



Campaign
for
Real Ale

News & Ale

FREE
Summer 2024
No. 152

Wish You Were Here?



Join CAMRA at one of these Beer Festivals

Also in this Issue:

Read about CAMRA's Handpump Hijack campaign inside

The quarterly CAMRA magazine for beer drinkers in Surrey,
Kingston-upon-Thames, and the Surrey/Hants borders





IT MAY NOT HAVE GONE UNNOTICED THAT THE BREWERY HAS BEEN SHROUDED IN SCAFFOLDING SINCE APRIL

Every six years we undertake redecoration works, painting the wood, iron work and signage to maintain the appearance of our Grade II listed building. It gives us a chance to examine every element of the fabric and, inevitably, attend to the constant wear and tear that occurs with the passage of time.

A programme of works, involving stone masons, joiners, roofers, contractors, lead workers and glaziers has ensued under the supervision of our maintenance staff and consultant architects

The brewery was rebuilt in 1881 by Messrs Card & Son of Lewes from designs of the eminent brewery architect William Bradford of Carlton Chambers, Regent Street, London. During construction work, they unearthed the weather vane that sits on the top of the brewery tower. Dated 1621, it is believed to have originally graced St Thomas a Becket's Church in Cliffe High Street. In 1985, the smaller tower was added to the original in order to increase our production capacity. Built in the exact style of the existing building, it was the recipient of a Civic Trust Award and our listed status followed shortly afterwards.

In many ways, Harvey's is a 'heritage site'. Behind its brick façade you will find a production area that has been maintained over the centuries to reflect a time honoured brewing process. Sacks of UK grown malted barley and bales of locally grown hops are held within the original stores and brewing equipment has been maintained or replaced to perpetuate a method of production that has withstood the test of time. It takes a large number of dedicated staff to ensure that standards and procedures are maintained.

In an age where many companies are relocating to alternative sites and constructing breweries that are more automated and cost effective, we feel that the heritage of Harvey's is well worth protecting and maintaining. We are fortunate that many devoted customers share these same ideals and continue to enjoy a range of our award winning local beers.

We are very proud to remain brewing in the heart of Lewes.



www.harveys.org.uk





In this edition of News and Ale read about the latest CAMRA campaign to fight the “Handpump Hijack”. It is important to know that when beer is dispensed from a hand pump that it is Real Ale and not bright beer. The Grumpy Old Man’s alter ego aka Bob Southwell is let loose in Dundee, what’s his opinion on the pubs in the local area? Keep entering your beer scores as you may win a prize. Harvey’s have refreshed their range of beers. Hogs Back have their hops blessed.

Finally, read about the couple who have been at the same pub for 40 years.

Ed

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CAMRA Presentations



East and Mid Surrey CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year, Cider and Beer of the Festival Awards

The afternoon of Saturday the 27th of April 2024 saw members of East and Mid Surrey CAMRA branch assemble at Cobbett's Beer Shop and Micropub in Dorking to make a number of presentations. The first award went to Cobbett's themselves for winning our Branch Cider Pub of the Year for 2024, the second year in succession that they have won this title. Pictured here handing over the award is our branch chair, Rob Wells, surrounded by Tim and Helen from Cobbett's.



Presentation of Cider of the Festival to Eldred and Henry Barnard

Finally, we jointly presented both Cobbett's and Surrey Hills Brewery with the award for Redhill Beer of the Festival 2023 for Collusion XXX. As its name suggests, Collusion is an ongoing joint effort between the brewery and Cobbett's. Pictured again is Martin Longhurst handing over the awards to Jem from Surrey Hills and Tim from Cobbett's.



Presentation of the Cider pub of the Year to Tim and Helen from Cobbett's

The second award went to Barnard's Cyder for their Surrey Medium winning Redhill Cider of the Festival 2023, which is Barnard's first ever award. Produced locally in Abinger Hammer, their ciders can normally be found on sale at Cobbett's and were also available at this year's Farnham Beerex. Pictured below is our Redhill Festival Organiser, Martin Longhurst, making the presentation to Eldred and Henry Barnard, along with some of their ciders currently on sale in the shop.



Presentation of Beer of the Festival jointly to Jem from Surrey Hills and Tim from Cobbett's

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year Presentations

In recent years it has become an annual ritual to visit the Star in Godalming to present landlord Andy Mounsey and his wife Emma with a certificate for being the Surrey/Hampshire Borders branch of CAMRA's Cider Pub of the Year. Whilst Andy has always been pleased to receive this award, he has secretly wanted to win the branch Pub of the Year award.

