

MERSEYALE

CAMRA Liverpool & Districts Magazine Late Summer 2012 FREE



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



**Special
Supplement
Inside**



11th - 21st October 2012

Liverpool Irish Festival

Ten years of celebrating the links
between Liverpool and Ireland

Arts, Culture, Community, Heritage - and Craic!

Musical highlights include:

Oct 11th: **Dervish**

Oct 12th: **Munnely / Conneely / Molloy** + support

Oct 18th: **Mary Coughlan**

Oct. 19th: **The Irish Sea Sessions**

Oct. 21st: **Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman** plus support

AND six nights of the best of contemporary Irish film at Picturehouse at FACT, Moby Dick at the Unity Theatre, a day devoted to the many sides of James Joyce, heritage walks and talks, pub music sessions and a spectacular opening weekend at the Albert Dock.

For complete details of all the Festival events
visit www.liverpoolirishfestival.com

MerseyAle

CAMRA Liverpool and Districts Branch

MerseyAle Editor
John Armstrong

MerseyAle Contacts
Comments/news/letters/photos
merseyale@merseycamra.org.uk

MerseyAle Advertising
Cost - Full page £200
Half page £100
Contact
adverts@merseycamra.org.uk

MerseyAle
(back copies on line)
www.merseyale.com

Liverpool and Districts CAMRA
Main Branch Contact
Jean Pownceby
contact@merseycamra.org.uk

Contact for Socials and
Coach Trips only
Ian MacAdam 07521 741 586

Liverpool Branch Chair
Geoff Edwards
chair@merseycamra.org.uk

Web Sites
Liverpool and Districts
CAMRA Branch
www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk
QR Codes page 55

Isle of Man CAMRA Branch
www.isleofmancamra.org.uk

CAMRA national site
www.camra.org.uk

Cover
"Girl with a pint of Real Ale"
An Homage to Picasso's "Girl with a
Mandolin" 1910

Cover by Dennis Jones

The opinions expressed in MerseyAle are not necessarily those of the Editor, the CAMRA Liverpool Branch or CAMRA Ltd.



Welcome to MerseyAle and ManxAle

Liverpool CAMRA award winners page 28-29

..... and Welcome to CAMRA Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Festival 2012.

Inside you will find the Special Supplement for the CAMRA Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Festival featuring eight weeks of pub events from mid September through to mid November. The Festival is a celebration of the British Pub and of Liverpool's unique pub culture.

An Event for Everyone

The Festival has an event for everyone spanning all aspects of Liverpool pubs and their contribution to the cultural life of Liverpool. All the way from Pub drama, music, beer festivals, meet the brewer nights, beer and cider tastings, pub walks and rambles through to the highly unexpected such as the Shiverpool Ghost Pubs experience and the mummers play with silly hats and gratuitous violence "the Punishment of Perfidious PubCos".

All human and non human life is here so read the Festival Supplement and make a point of getting out to the pub and enjoying the pub's unique selling point - Real Ale!

The New Edition of the Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Map

To help you to get around Liverpool's great pubs, Liverpool CAMRA has produced a new edition of the famous Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Map. With more real ale outlets than ever before

this free map containing 125 pubs is your essential guide to real ale not only in the City Centre but also the suburbs and Waterloo and Crosby. Detailed maps guide you to the pubs and also provide an excellent means of finding your way around the City. Available free from pubs the map can also be read on line and downloaded from www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Liverpool - "Real Ale Pubs Capital of Britain"

To really get to the beating heart of Liverpool you have to visit its pubs. There you will find what defines its identity, its history and most of its people."

Mike Chapple
From - The Great Liverpool Pub Crawl

Beer Tourism - 101 Beer Days Out
Nationally Beer Tourism is a growing activity and one in which Liverpool and its pubs is a national leader. The new CAMRA book 101 Beer Days Out (see Page 31), contains not one but two days out in Liverpool which owe much to the campaign work of Liverpool CAMRA.

Enjoy the Festival!



John Armstrong
Editor

LIVERPOOL CAMRA

CAMRA National Chair Colin Valentine Speaks in Liverpool

In July Colin Valentine the Chair of National CAMRA spoke at a Regional CAMRA meeting held at the Augustus John in Liverpool.



The University pub was receiving the Regional Cider pub of the Year Award for the first time (see page 59), a well deserved

Award recognising the excellent range of real ciders regularly available at the AJ.



Colin with Carol Ross Roscoe Head Licensee

Guest speaker Colin spoke for over an hour outlining the future plans and structure of CAMRA.

He was keen to stress the importance of local volunteers in achieving CAMRA's objectives.

140,000 Members

The Campaign had seen a massive increase in membership to 140,000 members. This gave the Campaign considerable strength in bringing influence to bear on MPs and industry figures, with MPs realising that CAMRA members were a significant percentage of their constituency voters. This had helped bring pressure to bear on MPs to support the push for an independent review of the way in which the PubCos were operating, especially with regard to the controversial beer tie and rent regime that was impacting adversely on many of their pubs. Pressure needed to be maintained as despite success in convincing MPs to maintain debate in the House of Commons, the Coalition Government had yet to take effective action on PubCos. Other important political objectives to support pubs were the community right to buy legislation, greater planning protection for pubs from change of use and the dropping of the beer Duty Escalator (see petition on page 53).

Colin pointed out that well run community pubs were a major element in the solution to antisocial alcohol abuse and disturbances and that community pubs deserved Government support.

He was emphatic that for CAMRA, national and local campaigning were one and the same thing and that "We will spend money on focused campaigns as part of a five year strategy". A strategic review had been undertaken and five main campaign objectives identified.

Importance of Branch Magazines

He stressed the importance of local CAMRA magazines in reaching the wider public audience and bringing CAMRA to the attention of pub goers generally and not just CAMRA members. "If your print run is 10,000 copies, then 40,000 people are reading your magazine" he said.

"If your print run is 10,000 copies, then 40,000 people are reading your magazine"

Wetherspoon vouchers had helped with membership recruitment and had also boosted real ale sales in wetherspoon pubs, with real ale now accounting for 20% of Wetherspoon beer sales compared with 13% in pubs generally.

Unfortunately the length of Colin's speech precluded much

time for many questions, such as the controversial issue of so called "Craft Beer", the promotion of student membership of CAMRA including students being able to have membership of two CAMRA branches, both at college and at their home, and the role of Branches in developing campaigns.

A group of Liverpool members had the opportunity to take Colin to the current and former Liverpool Pubs of the Year, the Roscoe Head and the Dispensary, to continue discussion and to give Colin a view from the local branch perspective before he had to hurry for his train home to Edinburgh.

Helen McCall



A National Gem

The Roscoe Head



The Roscoe Head - Multi National Award Winner

National Gem Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

The Roscoe Head, Roscoe Street, Liverpool CAMRA Pub of the Year 2012 and one of "the Magnificent Seven" pubs nationally that have been in every edition of the Good Beer Guide, has gained further national recognition as winner of the Caledonian Brewery Lifetime Achievement Award.

Caledonian Regional Director Derek Coalter presented current licensee **Carol Ross** with the

three room interior and a warm welcome of everyone in a place where conversation rules.

Carol; has greatly enhanced the pub with a sensitive refurbishment a few years ago and by extending the range of real ales available. The pub received further national recognition through inclusion in a number of national pub guides and books.

The CAMRA Great British pubs book by Adrian Tierney Jones features the Roscoe Head as "the Best at Success" describing it as "a stunning example of a city back street boozier that has never lost

its charm, comfort or dedication to good beer..... Comfort, conversation, good beer and a decent plateful of food: the Roscoe Head has it all. Long may it continue on its righteous path."

The pub is included in the recently published CAMRA 101 Beer Days out as one of Liverpool's Fab Five pubs.

It has also featured in the Daily Telegraph "Pint to Pint" pub column.

Why Don't We Do It In the Road Beer Festival

On the day of the Hope Street Feast Sunday 16th September there will be the third "Do It in the Road" Beer Festival outside the Roscoe Head in Roscoe Street with the chance to enjoy a range of 60 different real ales at tables in the street. A perfect addition to the very popular Hope Street Feast event.

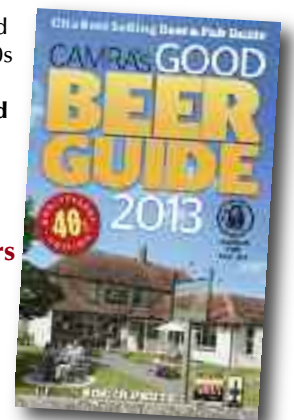
CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2013 Available for order now!

- Complete entries for 4,500 pubs all over the UK, featuring details of opening hours, regular beers, accommodation and much, much more...
- This beer lovers' best friend includes a special Places Index and regional maps that make finding a good pub and a great pint easy no matter how far you are from home
- The unique Breweries Section and Beer Index provides information on every real ale brewery operating in the UK and the key beers they produce

- The full-colour features section is packed with articles looking back at the Guides history and how pubs and brewing have changed since the 1970s
- Pre-Order the book direct from CAMRA and you'll be helping to fund another 40 years of campaigning for real ale, British pubs and consumer rights

Just £10.00 for CAMRA Members
£12.99 for non-members
(RRP £15.99)

Good Beer Guide UK's Best-selling Beer & Pub Guide - CAMRA
www.camra.org.uk/gbg



www.liontavern.com

THE LION TAVERN

67 Moorfields Liverpool L2 2BP Telephone 0151 236 1734

The Lion Tavern (Grade II Listed) is Liverpool's finest Edwardian Pub. It is an extravaganza of etched glass, carved wood and beautiful tiling. It has a wonderful ornate wood carved bar plus two cosy side rooms one with a fantastic stained glass dome. The Lion Tavern is an award winning pub serving excellent cask conditioned ales, cider and a large selection of the finest malt whiskies. You can also enjoy a fine selection of tasty food from our new menu.



8 HANDPUMPS

supply a varied selection of prize winning Real Ales (including at least one locally brewed ale) plus hand pulled Cider

Over 80 Malt Whiskies

The Lion Tavern has one of the largest selections of malt whisky on Merseyside



WEEKLY
LOCALE
See Board
for future
Real Ales

LION BEER FESTIVAL

Thursday 18th to Thursday 25th October
UP TO 40 CHANGING BEERS

FOOD

See the board for selection of good value food

QUIZ NIGHT

every Tuesday at 9.30pm

BOARD GAME CLUB

Meet every Monday at 6.00pm

ACOUSTIC NIGHT

Second Thursday of the Month 8pm

BOB DYLAN SOCIETY

Meets first Thursday of the Month 8.30pm

MEET THE BREWER

Third Thursday of the Month 8pm

POETRY GET TOGETHER

Fourth Thursday of the Month 8pm

V6 Adventure Club

Meet every Wednesday at 8.00pm



"One of the Hundred Best Pubs in the country"

Daily Telegraph

MerseyAlenews

Mark Wilson (Liverpool CAMRA Barman of the Year) Mark who is ill at the moment is having a benefit.

The benefit for up to 170 people is on Friday 28th Sept -ember at the Casa Hope St. 8.00pm till late. £5.00 per ticket.

Live music from Dave Jackson & Friends, Tim O'Shea & Friends and Joe McKechnie also choons from the decks by John Da Prof and Terry Joynson. Tickets from the Dispensary Renshaw St.

Cask Boddies Dead and Buried?

Boddingtons cask bitter appears to be dead and buried. The beer was brewed on contract by Hydes of Manchester for the current owners the multinational AB - InBev, but that deal came to an end in March 2012 and no other cask brewing arrangements have been put in place. The canned and smooth flow versions are brewed in South Wales. AB - InBev revealed that cask Boddingtons, once an acclaimed must seek out real ale in the 1970s, now only accounts for 5% of the Boddington brand sales, the rest being cans and smoothflow. Stan Eaton, licensee at the Old Black Bull Preston, has served cask Boddingtons for over 20 years. Originally he was selling 6,000 pints a week and now it was just 600 before the current failure of AB - InBev to supply any cask Boddingtons.

Stan commented; "In my opinion it has become very clear over the past few years that AB - Inbev doesn't want anything to do with the cask Boddingtons. They only seem to care about the cans, which they then put on ridiculous price promotions in supermarkets." Liverpool Higsonians will recall that

Boddingtons was the company that Higsons sold out to, and which then in turn sold out Higsons to Whitbread, resulting in the closure of the Higsons Brewery.

The Cream of Manchester is well curdled.

The Ship & Mitre on Dale St celebrated the Olympic Torch relay by having one of the torches on display in the pub and its shops to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation. Pub regular Steve Taylor was nominated to run with the Olympic torch on 31st May



and loaned the torch to the Ship. Steve was doing a 54 mile run with friend Barry which recreated Barry's mercy dash to Newry hospital from Speke after his four week old baby boy had been admitted to hospital with suspected meningitis. With the amazing work of the doctors and nurses Callum went on to make a full recovery. The run took place during a Meningitis Awareness Week and they were hoping to gain significant media coverage which will support the national awareness week. Pictured are Laura Guy and Paul Kellher bar-staff from the Ship & Mitre with the Olympic Torch.'

Liverpool Beer Festival advance notice:

The festival will again be held in the Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt Thurs Feb 21st to Sat Feb 23rd 2013. Liverpool CAMRA members will be contacted by email in November with ticket details so please make

sure your details are correct by updating them online here http://www.camra.org.uk/update_details.php?id=267

We cannot update details for you, so please use that link. Look out for other ticketing information on our webpage in November. We are looking into an online ticketing system but nothing confirmed at present.

