting that some pubs governed by pub co pathetic maintenance agreements struggle to keep standards up, the provision of clean and tidy toilets does not seem to be (in some pubs) high on the list of customer requirements. I recall one licensee who once said if the toilets are like that what's the cellar like?

I would encourage all users of licenced premises to vote with their feet if this is an issue to you. On the other hand, I don't want landlords to take this out of context. This is a plea to consider this a major part of the pub experience. I accept as the author of this opinion that some pub users don't respect the facilities and do make a mess that frankly bar staff (in particular) are not paid to clean, but can we all agree that this is an issue that does need following up on?

Ian Garner

A few years ago, CAMRA decided that part of the judging criteria for our pub, cider and club awards was a weighting factor on the cleanliness of the facilities. I strongly support this. As an able-bodied person, I am able to negotiate a potential issue. If, however, the customer is disabled in some way this could be a major issue. Everyone will have seen the form, stuck in a frame on the wall advising of a member of staff recording the facilities as being acceptable at a particular time. Does anyone actually believe this? I certainly don't. It would be fair to say back in the day the smell wasn't noticed as smoking was allowed in pubs. But not now, in some venues, its simply horrible.



Heswall Wirral

PUB WALK

For a change, I popped over to the “Posh side” of Wirral for this pub-walk.

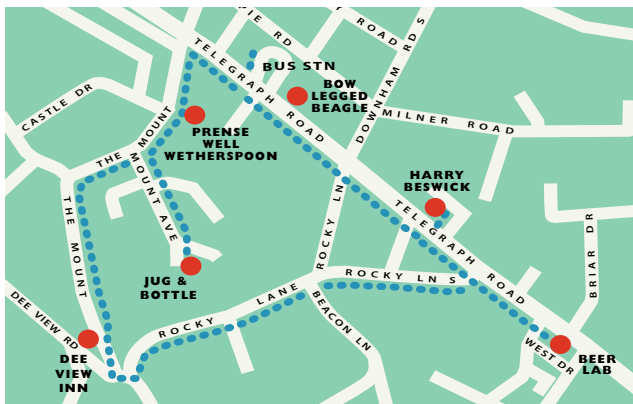
Heswall is a very eclectic town with a range of bespoke retail shops (Including many boutiques) and lots of places to eat, but the beer scene has an interesting range and with 3 GBG's, 2 Micro's and a Spoons, what's not to like? This walk is circular and only covers 1.3 miles.

The town is easily accessible from Liverpool by bus, catching either the **471** or **472** from Sir Thomas Street (Just down the road from the “Victoria Cross”). The journey takes approximately 50 minutes.

Once you have arrived at Heswall Bus Station, just walk to the front entrance turn left and the **Bow Legged Beagle** is on the first block at the end. This micro-pub is part of a consortium of 4 pubs with the others being located in New Brighton, Bromborough and Upton. The Beagle has 4 handpulls (all changing) and on my



visit were selling **Osset Queen Rat Black Stout** (5.0%), **Brimstage Rhode Island Red** (4.0%), **Beartown Belter** (Brewed for International Women's day)



(4.6%) and **Peerless Little Eye** (4.0%). The pub is basically for no-nonsense drinking although they do sell crisps! They play low volume music and have a small outdoor drinking area.

On leaving the pub, turn left and walk down Telegraph Road to the **Harry Beswick**. This pub looks more like an eating establishment but I was pleasantly surprised to find it sported 4 handpulls all selling **Hydes beer**. The 3 regular beers are **Hydes Hopster Blonde** (3.8%), **Original Amber** (3.8%)



and **Lowry Golden Ale** (4.7%). The guest on this occasion was **Hydes Genius Stout** (5.0%). The pub has a quiz on Thursday and live music on Friday evening. They also do a very good Sunday lunch platter for two.