The last time a Godalming pub won the award was in 2003 when Ian Thompson won the award at the Red Lion. Ian also ran the Star in Godalming, concentrating more on this pub when he sold the Red Lion.

Andy worked for Ian in those days but always wanted his own pub, initially taking on the Royal Oak in Guildford before returning to the Star to take over from Ian.

Andy was thrilled to be told that he done the double this year winning both Pub and Cider Pub of the Year. To celebrate this success Andy arranged with Waverley Council to close the road outside the pub on Saturday 11th May to have a party. Many locals and CAMRA members enjoyed the sunshine and a selection of no fewer than 17 – yes 17 Real Ales alongside the usual selection of ciders.

The presentation was made by Mick Bell, chairman of the Surrey/Hampshire Borders branch of CAMRA. It was encouraging to see the Mayor of Waverley enjoying the event, it was also great to see Ian Thompson again back at the Star.

Ian Johnson



Presentation to Andy Mounsey and his wife Emma from the Star



The road outside the Star was closed during the presentation

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA Branch Club of the Year Award

On 1st May the Surrey/Hants Borders (SHB) Branch presented their Club of the Year Award to the Woking Railway Athletic Club. The award was handed over to the Club committee representative Peter by the SHB Chairman Mick Bell. The club has built up a reputation over the years of serving good quality beer from a varied selection of different breweries. The club is also in the 2024 CAMRA Good Beer Guide. The club is open to card carrying CAMRA members, but regular visitors are required to join the club.



Old fashion Pub • Home cooked Pies • Real Ales • Garden and terrace
01483 222444 | The Street, West Clandon, Guildford GU4 7ST

Museum opens "Pubs and Breweries past and present in East Surrey" display

The East Surrey Museum in Caterham has just opened "Pubs and breweries past and present in East Surrey". Steve Taylor of Godstone Brewers came and opened the exhibition and gave a talk on brewing, which was so successful the Friends of the Museum went on a visit to his micro-brewery and tap room on the 7th June.



The exhibition includes a number of traditional pub games such as: shove ha'penny, table skittles, quoits. A large-scale map shows the location of all public houses in East Surrey, past and present with pictures (post cards from the museums extensive collection) of the pubs. There is a representation of a bar, with a selection of tankards, bottles, pumps and related material. They have also been loaned a number of brewing items by Godstone Brewers, showing the brewing process and are very proud of the original Clayton Arms sign from Godstone, which is now the White Hart.

The museum is located in Caterham and is dedicated to displaying and preserving artefacts and documents relating to the social history, archaeology and geology of East Surrey. From humble beginnings dating back to 1980, the museum has been on a mission to preserve and celebrate the rich tapestry of East Surrey's history. From ancient artefacts to more recent

relics, every corner of this museum is steeped in the stories of the past.

The museum is also a hub of community engagement and learning. Throughout the year, the museum hosts a variety of events designed to educate and inspire visitors of all ages. It also boasts a vibrant children's play area. Designed to engage and entertain young visitors, the play area offers a hands-on experience where children can learn about history through activities and games.

The East Surrey Museum is located at 1 Stafford Road, Caterham Surrey CR3 6JG. It is open Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 5:00pm and Saturday 10:30am to 4:00pm. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. Contact phone number is 01883 340275 and email eastsurreymuseum@gmail.com

Is your local pub
under threat?

CAMRA has the tools
to help you save it

camra.org.uk/saveyourlocal



Pub News **Round Up**



Full details of all the pubs mentioned here can be found using 'What Pub' at Whatpub.com.

ADDESTONE

Holly Tree

After several years without real ale, has recently featured one or two including Hardline Midnight and Hogs Back TEA. Hopefully real ale will become a regular event, more reports welcome. **Lawrence Milligan**

ALDERSHOT

Golden Lion

In early May a hungry party of fifteen enjoyed the magnificent Sunday Roast (£8.95 "Medium") and excellent Fullers London Pride. Note that Sunday lunch needs to be booked and is available September to May inclusive. **Peter Broberg**

Red Lion

On my recent visit there were four Real Ales available: Dorking Pilcrow Pale (4.0%), Sharps Doom Bar (4.0%), Robinsons Trooper (4.7%) and a collaboration beer between Adnams and Vocation Brewery called Balmy Days (4.3%). **PB**

Tracks

The former Funky End reopened in March following a major refurbishment, though it doesn't appear much has changed inside and real ale is still not available. **Kevin Travers**