We always need volunteers helpers not only for the festival itself but with the organising. Festival organising meetings are usually the first Monday of the month 7pm upstairs in the Crown if you wish to help. Staffing forms will be emailed to members and on webpage for staffing during the festival itself.

If you have a favourite beer that would like to be on sale, why not post a request on the Liverpool CAMRA facebook page and we'll do our best.

CAMRA LocAle Symbol



Featured in our **Real Ale Pubs Map**

(available free in most good pubs in Liverpool) is a symbol to help you identify the 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. The pubs are also listed on our website and are part of the LocAle accreditation scheme. In our branch area the criteria is within 30 miles from Brewery to Pub. For further information on LocAle and how to get involved please visit the website. liverpoolcamra.org.uk

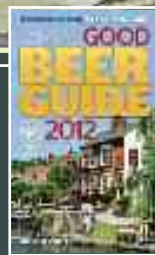
Welcome to the Vernon Arms

www.vernonarms.co.uk

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

6 Handpumps (4 Ever-changing)
Regulars: Rev James & Johnnie Handsome

- Guest Ciders
- Big screen football
- Belgian bottled beers
- Private functions
- Food Mon-Thurs 12-7pm, Fri-Sun 12-4pm
- catered (Lathom Lounge)
- 10% student discount
- Check out Great Meal Deals off food menu



The Vernon Arms offers all of the above in a friendly and safe atmosphere plus:
Live entertainment Friday and Saturday

Opening Times Mon-Thurs 11-11.30pm; Fri & Sat 11.30-2am depending on customer demand; Sun 12-11pm Tel: 0151 236 6132

GEORGE WRIGHT Brewing Company

No Additives. No Preservatives. No Need.

Labels shown: Checked Throat, PIPE DREAM, PURE, BLOWN MONEY, blue moon, Pilsener, DUNGEON DUCK.

Local, Regional & National Award Winning Beers.
Ask about our *Special Single Hop Beers* - Brewed Monthly.
Visit our website for Tasting Notes and further information.
Brewery Shop now open - Monday to Friday 9.30am til 5.00pm.

www.georgewrightbrewing.co.uk

George Wright Brewery - 11 Sandwash Close - Rainford - WA11 8LY
Tel: 0844 414 5886 - Fax: 0844 414 5887
Sales Mobile: 07738 249096 - EMail: sales@georgewrights.com



Blooming Lovely Pubs!

Quite a few City Centre pubs are making an effort to brighten up the streets of Liverpool with hanging baskets and floral displays at the moment; here are a few.



The Globe

Only room for a couple of Baskets on this small narrow pub, but the picture of Lizzie Christian the legendary Fruit, Veg and Flower seller who had a pitch outside the pub adds a nice touch to the exterior of this award winning ale house.



The Richmond Pub

on Williamson Street there is another City Centre locals pub making an effort to cheer us all up with a fine display of floral baskets and very reasonably priced ale as well!



Cains Brewery on Stanhope Street have a lovely display outside their magnificent Brewery Tap, and inside is another fine display, the Cains brewery range of beers!

The White Star Rainford Gardens Alfie and Jackie Buxton take great pride in the exterior and interior of their stunning little Victorian pub situated in the Mathew Street/Cavern Quarter area of the City.

The inside of the pub is amazing, with wall to wall paintings, posters and memorabilia from Liverpools maritime and musical past.



The Caledonia

Refurbished
Georgian Quarter
Community Pub



4 HANDPUMPS

Taylor's Golden Best
plus 3 changing Guest Beers from
Micro and Regional Breweries

LIVE MUSIC
Friday & Sunday

Loose Moose Bluegrass
Sundays fortnightly at 8pm

FOOD Homemade
Meals Mon -Fri 12-
3pm Sat & Sun 12-6

FUNCTION ROOM
Available for hire

Catharine Street Tel 0151 708 0235 Open 12 - 11 Sun - Thurs; 12 -12 Fri and Sat
Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/caledonialiverpool
Opening times Sat-Mon 12-12, Tues - Thurs 12-11 Friday 12 - 1pm



S.T.A.M.P.S
brewery



Stamps brewery is Merseyside's latest Microbrewery. The brewery is a natural progression from the success of running two cask beer driven bars, **Stamps Bar** and **Stamps Too**, for several years.

Both bars have specialised in real ale, having 12 hand pumps between them. They have always promoted local breweries sited within the Merseyside area. The establishment of a brewery



supplying quality ales to both bars seems to be the way forward, especially as real ale is presently enjoying a renaissance.

Stamps are determined to produce quality beers, mostly of a blonde nature. If cask beers are to survive and expand, they need to attract more young and female drinkers, and they believe that good quality blonde/pale beers will help to do this.

Stamps brewery aims to be as carbon neutral as possible. The building they are established in

will have solar panels installed, will use air source pumps and will harvest rain water for cleaning purposes. Their aim is to be as green as possible.

Brewery Tours

Stamps brewery is small, and so brewery tours will be limited to 15 people. Tours have to be booked in advance. The brewing process will be explained to you and samples of Stamps beers will be available. You will have an opportunity to 'help out' if you wish. More details at www.stampsbrewery.co.uk

Evening Star Brewery The Smallest Brewery in the North West?



Julia Olde England Landlady

The Olde England St Helens, has started to brew its own beer making it the only brew pub in the area.

Julia Carmichael set up the craft brewery in the back room of her pub Olde England where she has been licensee and owner for 3



adding the hops

years. She is keen to join the ranks of women brewers. The room was quite suitable already for the purpose, having two doors, one going outside for deliveries, three windows for ventilation, two sinks



and water access plus quarry tile floor so with the new addition of the large gully running down the middle of the floor for spillage and washing down and it was ready to go. The name Evening Star Brewery comes from the last steam locomotive to be built for British Railways. Julia has always had a keen interest in steam trains and lives just one minute from Rainhill railway station where of course the



Rocket trials were held (though she hastens to add she wasn't there and doesn't own an anorak!) Her Dad used to brew home brew bitters and wines at their home in Liverpool, though these really were

Olde England

Victorian Gothic Styled Rock Pub

24 Draught Products
Including 7 Real Ales And 2 real Ciders

St Helens Only Brew Pub

ROCK NIGHTS

Friday * Saturday * Sunday

11am to 11pm
Open Till Midnight Fri/Sat

www.1854pub.com

113 Corporation Street St Helens WA10 1SX



THE DISPENSARY

Liverpool CAMRA Pub of the Year 2010 and 2011



The Dispensary provides a varied and interesting selection of real ales from the best Micro Brewers in the country. You will be surprised at the choice

A Warm Welcome to the Dispensary (CAMRA Liverpool & Districts Pub of the Year 2010 and 2011) from Pauline, Dave and all their staff



Up to **8 BEERS** plus traditional cloudy cider

RENSHAW STREET, LIVERPOOL
(Formerly The Grapes) 0151 709 2160



"rocket fuel!" She has learnt to brew with help of 2 local real ale breweries, and thanks goes to them for their kindness and patience in sharing their time and knowledge. The craft brewery produces just 18 gallons at a time and there will be four core beers; **Evening Star** a hoppy session bitter 3.7% **Sans Pareil** a blonde beer 4.5% **George Stephenson IPA** 5.8% **The Rocket Strong Ale** 6.5% And "novelty" beer which will be a surprise! Price will be £2.25 a pint and drinkers will also be helping the RNIB charity as 10p from each pint will be donated direct to the charity which offers support and advice to blind and partially sighted people in the UK, helping people who have lost their sight to find their lives again.

George Wright Brewery Rainford is producing a celebratory pale summer ale to celebrate the **Solar King Pride of St Helens Awards**, which are organised by the Steve Prescott Foundation



and backed by the St Helens Star Newspaper. The ale named **Celebration Ale** will be sold in 15 pubs across St

Helens with 10p from every pint going to the charity ahead of the ceremony at Langtree Park, on Friday October 12th. About 1,400 bottles of the beer will also be sold at local off licences.

The George Wright brewery have been brewing special ales



throughout 2012 using 12 different hops, to produce 12 different beers on a monthly basis. September's Ales are **Bramblings 41 and 51**.

Renshaw Street Wet Zone Drinking Row

A row has broken out over the creation by Liverpool City Council of a designated "wet zone" drinking area for "street drinkers" on vacant land at the corner of Renshaw Street and Leece Street. Local businesses including pubs and restaurants have complained, and have accused the Council of being "underhand" and of "failing to consult" regard the introduction of the wet zone. This is now in operation for a 28 day trial period. A marquee is being erected with an entrance on Back Renshaw Street.

Around 50 people attended a meeting on Tuesday 28th August and

pressed the Council to drop the plan. Ben Scott, owner of Ben Scott barbers on Leece Street, claimed that the views of businesses had been ignored by the Council.

"It was a PR exercise. This trial will go ahead whether we like it or not"

Councillor Nick Small commented; "Where we left it is that the proposals will go ahead and we will meet again once it is up and running to see how it is going.....Doing nothing is not an option on this."

MerseyAle will report further developments.

Ship Sails Into Sefton Park

Showing enterprise that would be the envy of the Onedin Line, the Ship and Mitre sailed boldly into the **Liverpool Food and Drink Festival** with a Beer Festival tent at the two day launch event in Sefton Park on Saturday and Sunday September. In previous years the Ship had run a bar there which was very popular. Now the Ship provided the opportunity to try a much wider range of beers and ciders, including a number of real ales. Visitors to this extremely popular event had the chance to sample real ale alongside the extensive offerings of Liverpool's leading restaurants and food suppliers.

.....and Sails On Longer In West Kirby
The newly opened Ship in a Bottle beer shop opposite West Kirby station (see MerseyAle spring edition) has proved so popular that the opening hours have been extended and are now; **Monday to Wednesday 10 to 8 Thursday and Friday 10 to 10 Saturday 10 to 9 Sunday 12 to 6**

VICTORIA CROSS



3 Rotating Cask Beers plus one Moorhouses on permanently

Large selection of World Beers

**Warm and Friendly Atmosphere
Free Juke Box**

1-3 Sir Thomas Street L1

Opening Times 11.00am - 11.00pm Mon - Fri
11.00am - 12.00pm Sat



Statue commissioned by Tom Murphy



RICHMOND PUB



Southport Golden Sands, George Wright and the Famous Draught Bass plus **3 rotating Guest Ales**

The Richmond is a traditional family-run pub in the heart of the city centre and has been trading as a pub for over a hundred years.

THE RICHMOND 32 WILLIAMSON STREET L1 1EB

THE LORD WARDEN



There are 3 hand pumps serving a variety of Local and Regional Ales



We are one of the least expensive pubs in Liverpool. So come inside and enjoy a good pint in a friendly local atmosphere

THE LORD WARDEN LONDON ROAD

Alcohol on Trains Brewing Up into a Major Issue



Bans on alcohol on trains is brewing up into a major issue for those who rely on the train for public transport to and from the pub as part of a responsible approach to drinking and travelling. In the Spring 2012 MerseyAle we ran an article about Merseyrail's plan to introduce a total ban on alcohol on its trains, including unopened bottles and cans.

Scotrail Alcohol Ban Introduced



Since then Scotrail has introduced a ban on alcohol on all of its trains from 8pm to 10am everyday. Scotrail operates virtually all rail services in Scotland including long distance services of over three hours duration to places such as Inverness, Aberdeen, Wick and Oban/Fort William.

Merseyrail Explains Its Policy on the Alcohol Ban

The Spring article led to a response from Rudi Boersma, Merseyrail's Media and Corporate Affairs Manager, outlining the company's thinking regards the ban. We print Rudi's email below;

Dear Editor

I read your magazine with interest as a fan of real ale and find it interesting and entertaining. I notice that on page 51 in the Feb-April 2012 issue you take issue with our proposed ban on the consumption of alcohol on our trains and stations which is part of our

approach to prevent anti-social behaviour on the network. Your seem to be in favour of preventing alcohol related anti-social behaviour but don't support us actually doing something about it.

Anti-social behaviour can often lead to more serious incidents and criminal behaviour and by nipping it in the bud for example by not allowing people to put their feet on the seats, we have achieved great improvements in the perception of safety and security by our passengers and staff. Our approach to anti-social behaviour is supported by our passengers, local and regional media and by our partners Merseytravel. As you say in your article "drunken and offensive behaviour on board trains is both unpleasant to existing passengers and a deterrent to potential passengers" and that's why we're doing something about it as part of our consistent approach on anti-social behaviour.

In the run up to Christmas we have, for a number of years, imposed an alcohol ban on the city centre stations and prevented people unfit to travel from boarding trains with excellent results. We are now extending this temporary alcohol ban at Christmas into a permanent feature and extending it to the entire network. This ban will be applied sensibly and would not cover unopened bottles or cans bought for later consumption or apply to people who have been "out on the town" and are having a good time. It would however cover the drinking from "open vessels" and would stop people from travelling who as a result of alcohol intoxication are a nuisance to others and a danger to themselves to the benefit of the vast majority of passengers who find such behaviour unpleasant and intimidating.

Yours sincerely
Rudi Boersma
Media & Corporate Affairs
Merseyrail

We Have the Right to Say NO Merseyrail Poster Campaign

Merseyrail has been running a station poster campaign with this title for some months. It states that staff have the right to refuse passengers the right to travel.