Once again, turn left when leav-

ing the pub, and continue down Telegraph Road, passing a church on your right, to the next block of shops which has the **Beer Lab** located on the far



right hand side. This pub, which is a current GBG entry, has 4 handpulls but was only selling 3 ales on my visit which were **Peerless Triple Blond** (4.0%), which is a regular, **Conwy Beachcomber** (4.2%) and **Hafod Moel Famau Porter** (4.5%). This pub has a quiz on the last Tuesday of the month and on a quirky note has unusual personalised soap dispensers in the toilet! If you are feeling peckish by now, there is a Bakery shop next door which sells great pies!

Coming out of the Pub, turn left and walk back towards the town Take the second left down Rocky Lane South then continue onto Rocky Lane where

you will find the **Dee View Inn**. As the name suggests, this GBG pub has superb views of the Dee estuary and is very much a classic community pub. The pub has 4 handpulls, and a very enthusiastic licensee, with regulars being **Masham Black Sheep** (3.8%), and **Fullers London Pride** (4.1%). On my visit, they were also selling **Old Speckled Hen** (4.5%) and **Greene King IPA** (3.4%). The pub has a quiz on Thursday evenings, a poker night on



Wednesday (part of the Red-tooth Tournament), Open-mic music on the second Sunday of each month and a **Philosophy in Pubs** society meeting the first Tuesday of each month. It also has an extensive outdoor drinking area.

Coming out of the pub turn left and walk around the semi-circular frontage of the pub before heading up The Mount (a slightly up-hill walk) once around the corner you will note a sign pointing you to the **Jug and Bottle** on the right. Another GBG entry, this pub has 1 Regular beer **Timmy Taylors Landlord** (4.3%) and 5 changing beers (although only 4 were



available on my visit) which were **Salopian Lemon Dream** (4.5%), **Conwy Welsh Pride** (4.0%), **Brimstage Trappers Hat** (3.8%) and **Magic Dragon Border Bitter** (3.8%). The pub serves excellent food and fantastic chunky chips!

Come out the way you came in and turn right at the top and the **Wetherspoons Prese Well** is on your right. This pub has 6



handpulls selling the regular spoons offerings of **Ruddles**, **Doom Bar** and **Abbot Ale** (All at £1.79 a pint!) which were nicely supported by the 3 changing ales **Batemans Loopy Loo** (4.4%), **Oakham Harmonia IPA** (5.5%) and **Brehon Killanny Red** (4.5%).

Upon leaving the spoons turn right back towards the main road, turn right again and you will see the bus station on your

left. If you have time waiting for a bus you can nip into the **Johnny Pye** which has **Wainwright Gold** (4.1%) on offer, however from a personal perspective, I was picked up by my 85 year old dad, Tony who still visits his local pub and insisted that I accompany him to the **Coach & Horses** in Greasby and who is going to argue with their dad about that!



Another impressive Victorian Pub, with a surprisingly spacious interior from what looks like quite a small pub from the outside. The Coach has 4 handpulls, with regulars being **Rev James** (4.5%) and **Butcombe Original** (4.0%). The guest offerings were **Twickenham Naked Ladies** (4.4%) and **Osset Rat in the Hat** (3.8%). The Coach which is also a GBG pub, has a quiz on Tuesday's, live music on Sunday, a jam night on Monday and Bingo on Thursday.

A smashing pub to finish my visit across the water and as my dad will testify, you are never too old to visit your local!

Gary Donnelly



CIDER and PERRY corner



Firstly I would like to thank all the customers we had at the Liverpool Beer Festival cider and perry bar this year, without you we would not be able to host the festival. I would also like to thank everyone who attended my tutored cider tasting, were we were joined by the Brennan Brothers and some local cider producers. Hopefully we will host this event again next year, it was amazing. We do try to invite Licensees to our tastings but we know how difficult it can be for them to attend when they are busy running their pubs. We recently had a fabulous night tasting cider and perry at the Liverpool and Districts Cider and Perry pub of the



year the Augustus John. Congratulations to them for winning this prestigious award again.

A big well done to the Liverpool and Districts Pub of the year, the Coop in Crosby, who have started stocking cider which is selling really well, please give them a visit, they are doing an amazing job. That Beer Place In Chester will be presented with their Regional Cider Pub of the Year award on July 12th at 3pm. This is the second year they have won this award so very well done to them. Everyone is welcome to the presentation.