White Lion

Triple fff beers have not been seen recently, with several other beers available instead. On my most recent visit there were two beers from Exmoor Brewery, "Ale" (3.8%) a classic bitter and "Cheeseburger Chaser II" (4.0%) a deep golden ale. The latter beer was stated to come from "Pathfinder by Exmoor Brewery" which is a small batch brew facility at the brewery. Triple fff fans (i.e. me) will be pleased to hear that Triple fff beers will be returning soon. **PB**

BETCHWORTH

Dolphin

This Young's pub has reduced its beer range to maintain quality, and I wish more pubs would do this as now casks tend to last just a couple of days. On sale will normally be one Young's beer plus two guests, such as Harvey's Sussex Bitter,

Twickenham Naked Ladies or with one from Surrey Hills or By the Horns. **Roy Golding**

BLACKWATER

Royal Swan

Reopened in April with a new tenant, but it is not known if real ale has been reintroduced. **KT**

BOOKHAM

Anchor

The new owners have retained Surrey Hills Ranmore and Fullers London Pride as regular ales. Good home cooked food is available at lunchtimes and on Friday fish nights. **Frank Charlesworth**

Old Crown

Recently acquired by Heartwood Collection and currently undergoing renovation as a Heartwood Inn. Reopening date not known at the time of writing. **Jon Clark**

BRAMLEY

Wheatsheaf

This pub is almost next door to the Jolly Farmer, which in real ale terms casts a significant shadow. It seems to cater for a different clientele, particularly it has an actively used pool table. Fuller's London Pride is on as a staple and usually one other real ale which was Butcombe Bitter on the day of my visit. **Charles Meade-King**

BROCKHAM

Royal Oak

Having been closed for a few months, the Royal Oak re-opened in May 2024. Surrey Hills Ramore is on sale alongside Timothy Taylor Landlord. On a visit shortly after re-opening it was good to notice Ranmore was being ordered far more frequently than any other product. **RG**

BUCKLAND

Pheasant

This Bruuning and Price pub on the A25 between Reigate and Dorking was found to be selling a good selection of local beers, including Dorking, Surrey Hills and Titsey on a weekday evening in May. **RG**

BURPHAM

Anchor & Horseshoes

The pub has had a small refurbishment and

increased the range of real ales from three to four. Greene King Abbot Ale is permanent with three guests. Pilgrim Morris performs at the pub each summer. Pint jugs are available and quiz nights are proving a hit. **Dylan Thomas**

CAMBERLEY

Bear

Terry's done really well here since taking over from Sully's young widow last year – the place is buzzing most of the time, with a good menu to choose from, and groups popping in for a coffee and chat. A variety of cocktails seem to be popular, too, as well as the variety of lagers and beers. Among recent cask ales we've often seen favourites such as Twickenham, Black Sheep, and Hogs Back beers. Behind the bar Connor (who's been here for eight years, so also knew Sully well) and the crew are kept busy, especially when they have live music on, and even busier than usual! The 'loos' have been totally re-done recently, and the gents and ladies swapped around, with new toilets, hand-driers, etc. Well done, Terry and the crew! **Doug Fish**

Cabin

Since taking over the lease of this outlet in 2017, constructing an excellent wooden bar, and furnishing with all sorts of bric-a-brac around the place, the Cabin has become a firm favourite with many of us in the area. Although there's no cask ale here, they have draught Guinness, Amstel, and Hofmeister, complemented by a large variety of bottled beers and ciders, including some bottle-conditioned beers such as St Austell Proper Job. Live bands feature every Sunday afternoon, professional bands alternating weekly with Open Mic sessions, and special Midnight Blues nights on the last Monday evening of each month. Thanks for creating this maverick pub in Camberley, Sparks, ably assisted by your ever-cheerful staff! **DF**

Camberley & District Club

This is a private members' club, (knows locally as CADS) located close to Park Street's bustling shops and restaurants. The club is free of tie, enabling it to provide a broad choice of beers from many brewers, rotating a cask at a time, with a good range of bottled ales also available. The favourite casks have included Timothy Taylor, Courage and Windsor and Eton. In recent months, with more customers turning to lagers and craft beers, there has been a noticeable reduction in demand for nine-gallon casks, but considerable success is being enjoyed by moving towards bright beer,

which is supplied before every weekend. This has included Windsor & Eton Windsor Knot, and Loddon's Ferryman's Gold, which was superb, but did not last long, and will be ordered again soon. I hear that Triple fff Alton's Pride will be on tap shortly and look forward to visiting CADS Club again then. **Harry Fish**
Disruption is Brewing