Since the New Year MerseyAle has received a number of comments and complaints regards passengers being refused the right to travel by Merseyrail barrier staff on the grounds of having had too much to drink. The claim made by these passengers is that Merseyrail staff have been making arbitrary judgements as to whether people are to be allowed to travel. The complaints have come from women as well as men, and in several cases have been collaborated by travelling companions who have queried the decision of the staff on the grounds that the passenger was not in such a condition as to be a risk to themselves, to other passengers, or to staff.

This refusal to travel can have serious consequences with people left stranded at stations late at night without means of onward travel, a matter of particular concern when women are involved. In no instance did staff enquire as to how the person was to get home.

MerseyAle emailed Rudi on 20th July inviting him to outline the guidelines and instructions given to staff regards refusing the right to travel. So far we have not received a reply. When we do we will print it so that passengers are aware of the criterion being used to refuse travel.

Ye Cracke

RICE STREET LIVERPOOL

Wonderful early 19th Century
Public House with
6 Handpumps
Serving a varying range
of Real Ales Plus a Real Cider
REGULAR ALE THWAITES

**"HUNDRED BEST
PUBS in the COUNTRY"**

2010 2011 Daily Telegraph



Have a drink in John Lennon's Old Watering Hole



0151 709 4171
12-11.30 midnight Fri & Sat

The Crow's Nest



63 Victoria Rd, Crosby. 0151 924 6953

Merseyrail - Blundellsands & Crosby station - 10 min walk

**Four Regular
Real Ales**
and constantly
changing Guest Ales

Beers from breweries all over the country!

The Crow's Nest is a charming grade II listed building with a cosy bar, tiny snug and comfortable lounge. You'll enjoy a warm welcome and great beer in this beautiful old pub.

**Voted Best Community Pub 2004/5
Pub of Excellence 2002/3**

Above awards from Liverpool and districts CAMRA. Recommended in the Good Beer Guide



"The Punishment of Perfidious PubCos"

The mumming play, which lasts about 15 minutes, will be performed during the CAMRA Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Festival, having been premiered at the Liverpool Beer Festival in February.

The play's hero is LocAle who champions the cause of local real ales in PubCo pubs, supported by the Doctor (Dr CAMRA), and the licensee. The villains are Punch and The Green King.

After much rhyming verse, music, song, jokes, silly hats and gratuitous violence, Punch sees the error of his ways and offers to provide LocAle at fair prices to his customers and reasonably priced rents and beer to his licensees (well it is fantasy). Moreover The Green King, that peddler of beers watered down in strength and named after breweries which he has closed, receives his come uppance to the acclaim of all. A fitting end for **"the Man the very fat Man who Waters the Workers' Beer."** Play extract below.

Punch:

I have a beer tie which suits me well;
It's not my problem if the beers don't sell.
I like high prices and rack up the rent.
Who cares for licensees' discontent?
(Punch picks licensee's pocket and bashes him over the head with truncheon)

Licensee:

Punch Taverns' rules they cost me dear;
My pub is closing soon I fear.
I can't choose my beers with freedom.
I want LocAles; my customers need 'em.

Punch:

I'll soon see you off.

LocAle:

I don't think so. I'll give you 'punch'.
The beer tie's really coming to the crunch.
I give you ale that's brewed round here.
Drink micros; now you know that's beer.

Punch:

You local yokel; you don't know your stuff.
Be off with you, or else I will get tough.

LocAle:

Don't try that on with me you soulless git.
Stand up and fight, and then we'll see who's fit.
[Produces copy of MerseyAle]



All:

Fight, fight, fight.

[Punch falls to the ground]

Song (all sing) – "I Likes a Drop of Good Beer"
The pub's a place I show my face
To meet friends from far and near,
But they're closing down all over town,
So where will we go for beer?

Chorus

I likes a drop of good beer, I do
I'm fond of a drop of good beer.
So let women and men charge their glasses again,
And we'll all celebrate good beer !!

The Pubcos' aim is only gain,
They don't care for beer at all.
It makes no sense to raise the rents
And let pubs go to the wall.
For I likes a drop.....

The beer ties all make choices small
And exclude local and new.
So let's raise our voice for greater choice
And help micros to break through

The tax on beer is far too dear,
Help CAMRA make them think
For forty year we've stood for beer
And pubs where we can drink

Script and songs by Helen McCall





The Belvedere

Traditional 2 room community pub
Grade II Listed situated in the heart of
Liverpool's Georgian Quarter. Winner
of CAMRA pub of culture 2011

Cask Ales from Local and Regional Brewers

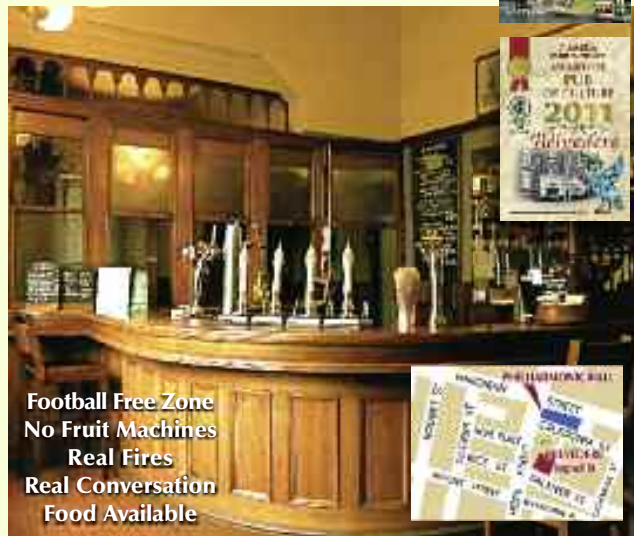
One minute from Philharmonic Hall
Ideal for pre-show drinks

**The Only Liverpool Pub with
Lined Glasses for Cask and
European Lagers**



**Higsons is Back!
Come and try it at
the Belvedere**

**Enjoy our Beer
Garden area**



Football Free Zone
No Fruit Machines
Real Fires
Real Conversation
Food Available

8 Sugnall Street (off Falkner St), Liverpool



CAMRA CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN 2012

**Champion Beer of Britain 2012 - Cumbrian Beer Judged Best in Britain!
Lucky No.9 for Coniston brewery**

After a year of local tasting panels and regional heats leading up to the finals, CAMRA is proud to announce that Coniston brewery's 'No.9 Barley Wine' has been crowned the 'Best Beer' in Britain



at the Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London.

No.9 Barley Wine, which has an ABV of 8.5% was described by the judges as 'having fantastic finesse, reminiscent of a fine cognac.'

The Coniston brewed real ale was judged the Supreme Champion over a host of other finalists in 7 different beer categories (Bitters, Best Bitters, Strong Bitters, Golden Ales, Milds, Winter Beers, and the Speciality class), including beers from both small microbrewers and large regional brewers.

Roger Protz, of the Final judging panel, spoke in praise of the winner. He said:

'The judges in the final tasting were overjoyed by the tremendous quality of the beers this year. There wasn't a poor beer in the competition, and they were all of the highest quality. It was a tough choice, and the final results were very close.'

David Smith of Coniston brewery, said:

'We were delighted to win the competition in 1998 with Bluebird, and we are delighted to win again! We've always been at the top and we're glad to regain the recognition

we deserve. It's an all-British beer using solely British ingredients, very fitting for this Diamond Jubilee year.'

With Coniston securing the Gold award for 2012, this year's Silver went to Green Jack brewery's **Trawlerboys Best Bitter**, whilst the Bronze award went to **Dark Star, American Pale Ale**.

Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive said:

'It's great to see a rare beer style being championed. Obviously it's a fairly strong beer, therefore it is a great opportunity for pubs to try third pint glassware so consumers can enjoy this wonderful ale in moderation.'

Overall winners-

Gold- Coniston, No.9 Barley Wine (from Coniston, Cumbria)
Silver- Green Jack, Trawlerboys Best Bitter (from Lowestoft, Suffolk)
Bronze- Dark Star, American Pale Ale (from Horsham, West Sussex)

Mild category-

Gold- Rudgate, Ruby Mild (from York, North Yorkshire)
Silver- Hobsons, Hobsons Mild (from Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire)

Bronze- Son of Sid, Muckcart Mild (from Little Gransden, Bedfordshire)

Bitter Category

Gold- Purple Moose, Snowdonia Ale (from Porthmadog, Gwynedd)
Silver- Tintagel, Castle Gold (from Tintagel, Cornwall)
Joint Bronze- Flowerpots, Bitter (from Cheriton, Hampshire)
Joint Bronze- Fuller's, Gale's Seafarers Ale (from London, W4)
Joint Bronze- Salopian, Shropshire Gold (from Shrewsbury, Shropshire)

Best Bitter Category

Gold- Green Jack, Trawlerboys Best Bitter (from Lowestoft, Suffolk)
Silver, Salopian, Hop Twister (from

Shrewsbury, Shropshire)
Joint Bronze- Oakwell, Senior Bitter (from Barnsley, South Yorkshire)
Joint Bronze- Milton, Pegasus (from Milton, Cambridgeshire)

Golden Ale Category

Gold- Dark Star, American Pale Ale (from Horsham, West Sussex)
Silver- Cumbrian Legendary Ales, Langdale (from Hawkshead, Cumbria)
Bronze- Hobsons, Town Crier (from Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire)
Strong Bitters- Gold- Dark Star, Festival (from Horsham, West Sussex)
Silver- O'Hanlon's, Stormstay (from Whimple, Devon)
Bronze- Highland, Orkney IPA (from Swannay, Orkney)

Speciality Beer Category

Gold- Dunham Massey, Chocolate Cherry Mild (from Dunham Massey, Gtr Manchester)
Silver- Little Valley, Hebden's Wheat (from Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire)
Bronze- Nethergate, Umbel Magna (from Pentlow, Essex)

Champion Winter Beer of Britain (from category winners announced in January 2012)-

Coniston, No.9 Barley Wine (from Coniston, Cumbria)
Hammerpot, Bottle Wreck Porter (from Poling, West Sussex)
Cairngorm, Black Gold (from Aviemore, Highlands)
Driftwood, Alfie's Revenge (from St Agnes, Cornwall)

Champion Bottled Beer of Britain winners-

Gold- Stewart, Embra (from Loanhead, Midlothian)
Silver- Great Gable, Yewbarrow (from Egremont, Cumbria)
Bronze- Molson Coors, Worthington's White Shield (from Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire)



OPEN SUNDAYS

SHIP IN A BOTTLE
World beers from The Ship and Mitre
Tel:07412 115400 www.theshipinabottle.co.uk

**Liverpool World Beer Shop in the Centre of the City
Ship and Mitre's Beer Shop Whitechapel**

**250 world beers and growing
plus 28 ciders**

**Changing range of British, Belgian, German,
USA and other World Beers**

**Always new arrivals. We welcome suggestions
for beers to stock**

Opening hours are; 10 to 6pm Monday to Saturday. Sundays 11 to 5pm

**The Ship in a Bottle is at 45A Whitechapel
L1 6DT next to Café Nero corner of Sir Thomas Street
NEW SHOP OPENED ON GRANGE RD WEST KIRKBY**



Won the CAMRA
PUB OF THE
YEAR AWARD
2011 & 2012

MARRIAGE IS A CONTRACTUALLY
BINDING AGREEMENT WHEREBY
TWO PEOPLE
ARE FORCED TO 'LIKE' EACH
OTHERS STATUS UPDATES



You know how I said we were going to @Gallaghers_pub first? We've still not left. When you get comfy in a great pub...
-@gaz_williams2

Find us at
Gallaghers Pub and Barbers
Chester Street, Birkenhead,
Wirral, CH41 5DQ

Or call us on
0151 649 9095

Like us on Facebook
follow us on Twitter
@gallaghers_pub

www.gallagherspubandbarbers.com

GALLAGHERS
Pub & Barbers

Woolton Pubs

1. Gardeners Arms



with new designer chairs around the pub. A small kitchen has also been fitted providing basic pub grub. The toilets have also given a new look along with new paintwork on the exterior with new signage and pub sign.

The Gardeners Arms in Woolton Village has had a recent refurbishment. Licensees Brad Hardy and Liz Goldsmith who have now been at the pub for over a year, thought the pub needed a new look after not having a refurbishment for over ten years. Punch Taverns agreed to the refurbishment which cost £80,000 and took two weeks to complete earlier this summer. The pub now has new wooden and slate flooring around the bar area and fitted carpeting in the lounge



Since the refurbishment the pub has seen a considerable increase in trade along with a larger selection of real ales which have been located on one side of the bar, making it easier for customers to choose the changing real ale selection.

A regular quiz still takes place every Tuesday and karaoke on Sundays, also live sports are shown. The Gardeners continues to be a valuable community pub in the area and shows off what a refurbishment can do for a pub. MerseyAle would like to congratulate Brad and Liz and wish them a prosperous future.
Neil Lloyd



THE GRAPES

60 ROSCOE ST (CORNER OF KNIGHT ST) L1 9DW 0151 708 6870



9 Handpumps

Serving constantly changing cask ales

always at least one Local from

Liverpool Organic Brewery



Opening Times;

1pm -12.30pm Sun, Mon, Tues, Weds
1pm -1.30am Thurs, Fri, Saturday

LIVE JAZZ EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT 10pm-12

For further details of music and events visit: thegrapesliverpool.co.uk



Woolton Pubs

2. The Cobden

The Cobden Woolton Village 'The Cobden in Woolton Village has re-opened after a period of closure. Jackie & John Mallon are the new owners, formally from the County Court next door. They had been at the County Court for over 11 years, being bar-staff and for the last two and a half years being the Licensees. An opportunity arose to take on The Cobden as a Freehold and they jumped at the chance.