Thank you to all branches who took part in the competition it was great fun judging your pubs.

There are now some great pubs in Liverpool City Centre serving cider and perry, including the Vernon. Great news for Cider and Perry fans.

Wassail

Linda Harris
Regional Cider Co-ordinator Merseyside and Cheshire



THE CROWS NEST

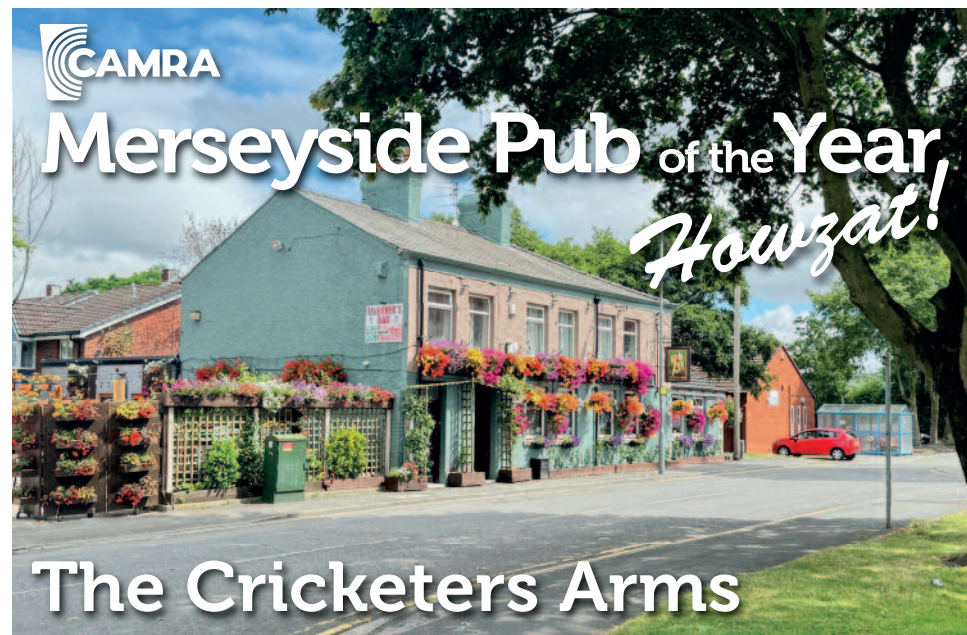
63 Victoria Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 7XY

Two Regular Real Ales plus Three Changing Guest Ales

The Crow's Nest is a charming grade II listed building with three distinctive rooms. A bar, snug and lounge arranged around a central serving area. There is also an outside drinking area. You'll enjoy a warm welcome and great beer in this beautiful old pub.

Merseyrail - Blundellsands & Crosby Station - 10 min walk

Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 2pm-11pm Friday - 2pm - Midnight
Saturday - Noon - Midnight Sunday - Noon - 11pm



The Cricketers Arms in St Helens was judged to be the Merseyside Camra Pub of the Year, fending off competition from **the Coop**, Crosby (Liverpool branch entry) which came second, **The Guest House**, Southport and

The Black Toad, Hoylake. The Cricketers will now go forward to the regional leg of the competition.

The 'Cricks' as it is affectionately known, is a former National Pub of Year, so it was

tough for the other contenders to progress.

The judging is not just about the cask beer range and quality (the Cricks has its own microbrewery 'Howzat') but on other factors such as value, where the Cricks excels and uses lined glasses.

Community focus is very strong too with various clubs such as a chess club, and planting days in the new garden. Andy Evans is a very enthusiastic and entrepreneurial owner so there's always something new, or an event going on, from cider festivals, 'crickfest', pizza and pint, to loyalty schemes, and live music etc. Service is spot on too. I expect the Cricks to win again.

Steve Downing



Going to the dogs?



AI generated

IT'S A BIT WOOF IN HERE!