The pub has had a complete refurbishment and is decorated in the theme of a traditional local. Jackie & John plan to build it up to its former glory.



The pub now has four cask beers with two of the guest beers changing regularly. Live sports are shown and a quiz night on Mondays. Live local bands play on Sunday afternoon. MerseyAle would like to wish Jackie & John a prosperous future and to keep the cask ale flag flying.

Neil Lloyd



moorhouses.co.uk

Now delivering directly to Merseyside!

moorhouse's Brewery
call Stuart Thompson

Mobile: 07805 592086 Office: (01282) 422864
Email: stuart.thompson@moorhouses.co.uk

The Brewery Moorhouse Street Burnley Lancashire BB11 5EN





IT'S A DARK BREW WITH MACABRE UNDERTONES.

Let our guides tell you tales of our history, myths, legends and ghost stories as you sip the finest ale Liverpool has to offer. Visit your favourite haunts, for an evening that's not on the mild side.

October 2nd*

Email CAMRA on pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk for full details and to book

SHIVERPOOL

Presents:

City Tours throughout the year

Scarewood Forest:

Shiverpool's Hallowe'en Festival 2012 26th-31st October

The Monster Dash:

Fun Run with Claire House in Formby Village 21st October

Shiver on the River:

with Mersey Ferries 28th October

Vamp and Furnace:

Hallowe'en Party in the Coolest New Venue in Liverpool 27th October

To book any of our events and for more details:

www.shiverpool.co.uk | Call: 0151 709 2030 | email: info@shiverpool.co.uk

Facebook: Shiverpool Historic Ghost Walks | Twitter: @Shiverpool

Young people 'not visiting pubs' say CAMRA

The number of young people drinking in pubs has fallen sharply over the past few years, according to new research.

A study of the drinking habits of 18 to 24-year-olds by CAMRA shows the number visiting pubs at least once a week has fallen from 38% to 16% in the past seven years.

During that time more than 8,000 pubs closed across the UK with campaigners blaming higher taxes on beer.

CAMRA spoke to 1,000 adults including 150 18 to 24-year-olds in its survey. Despite the falling numbers of young people going to pubs, more were trying real ale, especially young women.

Mike Benner, CAMRA's chief executive, said: *"Hard working publicans have been hammered by the government in recent times. What we've seen in the past seven years is that young adults in particular have been priced out of an affordable night down their local pub."*



But Liverpool CAMRA are doing their bit with the Bringing New People to Real Ale Campaign

The Snowball Effect – Snowball Campaign Ticks All the Boxes

Liverpool CAMRA wins National CAMRA Award

Bringing New People to Real Ale Campaign

The Liverpool CAMRA Snowball Campaign to Bring New People to Real Ale has "ticked all the boxes" to win the first national CAMRA Membership Initiative Award. So said the Chair of the national CAMRA Membership Committee, Julie Squires, when she presented the award at a Bringing New

People to Real Ale event at the Dispensary in Liverpool – see next page.

She praised Liverpool CAMRA for its path finding success in developing innovative and successful methods of Bringing New People to Real Ale, particularly with women and young people. The Snowball method of "bring a friend" had been very effective in spreading the real ale message and building a strong network of new contacts based on shared friendships.

The award certificate has become almost as well travelled as the Olympic Torch, having been presented at Torquay as part of the CAMRA National Members Weekend, in Liverpool at the Dispensary event and again at the Liverpool CAMRA Real Ale Oscars night at Kind (pages 28-29)

The Snowball Rolls On Bringing New People to Real Ale Campaign



The Snowball Campaign celebrated its National Award by holding a womens' event at the Dispensary, Renshaw Street, presenting a range of real ale beer styles complemented with food prepared by CAMRA members, including a Celebratory Cake in the shape of a glass of beer. Snowball organiser Jan Sorsby writes;

The Snowballs had something to celebrate in Spring, being the recipients of CAMRA's National Membership Initiative Award. Snowball organiser Jean Pownceby had been able to collect the Award certificate in April at the CAMRA National Members Weekend and AGM in Torquay, and now the Chair of the CAMRA Membership Committee, Julie Squires, was to present the Award in Liverpool.

When you have something to celebrate, what do you do? Well we did the same, we arranged a



"do" and where does it take place? You've got it, where it all started – the Dispensary. Pauline and Dave of the Dispensary had kindly offered to help us celebrate and off we went. This was the third time we had been at the Dispensary, each time there had been 40 women, but they never the same 40 women. We always all got on very well and everyone had had a good time. That's how 40+ women were in the Dispensary on 22nd May. And the celebration

went very well. Just as we knew it would.

Good Mix of People

Good celebrations always have a mix of people, some who you know well and some who are friends of friends who they are sure you will get on with as you have so much in common - and that's how it was on the 22nd May. We greeted old friends – well, when I say old we'd only known some of them since the first of our Women's Events, but we felt as if we'd known each other for much longer and they'd brought their friends or had suggested people who they felt would want to attend.

Cake and Chocolate and a Range of Real Ales

And you have to have cake and chocolate and we did. A chocolate cake in the shape of a glass of beer, resplendent in the Beer Festival logo. Plus chocolate sprinkles on our Cappuccino Beer - it tastes so much better than it sounds.

We had a tasting of 5 different beers, **Ossett Silver Shadow,**



Hawkshead's Lakeland Gold, York's Decade, Mark's Mild and Titanic's Cappuccino and we chatted about which beer we preferred and why and what other CAMRA events we would want to see. And a few ideas of what a Pubs Festival might look like started to form.

And the men, well they had to stay in the crèche, able to hear what a good time we were having, see the beer we were tasting and buying but unable to take part. Julie Squires presented the Award Certificate on behalf of the National CAMRA Membership

Committee to the acclaim from the many people present.

A big thank you to Pauline, Dave and the staff of the Dispensary for hosting the event and for helping us all to have such a good time. So the next time you are in the Dispensary and you are curious as to why there is the National Membership Initiative Award behind the bar, now you know.

PS - did anyone hear Radio Four **"Thought for the Day"** on the Saturday of our Beer Festival? Listeners were encouraged to forgo drinking at home and to go and drink in their local pub, to

recognise its community value and the important part it plays in helping people to drink sensibly. Now where have I heard that before? Which takes us very nicely on to the 2012 Liverpool CAMRA Pubs Festival !!

Jan Sorsby



Future Events

For details of Future Bringing New People to Real Ale Events please email contact @merseycamra.org.uk





LIVERPOOL

CAMRA Real Ale Oscars 2012

**PUB of the YEAR
ROSCOE HEAD**



**Pub Renaissance
THE EXCELSIOR**



**Most Improved Beer Range
THE GRAPES
Roscoe Street**



**Best Bar Person
MARK WILSON (Dispensary)**



**Cider Pub of the Year
AUGUSTUS JOHN**

**Pub of Excellence
BELVEDERE**



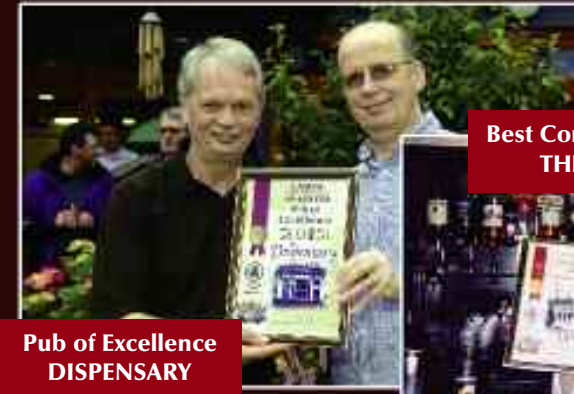
**Best Local Pub
STAMPS**



**Best Pub Experience
THE HUB**



**Best Community Pub
THE GLOBE**



**Pub of Excellence
DISPENSARY**



**Pub of Excellence
SHIP & MITRE**



**Pub of Excellence
LION TAVERN**

THE LIVERPOOL CAMRA REAL ALE OSCARS NIGHT

Guests gathered at the KIND Centre in Back Canning Street to celebrate the eleven awards presented to the best real ale pubs in the city and to present our Beer Festival sponsored Charity KIND with a cheque for £750.



**LIVERPOOL BEER FESTIVAL
KIND
DONATION £750**

ROSCOE HEAD

STREET BEER FESTIVAL

Sunday 16th September

10am till late. Held in the street opposite the pub

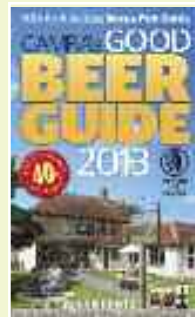
Large Selection of Quality Cask Real Ales from the
Finest Breweries all at reasonable prices.



The Roscoe Head is a true English public house with lots of character. One of the few pubs in Liverpool and indeed Great Britain to have survived the onslaught of the super pub chains and remains unspoilt. The Roscoe Head is a very special watering hostelry.

The Roscoe Head is a town local with customers from all walks of life, the backroom debates are always entertaining whether it be politics or football on the agenda the banter is always good.

CAMRA
Liverpool & Districts
PUB of the YEAR 2012



www.roscoehead.co.uk

Tetley's Bitter and Jennings Bitter

PLUS
CONSTANTLY CHANGING
GUEST BEERS!

Try our delicious home-cooked food

served Mon- to Fri 11.30am - 2.30 pm

Popular Quiz Nights
Tuesday, General Knowledge and
Thursday Music Quiz
Cribbage on Wednesdays

Winner of many awards and one of only SEVEN pubs to feature in every edition of the Good Beer Guide. That's 38 years of Good Beer Guide entries!

24 Roscoe Street L1 2SX Tel: 0151 709 4365

Champion Beer of Wales 2012 High as a Kite Barley Wine is Wales' Best Beer

A beer brewed at a hotel in Wales' smallest town of Llanwrtyd Wells has been judged to be the best beer in Wales at the Great Welsh Beer & Cider in Cardiff.

High as A Kite, brewed by the Heart of Wales Brewery, which is based at the Neuadd Arms Hotel, was judged by a panel of expert tasters in the annual competition run by the Campaign for Real Ale. The heart of Wales Brewery has been brewing for six years and this is the first time they have won this award which is eagerly sought after by the sixty or so breweries in Wales.

The Heart of Wales Brewery also came second in the competition with their **Welsh Black Stout**.

Third place went to the **Rhymney Brewery of Blaenavon with their Hobby Horse bitter**.

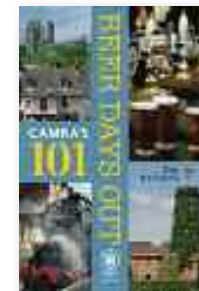


Lindsay Ketteringham, brewer at Heart of Wales Brewery, said, on hearing he had won the award, "This is an absolutely fantastic accolade from CAMRA, I know my beers are good but to be recognised with a national award by CAMRA is just fantastic. I hope everyone at the Festival enjoys my beers as much as I do, a lot of hard work goes into producing these beers so it's great to be recognised as the best brewer in Wales."

According to James 'Arfur' Daley, the organiser of the Great Welsh Beer & Cider Festival, "This is a well-deserved award for Lindsay and his team at the brewery, the town of Llanwrtyd Wells may be famous for its bog-snorkling competition but now an award-winning brewery will put it on the map for sure."

Tasting notes: High as a Kite is a barley wine with a strength of 10% and is a burgundy-coloured ale with a rich nose of stewed plums and a rich, warming flavour with a lingering caramel and toffee aftertaste. A beer to be sipped and savoured.

Liverpool Scores Twice in New CAMRA Book



Liverpool features not once but twice in the new CAMRA book "101 Beer Days Out". The Isle of Man also features with a tour of real ale pubs along the

famous TT motor cycle road race course.

The Liverpool days out both owe their origins to Liverpool CAMRA campaigns. The Fab Five is a day touring five classic Liverpool pubs and Tale of Two Festivals features Liverpool Beer Festival and the Liverpool Real Ale Pubs Festival.

RRP £12.99

CAMRA Member Price
£10.99

wetherspoon

LIVERPOOL ALE TRAIL

**15 PUBS...
15 QUESTIONS...
1 FANTASTIC PRIZE**

FANTASTIC PRIZE FOR THE WINNER (As well as 2nd & 3rd place prizes)

From **MONDAY 13th August**
Until **THE GRAND FINAL @ The Childwall Fiveways Hotel on SUNDAY 16th September**

Participants must visit each Wetherspoon pub to view a question relating to the history of that specific pub. They must then deliver the answer to the question and fill in on the answer sheet obtainable from any JD Wetherspoon in Liverpool. Participants **MUST** sign the visitors book in ENGLISH to prove they have visited, or their score will be void. Winner will be announced at Grand Final.

Bonus Prize for whoever gets The Argosy (Liverpool Airport) question correct!

In association with CAMRA as part of The Liverpool Pub Festival

St Helens CAMRA News



Introducing.....

Pi (Rose Lane)

Great beers....in the 'burbs!

4 Handpulls : 3 Real Ale from Northwest micro breweries, guest real cider

With an emphasis on Quality AND Quantity we have a huge and eclectically obscure range of 8 draught and 60+ bottled beers from all over the world.

Stonkingly good Pie Minister Pies served right through till 11pm every night.

Freshly ground coffee and home-made cakes

Newly opened on Rose Lane, 200 yards up the hill from Mossley Hill station.

Sister bar of the award winning Pi (Chorlton)

Open 11am-Late - 7 days

Pi (Rose Lane)
106 Rose Lane
0151 222 0443

WWW.PI-ROSELANE.CO.UK

St Helens CAMRA Beer Festival

The dates of the 2012 St Helens Beer Festival are **Thursday 20th to Saturday 22nd September.**

Award Night held at the Duke of Cambridge.
Alan Healey Chair of St Helens CAMRA commented;

"Nights like this are really special as it allows us as consumers to thank the people who work hard all year to provide us with good quality real ale which we can drink in the pleasant environment of their pubs and clubs."

Other awards included; Cider Pub of the Year Turks Head



Over 50 real ales and ciders
The venue is TS Scimitar Barracks, Mill Street St Helens (15 mins walk from St Helens Central railway station and bus station).

Admission on door £2 (£1 CAMRA members) per session except Friday evening £3 (£2 CAMRA members)

Times Thursday 5-11
Friday 12 - 4.30
5-11 entry £3 (£2 CAMRA members)
Saturday 12 - 11

St Helens Pub of the Year Duke of Cambridge

The Duke of Cambridge has been judged to be St Helens Pub of the Year 2012.

St Helens CAMRA Awards Night.
Dave Watts MP was the guest of honour for the annual St Helens



Food Pub of the Year Colliers Arms

St Helens CAMRA Branch Meeting

Wednesday 12th September 8pm at The York, Nutgrove.

Tell Us What You Think

What's happening at your local?
What do you think about the St Helens Real Ale scene?
What do you want to see St Helens CAMRA do?
Let us know what you think.
Contact us with your thoughts, views and suggestions at sthelenscamra@hotmail.co.uk



St Helens The Official CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival 2012

T.S. Scimitar Mill Street Barracks

15 minutes walk from St Helens Bus Station and Central Station

Thursday 20th Sept: 5:00pm - 11:00pm
Friday 21st Sept: 12:00pm - 4:30pm
5:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday 22nd Sept: 12:00pm - 11:00pm

Over 50 Real Ales and Ciders

Admission: £3 on the door £2 CAMRA Members
Fri Evening: £3 on the door £1 CAMRA Members

All other sessions: £2 on the door £1 CAMRA Members

Numbers are limited for each session so get there early to avoid disappointment

SOUTHPORT & WEST LANCS CAMRA

13TH SANDGROUNDER

SPONSORED BY **BEER**

FESTIVAL

25TH - 27TH OCTOBER 2012

ST JOHN'S HALL, WRIGHT STREET, SOUTHPORT
(3 MINUTES' WALK FROM SOUTHPORT RAILWAY STATION)

OVER 50 BEERS
PLUS CIDERS, PERRIES & FRUIT WINES


OPENING TIMES

Thursday 25 October	6pm to 11pm
Friday 26 October	12:00pm to 11pm
Saturday 27 October	12:00pm to 11pm

ADMISSION
£3 EACH DAILY SESSION, BUT ALL SESSIONS FREE TO CARD-CARRYING CAMRA MEMBERS

FOR MORE DETAILS: <http://stjohnshallbeerfest12>







2011
LIVERPOOL CRAFT BEER CO.



"...this may be the best beer I've ever had...
 I can now die happy..."

(The brewers, Jan 2011)

0151 236 9400
www.liverpoolcraftbeer.com

 Hop Beast 4.0% Pale - Vienna malt, Cascade Hops	 ICON Dark 4.8% Porter - 6 malts inc. smoked & finest coffee beans	 Viking 4.2% Amber coloured, packed with Willamette Hop flavour	 ICON 3.8% Ballys pale session bitter - citrus finish	 IPA 5.0% Darker Pale as IPAs should be. Bitter and hoppy	 Tane Mahuta 4.4% Pale - New Zealand Beer. Green Bullet hops
---	--	---	---	---	---

Liverpool & Districts CAMRA



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND CALENDAR

CAMRA Liverpool

Real Ale Pubs Festival 2012



Eight Weeks of Great Pub Events

To book places email pubsfestival@liverpoolcamra.org.uk. Check www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk for latest updates on events.

Pub Beer Festivals

Several Liverpool pubs are running Pub Beer Festivals
Roscoe Head Roscoe Street, "Why Don't We Do it in the Road" Festival, on **Hope Street Feast Day Sunday 16th September - 60 Beers. From 10am to closing time.**

Lion Tavern Moorfields Week long **Beer Festival** Thursday 18th October to Thursday 25th. Approx **40 changing beers.**

Ship and Mitre Dale Street
September 17th-21st German Beer Festival
October 17th-21st Real Ale Festival
November 19th-25th Thanksgiving

Richmond Pub Beer Festival Williamson Street **Sunday 7th October**

Wetherspoon Pubs Real Ale Festival
 2 Weeks in **November**. Wetherspoons Ale Trail see page 31

CAMRA Beer Festivals

St Helens CAMRA Festival, 50 Beers plus ciders Thursday 20th to Saturday 22nd September

TS Scimitar Barracks Mill Street St Helens (15 mins walk St Helens Central station and bus station)

Admission on door £2 (£1 CAMRA members) except Friday evening £3 (£2 CAMRA members)

Thurs 5-11pm ; Fri 12 – 4.30 and 5 – 11pm ; Saturday 12 noon – 11pm

Southport CAMRA Sandgrounder Festival, Over 50 Beers

New Dates New Venue Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October

New Venue just 3 minutes walk from Southport Station - St John's Hall Wright Street off London Street at side of station (Albert pub on corner)

Thursday 6-11; Friday and Saturday 12 noon to 11pm

Admission on door £3 (CAMRA members free)

Other Beer Festivals

St Anthony's Beer Festival "Beers From Another Crypt"

Thursday 27 and Friday 28 September at 7pm and **Saturday 29th September** sessions at 12 noon and 7pm. St Anthony's Church Scotland Road (next to Throstle's Nest pub) **60 plus beers plus food** – tickets from Belvedere pub Sugnall Street and Church office

Beer Festival at National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port - Friday 12 to Sunday 14th October

join us for a great event with real ale selected from the best of British craft brewers with canal connections and be entertained by real music. Please visit www.nwm.org.uk for further details.

Crosby Rotary Beer Festival

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th October

Civic Hall Crosby

No fewer than 30 out of the **40 beers** on offer will be Scottish brews that rarely make it this far south.

Waterloo Beer Festival – Thursday 22nd November to Sunday 25th

Old Christ Church Church Road, Waterloo, organised by the **Liverpool Organic Brewery** **200+ REAL ALES and CIDERS** Entertainment at every session. Saturday afternoon the fantastic South London Jazz Orchestra. Music all day Sunday.

For full details and ticket sales visit the Beer Festival website at www.waterlooberfestival.com

Drama In Pubs

Liverpool CAMRA presents "The Punishment of Perfidious PubCos" **Mumming Play**

Verse, songs, silly hats and lots of gratuitous violence as Punch and the Green King get their come uppance.



Performances

Thursday 11th October 8pm at Lion Tavern Moorfields plus the regular Folk Music evening Wednesday November 21st

CAMRA Get Together evening at Waterloo Beer Festival Start 7.30 with the Play performance at 8.15 - see pages 17 and 54.

"I Kavanagh" Drama One Act Play and Poetry - In Collaboration with Liverpool Irish Festival

Saturday 20th 6.30 and Sunday 21st 1.30 October 6.30 at Fly in the Loaf Hardman Street Tickets £5 Pay on the Door.





The Unusual and Scary – Haunted Pubs
A Haunting Tour of the Scary Side of Liverpool Pubs with **Shiverpool and CAMRA – Tuesday 2nd October** meet 8pm Belvedere

Sugnall Street.
Haunting Evening of ghost tales, legends, history exploring the scary side of Liverpool's pubs .
To book your place email pubsfestival@liverpoolcamra.org.uk
See Shiverpool Advert page 24.

Live Music in Pubs

Liverpool Irish Festival – Irish Music Session
Peter Kavanagh's, Egerton Street , Saturday 13th October 9pm

Regular Folk Music Events

Lion Tavern Moorfields **Folk Singers and Musicians – FREE - 8.45pm Thursday every second week of month**

Belvedere Sugnall Street **Folk Singers and musicians – FREE - 2-4 every Thursday**

Ship and Mitre **Woodie Guthrie Folk Club**
Dale Street 7.30pm last Thursday each month – advance ticket only book www.woodyfolk.co.uk

An Evening of Pub Games

All your traditional Pub Games in one place in one evening. Try your hand for free !!
Tuesday 16th October at Lady of Mann
Dale Street 7.30pm
Book your place
pubsfestival@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Heritage Pubs Walks

Guided walking tours of some of Liverpool's classic heritage pubs, featuring great architecture and interiors.
To book place email pubsfestival@liverpoolcamra.org.uk
Tuesday 18th September meet Crown Lime Street at 6.30pm
Tuesday 23rd October meet 6.30pm Philharmonic Hotel Hope Street

Real Ale Rambles

Easy walking visiting a selection of real ale pubs
Sunday 23rd September walk from Mossley Hill to Gateacre approx 4 miles. Meet 1pm at Storrsdale pub Storrsdale Road off Mather Avenue/Rose Lane
Sunday 7th October there will be a Pub walk – **Waterloo to Crosby**. Meet 12 noon Stamps Too, South road (opp Waterloo station)

Beer Scoring Survey Samplers

Find out about beer scoring for the Good Beer Guide visiting a selection of pubs
Tuesday 25th September Lark Lane area – meet 7pm in **Rhubarb** Lark Lane
Tuesday 30th October Waterloo area – meet 7pm in **Stamps Too** opposite Waterloo station

Real Cider Guided Tasting and Pub Crawl

Discover Real Cider and where to find it in Liverpool. See page 59.
Guided Cider Tasting Wednesday 10th October 7.45pm upstairs room at **Crown Lime Street**

Cask Ale Week

Only in Britain; Only in Pubs
Please support your local during Cask Ale week. Some pubs will also be holding events, details on website www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk.



CAMRA Liverpool RealAlePubs Festival 2012

Liverpool CAMRA Branch FESTIVAL Get Togethers

Wednesday 19th September 7.30 **Baltic Fleet** Wapping - Talk and beer tasting by Wapping brewer Stan Shaw.

Wednesday 17th October 7.30 **Old Bank** Waterloo - special quiz.

Wednesday 21st November
FESTIVAL FINALE
SPECIAL CAMRA GET TOGETHER and performance of "The Punishment of **Perfidious PubCos**" mumming play at;

Waterloo Beer Festival -see page 54
Free entry for CAMRA members - must show card

Finish the Pubs Festival with 200 beers!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

Sunday 16th All Day, Hope Street Feast, Hope Street. Hope Street Feast is the urban village fete of the Hope Street Quarter, celebrating the start of the cultural and academic year with a magical family-friendly blend of all the ingredients that characterise Hope Street's very special contribution to Liverpool life. There are two open air music stages. Liverpool Philharmonic's After 8 Stage in association with Liverpool Organic Brewery on Myrtle Street features world-class roots music including **Sam Lee and Friends**, **Cocos Lovers**, **Rachel Sermanni**, a foretaste of the autumn's Folk Rising showcase, and a set from **Pauline Scanlon & Meabh O'Hare**. A new stage in the car park at Blackburne House will feature the best of the city's acoustic talent. This year also sees **Vasily Petrenko** return to the Feast to conduct the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** in two free performances as part of the Open Day at Liverpool Philharmonic, which also includes **Rhos Orpheus Male Choir**.



Roscoe Head Beer Festival 16th, 10am-11pm Roscoe Street. Come and meet members of the committee at our CAMRA stand.



Tuesday 18th 6.30pm Pubs Heritage Walk, Meet in the Crown, Lime Street. To book a place, email pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk

Wednesday 19th 7.30pm Branch Get Together, Baltic Fleet. There will be a talk by in-house Wapping Brewer Stan Shaw and an opportunity to sample some Wapping Beers - All welcome.



Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd St Helens Beer Festival, TS Scimitar Barracks, Mill Street, St Helens, **50+ Beers plus Ciders**. Live Entertainment.
Thursday 20th 5pm-11pm Friday 21st 12 noon-4pm 5pm-11pm Saturday 22nd 12 noon- 11pm
Tickets all sessions Entrance £2 (CAMRA Members £1) Except Friday Evening £3 (CAMRA Members £2)

Pay on the door but customers for Friday Evening are advised to arrive early as possible we anticipate we will reach capacity on this session.

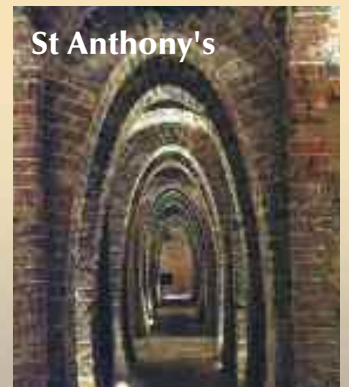
1.00pm Pub Ramble, Mossley Hill to Gateacre. Meet at Storrsdale Pub, Storrsdale Road, off Mather Avenue. In conjunction with Liverpool Brisk Walkers - no need to book just turn up on the day.

Monday 24th - 30th Ship & Mitre German Beer Festival Dale Street.

Tuesday 25th 7pm A chance to sample/survey Lark Lane pubs – meet 7pm Rhubarb, Lark Lane. All Welcome.

Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th St Anthony's Beer Festival, 60 Beers. Crypt, St Anthony's Church, Scotland Road. (Note this is not a CAMRA sponsored Beer Festival all profits go to the upkeep of this Historic Church)

Tickets £5 from Belvedere, Lion Tavern, Dispensary and Church office.