Pet ownership in the United Kingdom hovered around the 45 to 47% mark between 2012 and 2018. When the Corona virus pandemic hit, ownership levels of all pets peaked at 62%. In 2023, this figure fell to 57%. Dog numbers increased by 13% and by 2024 it is estimated that 36% of household owned at least one dog, that is 13.5 million dogs in the United Kingdom, up from 7.6 million in 2011. For balance, cat ownership rose by 4% equivalent to 12 million domestic cats. 1.2% of the population own Guinea Pigs.

I've not seen a Guinea Pig in a pub. I've seen pub cats, but dogs are another matter. Wherever I go for a pint there seems to be a pooch. One person with

a dog in a pub during the afternoon is one of those romantic British pub images but these days dogs seem to be everywhere. My local allows dogs in by arrangement with the manager. One can go in the public bar and one in the snug. No dogs in the lounge unless it is an assistance dog so that is a limit of two dogs. Anyone else turns up with a dog they have to go to the outside seating area or elsewhere. I have a feeling that most of those 13.5 million dogs are following me around, particularly to "micropubs". I can't seem to be able to go to any of my local

ones without every other person coming in with a furry fiend. It wouldn't be so bad if they sat still and quiet, which some do, but dogs are pack animals and want to greet newcomers, often barking or growling. Not great if you have come in for a quiet pint. Some are left to wander around the pub, the ones on extendable leads are a particular menace. I am wondering if the Good Beer Guide should have a "Dog Unfriendly" symbol in addition to the "Dog Friendly" one currently in use. Anyone fancy seconding a Motion to the next CAMRA AGM with me?

Tony Morgan

LocAle Where to Find LocAle in Liverpool

(correct as of June 2025)

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

Brunswick Vaults, 69 Tithebarn
Street, L2 2EN

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

Cains Brewery Tap, 39 Stanhope
Street, L8 5RE

Caledonia, 22 Caledonia Street,
L7 7DX

Captain Alexander, 15 James Street,
L2 7NX

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

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

Dispensary, 87 Renshaw Street, L1
2SP

Fall Well, Roe Street, L1 1LS

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

Lock up Bar, 2 North John Street,
L2 4SA

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

Ma Boyles, Tower Building, Tower
Gardens, L3 1LG

The Mayflower Inn / The Pilgrim,
34 Pilgrim Street, L1 9HB

Monro, 92 Duke Street, L1 5AG

North Western, 7 Lime Street,
L1 1RJ

Pumphouse, The Colonnades,
Albert Dock, L3 4AN

Queen of Hope Street, 1-1A
Mrytle Street, L7 7DN

Red Lion, 36 Slater Street, L1 4BX

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

Richmond Hotel, 32 Williamson
Street, L11EB

Roscoe Head, 24 Roscoe Street,
L1 2SX

Ship & Mitre, 133 Dale Street, L2 2JH

St Peter's Tavern, Seel Street,
L1 4BH

Vernon Arms, 69 Dale Street, L2 2HJ

Vines, 81 Lime Street, L1 1JQ

Welkin, 7 Whitechapel, L1 6DS

White Hart, 23 Hope Street, L1 9BQ

(Includes Engineer at rear)

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

Outside City Centre

Barkers Brewery, Archway Road,
Huyton, L36 9UJ

Black Cat, 174 Smithdown Road,
Wavertree, L15 3JR

Black Cat, 102 Rose Lane, Mossley
Hill, L18 8AG

Butchers, Booker Avenue, L18 4QZ

Childwall Fiveways, 79 Queens
Drive, L15 6XS

Cobden, 89 QuaTrry Street,
Woolton, L25 6HA

Coop, 84 College Road, Crosby,
L23 0RP

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

Homebrew Tap, 14 Endbutt Lane,
Crosby, L23 0TR

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

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, 99 South Road,
Waterloo, L22 0LR

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

****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
have now celebrated 15 years of
LocAle in Liverpool and will be
arranging periodic socials in 2025,
please keep an eye on social
media and Branch Newsletters.**

**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.**

Johnathan Hall



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%
- **Bear & Staff**, 24-26 Gateacre Brow, Gateacre: 10%.
- **Birkey**, 35 Crooks Road: 10%
- **Black Horse**, 641 Prescot Road, Old Swan: 10%.
- **Black Lodge**, Kings Dock Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Bookbinder**, 2 Lark Lane, Aigburth: 10%.
- **Brunswick Vaults**, 69 Tithebarn Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **The Crown**, 43 Lime Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Endbutt**, 63-65 Endbutt Lane, Crosby: 10%.
- **The Fly**, 13 Hardman Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **The Green Man**, 43-45 Lark Lane, Aigburth: 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%.
- **The Mayflower Inn / The Pilgrim**, 34 Pilgrim Street, City Centre: 10%.