October



Tuesday 2nd 8pm SHIVERPOOL Pub Ghost Tour

Meet Belvedere, Sugnall St
pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk

Sunday 7th 12 noon Pub walk – Waterloo to Crosby. Meet at **Stamps Too**, South road (opp Waterloo station) There will be light refreshments at the end of the crawl - Bookings can be made by email - pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk



Sunday 7th 11.am-11.pm Richmond Pub Beer Festival, Richmond Pub, Williamson Street. City Centre. Focus is on beers from local breweries.

Wednesday 10th 7.45pm Cider tasting – Crown, Lime Street (upstairs room). To book a place, email steve.berks@libero.it

Thursday 11th 8pm Folk Night with performance of special **Real Ale Mummers play** – 8pm **Lion Tavern**, Moorfields/Tithebarn Street.

Friday 12th -14th National Waterways Museum Beer Festival Ellesmere Port. British craft brewers plus real music. Please visit www.nwm.org.uk for further details



Saturday 13th 9pm Irish Festival Music Session – Peter Kavanagh's, Egerton Street (off Catherine Street) A Free event in conjunction with CAMRA - no need to book just turn up on the night.

Tuesday 16th 7.30pm Pub games night – Lady of Mann, Dale St – a fun evening of some familiar – and some not so familiar! – pub games. Numbers limited. To book a place, email pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk

Wednesday 17th - 21st Ship & Mitre Real Ale Beer Festival Dale Street.

Wednesday 17th 7.30pm Branch Get Together – Old Bank, South Road, Waterloo – upstairs function room. Special quiz. All welcome.

Saturday 20th 6.30pm and Sun 21st at 1.30pm – Irish Festival One Act drama 'I, Kavanagh' - Fly in the Loaf. Tickets £5 on door.

Tuesday 23rd 6.30pm Pubs Heritage Walk – meet **Philharmonic pub**. To book a place, email pubsfestival@merseycamra.org.uk

Thursday 25th-27th 13th Sandgrounder Beer Festival, Southport, St John's Hall, Wright Street, Southport. Over 50 Beers plus ciders and perries. Admission £3.00 each daily session, all sessions FREE to card-carrying CAMRA members

Tuesday 30th 7.00pm – a chance to sample/survey pubs of Waterloo. Meet **Stamps Too**



November

Thursday 22nd - 25th Waterloo Beer Festival,

The last Major Beer Festival of 2012.

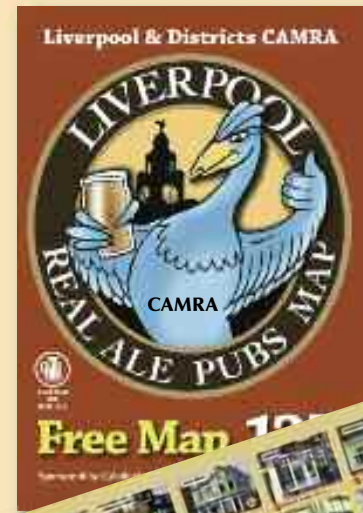
200+ REAL ALES and CIDERS Entertainment at every session. Saturday afternoon the fantastic South London Jazz Orchestra. Music all day Sunday

For full details and ticket sales visit the Beer Festival website at www.waterloobeerfestival.com

Monday 19th - 25th Ship & Mitre Thanksgiving Beer Festival Dale Street.

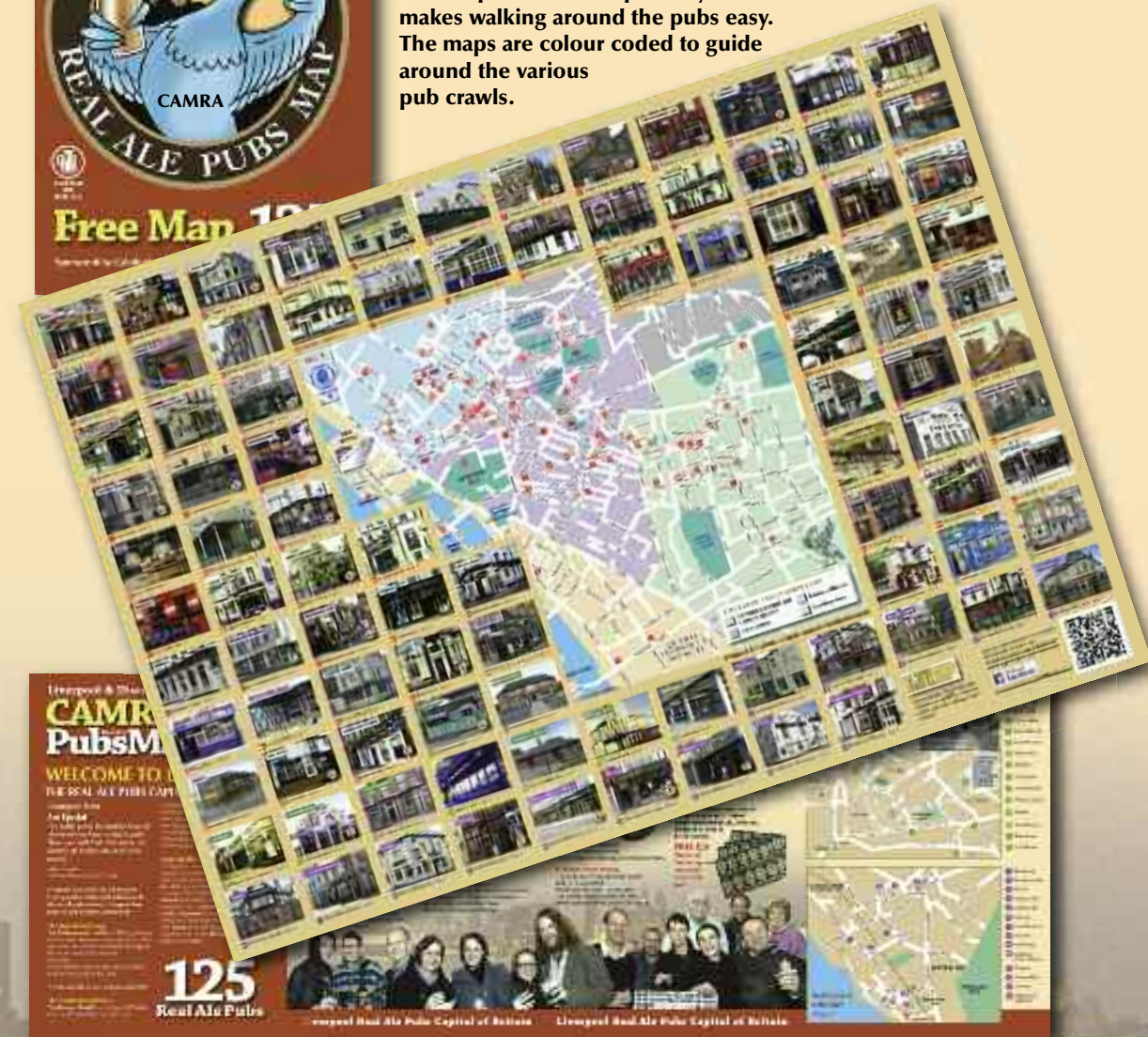


LIVERPOOL
ORGANIC
BREWERY



Not just one pub crawl, but seven, encompassing over 120 Pubs !!!

In Liverpool you are never far from a real ale pub. The compact city centre makes walking around the pubs easy. The maps are colour coded to guide around the various pub crawls.



CAMRA RealAle PubsMap

**Available free
in the best
Liverpool Real
Ale Pubs
from September**

Northern Georgian and Cultural Quarter

Centred on the famous Hope Street, with the Cathedrals, arts venues, universities, restaurants and the Georgian quarter

City Centre

City centre shopping, Liverpool One, arts and museums, St George's Hall, mainline stations.

Business District

Commercial area, public buildings, Town Hall

Maritime Area

Pier Head, Albert Dock, Echo Arena,

On Separate Maps

- South Liverpool
- Waterloo and Crosby
- North Liverpool, Bootle, West Derby



SHIP & MITRE

Beer Festivals

September – German
24th - 30th
October – Real Ale
17th - 21st



LIVERPOOL'S PREMIER FREEHOUSE theshipandmitre.com

15 EVER CHANGING REAL ALES + DRAUGHT CIDERS

The Ship and Mitre has the largest selection of Belgian and German Draught and Bottled Beers in Liverpool

QUALITY PUB FOOD

cooked to order including Gourmet Burgers, Wraps, Scouse, Tapas style dishes **food served from 12-9 daily**

log onto www.thegalleyliverpool.co.uk follow us on facebook (the galley) & twitter @the_galley



Monday Darts - Wednesday Scouse on the House (from 6pm) Thursday - Quiz Night

Art Deco 'Higher Room' for hire Holds up to 55 people Catering available

Ship & Mitre 133 DALE STREET Tel: 0151 236 0859

SWAN INN

Nick and the staff welcome you to the famous Swan with its unique atmosphere and great range of fine cask ales.
Best Rockers jukebox in town!

Always available:
WOBBLY BOB - HYDES BITTER
Plus **ROSIES TRIPLE D CIDER**

PLUS A GREAT SELECTION OF GUEST BEERS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF BREWERIES
Large stock of Belgian Bottled Beers

VIDEO JUKEBOX ON TOP FLOOR
Open until 2am on Friday and Saturday

3 FLOORS - FAMOUS HEAVY ROCK JUKEBOX - FREE WI FI

86 Wood Street Liverpool Tel 0151 709 5281

Student Friendly



ManxAle

Once again from the Isle of Man it is a pleasure to report not only more gains for real ale, but also an increase in the number of beer festivals held this summer, further investment by Heron & Brearley into its pub estate, progress on a new microbrewery the fourth brewery on an Island of 80,000 people, hopeful news on the pub re-opening front, as well as two new real ale Island publications.

Sidings is Isle of Man Pub of the Year 2012.



As reported briefly in the Spring issue of Mersey Ale, after many years the Sidings in Castletown, sited beside the steam railway station, has won The Isle of Man Pub of the Year award. It now progresses into the North West of England regional round of the



competition.

New landlord Dave Sayle and his team have made considerable improvements in the last year to this already stalwart real ale pub,

the last remaining real ale free house in Castletown. In particular within this essentially three roomed pub, there has been much needed decoration and refurbishment of the overspill room to the right of the bar, used for dining, meetings, and for hosting bands.

The walls feature historic photographs of the steam railway, with the names of all the IMR stations on nameplates above the bar. The tables for dining are well presented in an informal manner with fresh flowers on each table. The result is a more homely feel than in previous times which will appeal to a broader clientele. Very

competitively priced food is served, with main courses on offer at as little as £5.00, served seven days a week at lunchtimes. In addition there are major plans to refurbish the kitchen area in the coming months, and once completed to offer food throughout the day. Also it is intended to

increase the size of the pool room to the left of the bar, making for a more comprehensive sports bar/games room.

In a tough high beer taxation market, these are just the kind of improvements needed when looking to the future, and the pub is certain to attract a broader clientele, especially with the extensive beer garden to the rear of the property - but vitally without detriment to the real ale or atmosphere.

Real Ale is Still the Main Siding Story!

The central bar area remains largely unchanged with its vast array of

hand pumps along the straight bar area. The pub design is such that there is no danger of the real ale

drinker feeling pushed out by the increasing food offering. Continuity has been the key here during the new tenure - as with all bastions of real ale pubs, recognising it takes considerable time to build a



reputation.

Four local real ales are ever present, with heavy emphasis on the Bushys range, including **Bushy Bitter, Bushys Ruby Mild, and Bushys Castletown Bitter.** **Okells Bitter** is also always present.

For the remaining guests an unusual beer policy is in place. Instead of a never ending series of random microbrewery offerings, never to be seen again, (irritating to some but not others), every fourth order in turn the pub returns to four regularly featured guests, namely, **Bombadier, Everards Tiger, Copper Dragon Best Bitter and Green King IPA.** In the intervening order periods, various styles and strengths are selected as guests, thereby maintaining plenty of variety. Importantly the bar staff are invariably willing to chat about and advise on the ales.

All in all a textbook and well managed change of tenure at what was already a mainstay on Island cask ale outlet.



PUB IS THE HUB - USE IT OR LOSE IT - COMMUNITY FOCUS.

Whilst the fortune of real ale itself is flourishing, in the U.K. many suburban pubs or venues in small catchment areas are struggling to survive. The Isle of Man has remained to date largely unscathed in this regard. However, aside from the well known specialist real ale pubs, there are a large number of community pubs, both free houses and managed that continue to provide both real ale and an excellent community amenity serving their local populations. It is worth a moment focusing on the variety of such pubs across Island, and the broad range of support given to the local community.

The Haven Port Erin

Now back with the long awaited pub sign, the Haven has long been a locals pub, away from the main tourist areas of the town. Whilst the front room is often lively at



weekends, the back room is often packed at other times and offers pool, darts. Along with Okells

Bitter and an occasional guest, there is a large TV screen for the sport. The pub often hosts members of the



Rushen Football club, and takes an active part in The Southern darts and pool leagues, as well as hosting regular quiz nights. Participation in these leagues by large numbers of pubs is a key part of community life and maintains the momentum of trade mid week.