Discount Days which are available to anyone

- **Flute**, 35 Hardman Street, City Centre: **Tues ONLY** £2.10/pint.
- **Fly**, 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

- **Monro**, 92 Duke Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Netherton Hotel**, Church Road, Litherland: 10%.
- **Northern Club**: Elm Avenue, Moor Park, Crosby: 10% on Thursday evenings only and also during cricket matches.
- **Pumphouse**, The Colonnades, Royal Albert Dock: 25p off a pint (pints only).
- **The Punchbowl**, Lunt Road, Sefton Village: 20p off a pint, 10p off a half.
- **Queen of Hope Street**, 1-1a Mrytle Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Red Lion**, 36 Slater Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **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%.
- **St Peter's Tavern**, Seel Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **Three Piggies**, 77-79 Allerton Road, Allerton: 10%.
- **Victoria Cross**, 1-3 Sir Thomas Street, City Centre: 20p off a pint (pints only) except Sat.
- **The Vines**, 81 Lime Street, City Centre: 10%.
- **White Hart**, 23 Hope Street, City Centre (Includes **Engineer** at rear): 10%.
- **Willow Bank Tavern**, 329 Smithdown Road, Wavertree: 10% except Tues after 6pm.

Discount available all day every day unless stated otherwise.

- 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 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 CAMRA Voucher Scheme

- | | |
|---|---|
| Albert , 66-68 Lark Lane, Aigburth. (Stonegate) | Navigator , 694 Queens Drive, Old Swan. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Barkers Brewery , Archway Road, Huyton. (JD Wetherspoon) | North Western , 7 Lime Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Captain Alexander , 15 James Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) | Old Bank , 34 South Road, Waterloo. (Stonegate) |
| Childwall Fiveways , 179 Queens Drive, Childwall. (JD Wetherspoon) | Queens Picture House , 47-49 South Road, Waterloo. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Fall Well , Roe Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) | Raven , 72-74 Walton Vale, Walton. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Flute , 35 Hardman Street, City Centre. (Stonegate) | Richard John Blackler , Units 1 & 2 Charlotte Row, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Frank Hornby , 38 Eastway, Maghull. (JD Wetherspoon) | Thomas Frost , 177-187 Walton Road, Kirkdale. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| George , 1 Moor Lane, Crosby Village. (Stonegate) | Welkin , 7 Whitechapel, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| John Brodie , Unit 1 Allerton Road, Allerton. (Stonegate) | Wild Rose , 2a & 1b Triad Centre, Bootle. (JD Wetherspoon) |
| Lime Kiln , Fleet Street, City Centre. (JD Wetherspoon) | |

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 ap-

plies, please let me know by emailing: locale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk with details.

This list is correct as of June 2025.
(Insert QR code for pub discounts)

Johnathan Hall



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10reasons



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Includes
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*Price for paying by Direct Debit, Concessionary rates available. Please visit camra.org.uk/membership-rates
†Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Branch Diary

Saturday 12th July – Merseyside & Cheshire Regional Meeting, at That Beer Place, in Chester, from 12.30. Followed by the presentation of the Regional Cider Pub of the Year.

Saturday 26th July – Neptune Brewery 10th Birthday Party, held at the brewery tap, at 2pm we will be presenting them with the CBOB awards won at our beer festival.

Saturday 20th September – Pub Heritage Walk meet 12.30pm Dr Duncan's.



Follow us



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**sjpphotographs.com
The Coop presentation awards
page**

Apologies if we have left anyone
anyone out.

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

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Printed by DC Print (Yorkshire) Ltd, Mercury House, Grove Lane, Hemsworth, West Yorkshire, WF9 4BB



merseyale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

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