Tynwald Inn St Johns



Again, stocking usually Okells bitter and a guest ale the Tynwald is now the only pub remaining in St Johns. Home cooked food is available throughout the day Monday to Saturday, along with Sunday serving between noon and 4pm. The pub, which can be open as late as 1.00am weekends, is child friendly during the day. Once more, in addition to darts and pool teams, the pub hosts a large number of local groups for regular meetings, including The Southern motocross group, Heavy Horse Society, Staffordshire bull terriers club, and metal detectors organisation-along with T.T. marshals from time to time. The pub often allows local bands use of rooms for practising

free of charge, providing a superbly well used local amenity as well as the cask ale on offer. For T.T. fans, a large range of motorbike photos adorn the walls above the bar area, along with a photograph of T.T. legend Joey Dunlop visiting The Tynwald Inn.

Cat With No Tail on Governors Hill Douglas

This Heron & Brearley managed



house serves a large housing estate to the north west of Douglas. It now stocks two guest ales regularly in addition to Okells bitter. It has extensive dining areas in addition to a large open plan area for games/viewing sport on T.V. The sports room features many photographs of the landlord's favourite club West Bromwich Albion, a refreshingly non corporate approach for a managed



house. As well as Bridge mornings and Whist drives, the pub somewhat unusually hosts church services on Sunday mornings. A large cheque above the door for £1700 indicates monies raised for the Manx Stroke Foundation. Here again, not just a pub, but a genuine local amenity and meeting point.

These are three examples of pubs providing an excellent service to the community, whilst also stocking well kept real ale.

Two New Real Ale Publications on Island

Rail Ale Isle of Man - Free Booklet In what we think is a unique Island cooperation and partnership, Isle of Man Railways have produced a



nineteen pub Rail Ale booklet guide for the Island, covering both steam and electric railways from north to south. The concept is based on the **MerseyAle "ManxRAle"** supplement published in the Spring 2010 edition for the CAMRA National Members Weekend and AGM held in Douglas. Both major breweries, Okells and Bushys sponsored the



booklet, and along with CAMRA Isle of Man provided material in a joint exercise to promote both the railways, and local pubs and amenities.

IOM CAMRA contributed significantly by providing the research and some of the labour and legwork, coordinating the pubs featured, along with distributing the booklets to pubs, thus keeping production costs to a minimum in these difficult times. The leaflet has been highlighted by a number of publications, not least by

London Drinker magazine, who enthusiastically praised the Isle of Man for having a proactive government prepared to do something to help promote its pub industry! A sign of frustration I fear by Londoners, seeing their pubs taking a hammering in times of high beer taxation, and difficult trading conditions.

IOM Pub Walks Book

In addition this summer Ann Reeder, a real ale fan and long time visitor to The Isle of Man, has written **'Heritage Pub Walks in The Isle of Man'** published by Author house. Ten walks are featured of



v a r y i n g length, along with maps, notes for tourists and of course essential cask ale pub stopping points along the way. The publication provides an excellent and well researched introduction to the Island, whilst for those on Island it is obvious immediately that Ann certainly knows her real ale pubs.

Beer Festivals Thrive The Sulby Glen Beer Festival



Now in its eighth year the festival took place in July. Once again an excellent festival held by landlady Rosie Christian, who has now completed 25 years service at The Sulby Glen Hotel – see the pub banner!. Rosie held what was believed to be the first Isle of Man Beer festival back in July 1993. As well as the twenty plus real ales,

Manx cheeses and produce were also available. Beer of the Festival was St .Austell's Proper Job.

Two New Beer Festivals Both Successful First Ventures

The Castle (Gluepot) Castletown

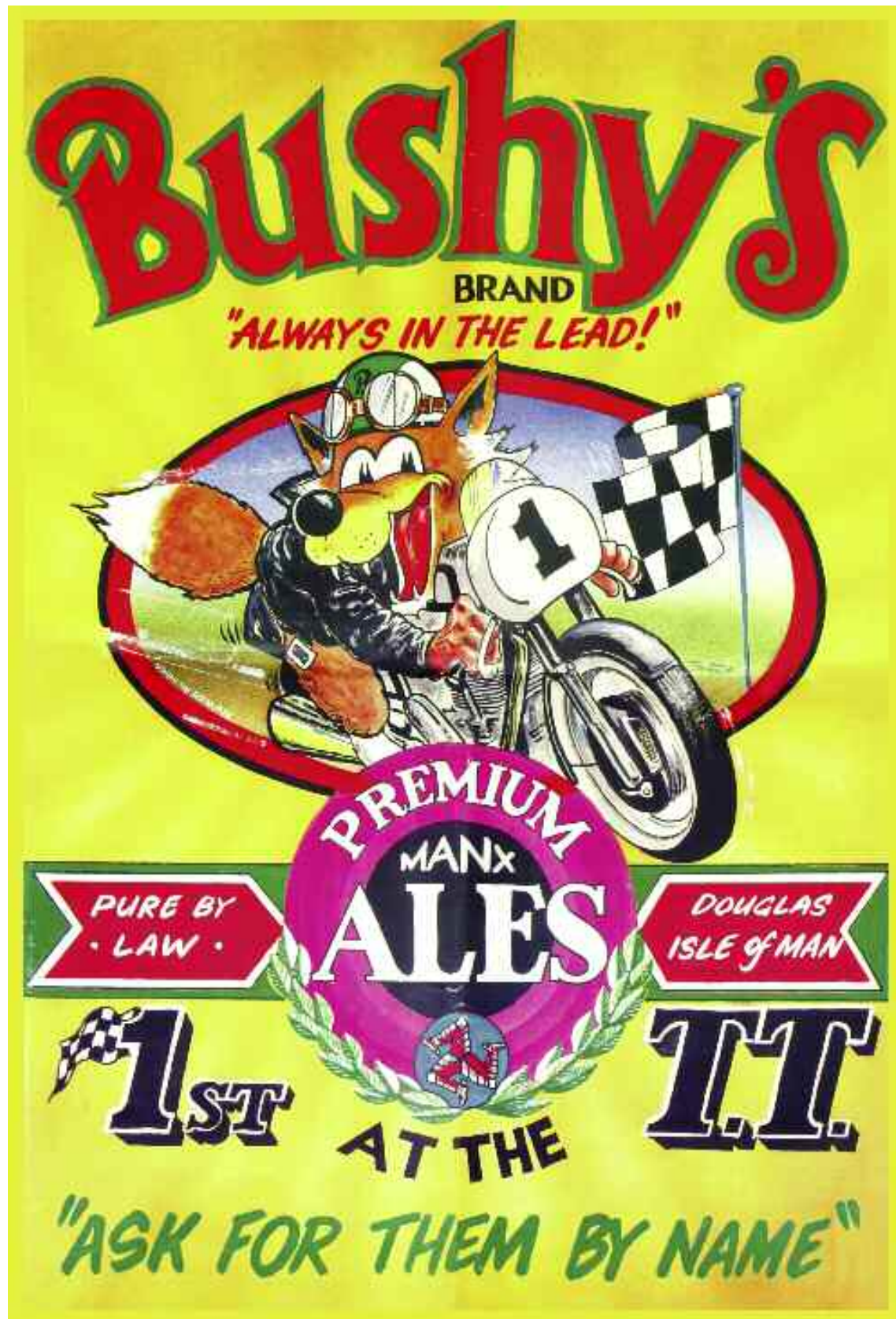


Better known as The Gluepot this H&B pub held a fifteen beer festival over 'tin bath world championships' weekend from Thursday 5th July to Sunday 8th July. To the uninitiated particularly in the U.K. this believe it or not is an international event racing tin baths in Castletown Harbour. Davy Jones' locker unsurprisingly features quite prominently during the course of the event! (Think planes off Brighton Pier). Anyway, all good harmless fun, now enhanced by what is hoped to become an annual beer festival in this iconic pub setting alongside the harbour and the castle. Interestingly H&B decided to market the event by producing a tasting guide with all the beers in ascending strength order, which proved particularly useful.

Vagabonds Beer Festival

Vagabonds, an Isle of Man mainstay Rugby Union Club in outer Douglas close to Nobles Hospital, held its





first beer festival in July featuring 20 guest ales. Proceeds went to develop club funds. With live jazz music, and described as 'the first festival of many' all went well. The festival was opened by non other than Geoff Corkish, Douglas West M.H.K. Mr Corkish, is his former days with the Steam Packet before election to the House of Keys, has offered huge support to real ale - not least a few years ago when he arranged for MerseyAle to be brought over to the Island for the first time, via his Steam Packet connections, for which we remain indebted.

The British Refurbished

The Heron and Brearley refurbishments continue apace, with The British on the Quay, Douglas having undergone a full refurbishment. The pub is now a



single roomed open plan venue with wooden flooring and a mixture of tables, bar stools, and sofa style seating. A surfeit of scatter cushions can make it difficult to sit down. For Merseyside fans there was a Fab Four cushion but it seems to have disappeared! Iconic photographs of British stars of film and stage such as Hitchcock and a young Oliver Reed adorn the walls, along with a portrait of a young Queen Elizabeth. There is a London look with a section of the Central line tube map painted on the walls and large station type clocks on the walls.

Food is served lunchtimes and evenings. A small outdoor seating area has comfortable chairs. Interestingly, by the time MerseyAle goes to print, a first floor

"British Embassy" venue will be opened, capable of catering for 80 diners in a room that can be split into three sections when required. Functions and meetings will be accommodated, and the views over the inner harbour should be spectacular. There will be a bar on the first floor to cater for these functions.

Real ale wise, there is a massive increase in the offering with eight hand pumps in two banks of four. Currently one bank is reserved for Okells ales, with guests on the other. Commendable commitment here, although it remains to be seen whether there is sufficient demand to sustain such a large number of ales in good condition over winter months. However as with many seaside locations, there is no shame in reducing the number of ales on sale during quieter months.

Once again Heron and Brearley have succeeded with another well thought out refurbishment.

Doghouse Brewery

The new Doghouse Brewery in Jurby was set to make its first commercial brew week of 13th August. Note the brewer advises that the Doghouse brewery in U.K. listed on the w.w.web is now defunct after a name change and has no relation to the Jurby venture.

The Central in Peel and the Bay View Port St Mary

Reopened some months ago the Central continues to thrive. Rumours persist that the now



closed Bay View Hotel on the front at Port St Mary may reopen soon.

The Stanley Ramsey

In the North long standing landlord of The Stanley, Ramsey, Colin



Clarke has retired after a fantastic stint of 24 and a half years. New landlord Martin Timoney is busy redecorating the pub and is retaining real ale. He will be supporting the football, Gaelic football, as well as returning the pub to the mens and ladies darts league.

The Northern Bar and Grill Ramsey is now Bar Logo

It has returned to its former name of Bar Logo, and is undecided as to whether to continue with real ale.

Two New Real Ale Venues

The Heron, in Anagh Cooar in outer Douglas, has for some time stocked two or three real ales. A further MerseyAle feature will appear in a future edition.

In St Johns, Greens licensed café



opposite the Tynwald Inn is stocking Bushys bitter. Now there are those who sometimes have to do their duty and take the relatives out for tea and scones, when the pub would otherwise beckon. They could do far worse than to accidentally on purpose chance upon the excellent Greens and discover by surprise the ale inside. For once don't just attribute this finding to MerseyAle!

Dave Halliwell

BALTIC FLEET



Baltic Fleet Beers

Liverpool's only Brew Pub - The Home of Wapping Brewery

Award Winning Beers
Winners of Champion Beer of Britain Awards

All your favourites plus our own Wapping Brewery Beers



Stan Shaw,
Wapping's Award Winning Brewer

Food available every day
WE SERVE SCOUSE & LOCAL PIES (Johnsons Toxteth)

MUSIC **SEA SHANTIES**
Last Saturday of the month More Live Music coming soon



10 years and a Million Pints!

The Baltic Fleet Pub and Brewery, Wapping Liverpool opposite the ECHO ARENA



Peerless Brewing Company Ltd

The Brewery, 8 Pool Street, Birkenhead CH41 3NL

Tel Brewery: 0151 647 7688 Sales: 07840 260 669 Fax: 0151 211 1963

E-mail: steve.briscoe@peerlessbrewing.co.uk Website: www.peerlessbrewing.co.uk



Jinja Ninja

Awarded Overall Champion Bottled Beer at the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) Northern Area Beer Competition 2011

Massive push to get past 100,000 signature target

CAMRA E-Petition update-sign today



Massive push to get past 100,000 signature target

A HUGE effort to promote the duty escalator petition throughout August has seen the Campaign close to the 100,000 target required to secure a parliamentary debate.

It makes the duty e-petition the third most signed petition on the government website and the most popular petition which has yet to achieve the 100,000 target.

The e-petition aims to force the chancellor to stop the duty escalator which sees around five percent automatically added to the cost of a pint every year – harming the pub trade.

A further 5,000 signatures collected at the Great British Beer Festival were being entered onto the e-petition as What's Brewing went to press – but it looked likely the petition total would top *85,000 by the end of the month, just 15,000 shy of the total.

But CAMRA's campaign team is not complacent and knows that the remaining signatures will prove as hard to get as the first 85,000.

Campaigns manager Emily Ryans said: "We've got the easy signatures and talked to the easy-to-contact members. The last 15,000 names are going to be the hardest to secure."

The team plans to continue to campaign at beer festivals in September.

In addition brewery liaison officers are being encouraged to get Their breweries involved in the campaign – signing up staff and promoting the e-petition to their customers.

To date 5,500 point-of-sales kits have been sent to pubs to promote the e-petition and petition forms have been inserted into pub newspaper *The Publican's Morning Advertiser* and *BEER and What's Brewing*.

Campaigns officer Clair Cain said there was still promotional stock available. She added: "I'd also like to remind everyone to return their

petition insert, if they haven't done so already. Make sure you've put your email on it please! If you've lost it, you can download it from the CAMRA website."

Tom Stainer What's Brewing

5-MINUTE ACTIVISM

- If you've not signed, sign!
- If you have signed make sure you've clicked on the confirmation link in the email you have been sent
- Post links to www.saveyourpint.co.uk on Twitter, G+ and Facebook, add to your email signature
- If you run a pub, order promotional material. If you don't, ask the licensee if you can order material on their behalf and put up around the premises

***Latest E-Petition update-over 93,000 signatures!**



"The fact Britons are forced to pay over 40% of the EU beer tax bill, but consume only 13% of the beer sold in Europe, is remarkable. British beer in a pub is so heavily hit with duty and VAT, the tax man's whirlwind hikes translate to him guzzling a third of every pint served, a shadow cast over the beer drinker depriving people of an affordable night down their local." - Mike Benner, Chief Exec, CAMRA.

WATERLOO

BEER FESTIVAL 22-25 NOVEMBER

Old Christ Church Waterloo Road
Waterloo L22 1RE

200+ REAL ALES and CIDERS

Lagers & Continental Beers
Food by Peninsula Pies
& Liverpool Cheese Co.

Entertainment at every
session. Saturday afternoon
the fantastic **South London
Jazz Orchestra. Music all
day Sunday.**

Thurs Evening	22nd 6:00pm - 10:30pm
Fri Afternoon	23rd 12:00pm - 4:30pm
Fri Evening	23rd 6:00pm - 10:30pm
Sat Afternoon	24th 12:00pm - 4:30pm
Sat Evening	24th 6:00pm - 10:30pm
Sunday	25th 12:00pm - 8:00pm

Sponsored by
WATERLOO
ORGANIC
BEERS



Tickets available online. For further details of the festival
visit www.waterloobeerfestival.com

MerseytravAlers

Two Lunes in Lancaster



St Georges Quay, Lancaster
by Earthwatcher, Inset Alan Lloyd the
author and one of the Lunes.



Despite the poor weather this summer a friend and I decided to hit the rails and head off to Lancaster. It was many years since I last visited this very pleasant town and only had vague memories of the pub scene.

After a good rail journey we set off to find the **'George and Dragon'** on St. George's Quay, an area of renovated 18th century warehouses, overlooking the River Lune. It is a small narrow terraced pub, with a beer garden at the rear.



After speaking with the landlady we discovered there was a path from the beer garden to the railway station; must remember for next time. The landlady apologised for only having two beers on, **Deuchars** and **Summer Lightning** as the night before had been rather busy. I for one will not complain about having to have a pint of Summer Lightning!

While having our beer we read an article in the local Lunesdale Drinker about a visit to Crosby and Waterloo*, quite weird!! Both beers were in fine form and we soon got chatting to the landlady with her four legged companion 'George.' As she said if he's George I must be the Dragon!! After a number of



years in the business she only took over here a few weeks ago and is getting things as she wants them. At present meals are not available but are on the things to do list. A very pleasant start to our afternoon.

Our next pub was the **'Three Mariners'** about 5 minutes' walk from the 'George and Dragon' by the Millennium Bridge. This is said



to be the oldest pub in Lancaster and is partly built into the side of Castle Hill. The bar area is quite compact with plenty of wood and



leather. They had 4 beers available, **Coniston Bluebird**, **Cross Bay Sunset**, **Butcombe Bitter** and **York Guzzler**. All the beers were good and reasonably priced. There is a larger room to the right of the bar which looked as though it was mainly used for meals. Unusually they have a gravity fed cellar and the beer arrives from the floor above (like the 'Hole in the Wall' used to be!). There is a small area outside to sit, in fact it is the site of the old A6 road.

From here we headed up into the town to find **'The Sun'** in Church



Street. A very different style of pub to the other two, but then again it is also a very successful hotel and dining venue. Records of the building date back to the 17th century when it also provided accommodation. The modernised and minimalist bar has kept some



of the original features including a very large 300 year old oak door, a fireplace and some very nice stonework. They had **10 hand pumps** of which 9 were available. There were 6 Lancaster Brewery beers on (the place is owned by the company who own Lancaster Brewery), **DBC Jurassic**, **Thwaites**

*Two Lunes are from Crosby, Waterloo area. ed



SALOPIAN BREWERY

SHROPSHIRE GOLD
CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain 2011

ORACLE
SIBA West & Wales Champion Beer 2011

DARWIN'S ORIGIN
SIBA National Beer 2011

LEMON DREAM
CAMRA Champion Beer of the West Midlands 2010

HOP TWISTER
CAMRA West Midlands Best Beer of the Year 2011

GOLDEN THREAD
SIBA West & Wales Champion Beer 2011

Tel: 01743 248414
enquiries@salopianbrewery.co.uk
www.salopianbrewery.co.uk

LIVERPOOL ONE BREWERY

www.liverpoolonebrewery.co.uk
info@liverpoolonebrewery

Award-winning ales, brewed locally for local people, by local people.

Available at **LIVERPOOL ONE BRIDWELL**

Cask or Bottles
Order Hotline 07974 140023
82 - 84 Vauxhall Rd Liverpool L3 6DL

Two Lunes in Lancaster cont'd



Wainwright and Slater's Supreme. There were about 7 foreign beers on the fonts. These included a **Paulaner Wheat Beer** and **Timmermans Framboise**. The prices are higher than other pubs, over £3 a pint and Timmermans was on the menu at £5.20 a pint! The food menu is extensive and covers all bases from a coffee to a full blow out, and includes breakfast. They have opened up a beer garden to the rear of the building and have recently staged a 4 day beer festival. I only wish they



would not give you a small paper napkin to put your glass on, what is wrong with a beer mat! Overall I did like what they have done here and maybe one day, the Lottery willing, I will be able to stay here for a night or two. We then headed out of the centre towards the Lancaster Canal. Our next port of call was the **'Water Witch'** on the canal towpath. This



can be found by following the sign on the bridge on Penny Street. The pub is a large low building which has been converted from purpose built stables. The pub was previously a stable companion of the **Sun** (p55) but was sold on. There is a large seating area along the towpath which gives an extra dimension to eating and drinking in an urban area. The **'Water Witch'** is an



Water Witch sampler

excellent conversion and over the years has won a number of awards for both food and drink. When we were there they had **9 hand pumps** with a good variety of beers on offer. We decided to go for their 'sampler' offer. For some reason you get 4 x 1/3 pint glasses on a smart tray for £3.20. We tried **Dark Star Partridge, York Guzzler, OSB Headmaster and Everard's Tiger**. All beers were excellent. We did not try the food but what we saw looked very impressive.



Water Witch Bar

They even offered to swap your home grown produce for beer vouchers!! I think Beetroot was in demand by the chef when we were there.

A five minute walk along the towpath brought us to the **'White Cross'** another canal side hostelry, which can also be reached by road. This is a similar set up to the **'Water**

White Cross



Witch' with a number of benches and tables next to the canal. They had **14 hand pumps** with a wide range of beers available. We tried the **Allendale APA, Derwent Blonde and OSB Hopscotch** again all in good form. The bar manager was very knowledgeable and happy to chat about the beers and was able to give some suggestions on what we might like. The inside



White Cross Bar

of the pub is quite spacious and food is available.

Both the 'Water Witch' and the 'White Cross' offer discounts to CAMRA members on production of a valid membership card.

Time was moving on and as the train waits for no man we headed for the station. We would have liked to have stayed longer and to have tried a number of other inviting pubs such as **'Yorkshire House', 'John O'Gaunt'** (famous for its blues and jazz memorabilia and live music, its homemade Cullen Skink and for its misspelt brass Britannia class engine nameplate above the bar). **'The Penny Bank', 'Ring O'Bells' and Merchants 1688** to mention just a few. So we now have plenty of good reasons to revisit Lancaster sometime soon.

Alan Lloyd (Lune One)

THE OLD BANK

The Oldest Pub
On South Road



4 HAND PUMPS

Featuring
**CHANGING GUEST
BEERS FROM LOCAL
BREWERS**



**LIVE SPORT
KARAOKE TUES NIGHT
THURS, FRI, SAT & SUN - LIVE MUSIC**

**OUTSIDE SMOKERS COURTYARD
REFURBISHED FUNCTION ROOM
TRADITIONAL LOCAL FRIENDLY
PUB WITH GREAT ATMOSPHERE,
GREAT MUSIC AND GREAT ALES**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - OPEN MIC NIGHT

**LIVE MUSIC
5 NIGHTS PER WEEK**

43 SOUTH ROAD WATERLOO L22 5PE 0151 928 7020



spitting feathers!

We're Spitting feathers. Are you?
Common Farm, Waverton Chester CH7QT
Tel/Fax 01244 332052.

Spitting Feathers award winning beers are made only from the finest barley malts, hops and yeast and are free from colourings, flavouring and artificial additives.

THE BREWERY TAP ALE HOUSE
CAMRA Pub of the Year
6 HAND PUMPS GOOD FRESH FOOD
52-54 Lower Bridge Street, Chester, CH1 1RU
Tel 01244 340999 www.the-tap.co.uk

www.spittingfeathers.org

Chester



THE AUGUSTUS JOHN WINS THE DOUBLE



The month of May this year presented Liverpool pub the Augustus John with two reasons to celebrate.

The pub was awarded the Liverpool Cider Pub of the Year 2012, and also the Regional Cider Pub of the Year 2012 for the Merseyside & Cheshire region. Both achievements are testimony to the hard work that manager Tony O'Donnell and his team have put in at Peach Street pub over recent years.

No Liverpool pub has ever won the CAMRA Regional Cider award before with the award usually being passed around a worthy circuit of Cheshire pubs. This year the 'AJ' came top beating the **Harkers Arms** in Chester, the **Albion** in Warrington and the **Brass Balance** in Birkenhead. Three regional branch judges awarded the 'AJ' top place based on cider range, quality and value for money (£2.75 per pint).

Five Real Ciders at AJ

The pub always has at least five real ciders on sale, and incredibly from June this year, has had nine on sale at any one time. Many of the ciders like Cornish Orchards are rare in the Merseyside area. The 'AJ'

sits at the edge of the university campus and has recognised that real cider served well represents another revenue stream, that awards mean new customers plus publicity on the web and in local publications. The pub now advances in to the last sixteen of the national competition, the winner being announced in October.

Real Cider Grows in Popularity

The popularity of real cider across the country has grown considerably over the last five years. A few years ago the cider drinker had to know which was the specialist pub where cider was sold. These days many real ale pubs will stock at least one tub or bag-in-box of real cider or perry, as managers recognise the appeal to a broad range of drinkers regardless of age or gender. It's very likely that more pubs will be submitted for the Regional award in 2013. St Helens for example now has several pubs stocking real cider and Wirral too has seen a growth in the availability of real

cider. This is great news for us cider drinkers and for the pubs.

Cider Tasting Event Liverpool Real Ale Festival 2012

To celebrate October being cider month Liverpool CAMRA have organised a cider tasting upstairs at the **Crown Hotel, Lime Street.**

The tasting will be led by Cheshire cidemaker Mathew Veasey who is the proprietor of the Nooks Yard orchard at Northwich. Mathew is originally from Somerset and brings a great deal of cider making knowledge to the northwest. We will hear how ciders are a blend of different apples and we will each get the chance to blend a cider to our own taste.

There are only thirty places and the event is FREE but places must be booked via email.

Steve Berks

Cider Tasting Event Details

**Wednesday October
10th 7:45pm at the
Crown Hotel on Lime
Street. Book by Email:
Cider@inbox.com
Enquiries: 07718
638455**

The Turks Head

St Helens CAMRA
PUB OF THE YEAR
2009



Beer Festivals
throughout the year

A Traditional
Friendly Pub with
a Great
Atmosphere,
Real Fire
and an Ever
Changing range of
Real Ale



A CAMRA REGIONAL
PUB OF THE
YEAR

A Runner-up for the
CAMRA
NATIONAL PUB OF THE
YEAR

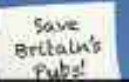
12 handpumps
Serving Traditional Ales
Ciders and Perry

- Draught continental beers ■ Wide selection of bottled continental beers
 - Tuesday - Quiz night 9-30 pm
 - Thursday - Curry and Jazz Night
 - Cask Marque ■ Good Beer Guide 2011
- Open Mon - Fri 2-11 Sat, Sun 12-11



Cooper St. St Helens Tel 01744 751289

A Campaign of Two Halves



Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 Email address _____
 Tel No(s) _____

Direct Debit Non DD

Single Membership: £20 £22
(UK & EU)

Joint Membership: £25 £27
(Partner at the same address)

For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

12/10

Campaigning for Pub Goers
& Beer Drinkers

Enjoying Real Ale
& Pubs

Join CAMRA today - www.camra.org.uk/joinus



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the white form using a ball point pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society: _____ Service User Number: _____

To the Manager: _____ Bank or Building Society

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Name(s) of Account Holder: _____

Branch Sort Code: _____

Bank or Building Society Account Number: _____

Reference: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



This Guarantee should be obtained and retained by the payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debit.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or it will have agreed if you request the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd to contact your bank or building society to confirm the amount and date will be paid to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit to The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are entitled to your money back when The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd asks for it.
- This Guarantee is a Direct Debit and does not apply to credit card payments or other payment methods.

Bank and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of accounts.

LONG DAY?



You're Due a Deuchars

fringe
THE CALEDONIAN BEER

CALEDONIANBEER.COM

for the facts drinkaware.co.uk