Chris Davies took over the old Ascot brewery in Surrey Avenue (Camberley) about seven years ago, and soon decided that the time was right to expand to larger premises, which he found in the industrial area just on the Surrey side of the Blackwater River, in Lawrence Way. There he built a brand new brewery, and recently changed the name to Disruption is Brewing. The ground floor dedicated to the brewing process (and toilets!), and the upstairs area providing a long bar with plenty of seating, and a "cellar" behind, with loads of kegs of various types of beer, with the occasional cask offering. He later provided various games, such as table football and shuffleboard (amazing game!) and he encourages the use of the "mezzanine floor" as a place to enjoy a casual lunch, or watch special matches on a huge TV projection screen. The outside area is normally used for parking brewery vehicles, but for beer-festivals it serves as an excellent area for long tables and benches, and for food-serving areas. Thanks for your great initiative and energy Chris, and to all your team – carry on brewing, please! **DF**

CHERTSEY

Kings Head

Closed and boarded up for a couple of years, I believe this has now been purchased by the local Beacon Church. Subject of a listed building planning application to make alterations, with a view to development as a community hub. Maybe this will include a bar, but not known at this time. **LM**

Olde Swan

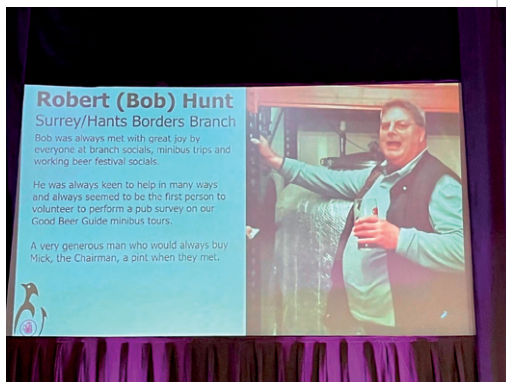
Received a Highly Commended Award in 2024 Cider Pub of the Year competition. Usually, a couple of real ciders on including Seacider. Excellent pizzas, and food menu has been recently updated. Dog friendly **LM**

Continued on page 14

Experiences of the Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA members who travelled to the National CAMRA AGM at Dundee



SHB Branch members and South Devon Chairman Bob Southwell outside the venue in Dundee



Tribute to Robert (Bob) Hunt who passed away last year

A healthy contingent from the Surrey Hants Borders branch travelled all the way to Dundee at the end of April to attend the National Weekend. Aside from the formal business there was plenty to do socially with a beer festival laid on in the venue, various organised side trips and the numerous

pubs in Dundee and the surrounds which had all been advised of the event and most had ensured they had a cask ale on which is not always the case in Scottish pubs. A few of us went to Law Brewery on an organised visit on the Saturday where we were royally looked after by Danny Cullen who is the owner, brewer and in fact everything at the brewery and his Mod (hopefully we have



Kevin Travers enjoying a pint at the LAW Brewery

all heard of Mods and Rockers from the 60's) themed beers which were all excellent and generously available to sample. During one of the intervals a super tribute was shown on the large screen for Robert (Bob) Hunt an active branch member who sadly passed away last year.

Tony Lea

I had not been to this part of Scotland for over 20 years. In those days the pubs were often dominated by English beers, if you could find real ale at all. Imagine my feelings back then when having travelled those many miles to be confronted with a pint of London Pride and I certainly don't recall Dundee as any sort of beer mecca. Since then, there has been an impressive national growth of breweries and beer choice so I was hoping that the situation had improved. The railway station was certainly improved with the frontage resembling King's Cross with its LNER bow arch exterior and modern internal escalator, but had the pubs and beer changed? Central Dundee has three pubs in the Good

Beer Guide (GBG). The Bank was the first to be tried with Mor's More Tea Vicar followed by the Phoenix with Orkney Dark Island, the quality was very good and not an English beer in sight. There was also food on sale, but it was low key and the "English disease" with prominent menus, place settings and reserved signs was yet to arrive. They were pubs with food but weren't trying to be a restaurant. There was also a Wetherspoon in the GBG, but this proved to be a disappointment. First impressions were encouraging with a large bank of hand pumps. I went English and requested a Roosters beer, but the quality was poor and I was obliged to beer score it as a 1. There were probably too many beers to maintain good quality, but I could not be certain of this as the chain has the habit of not putting beers on all the hand pumps with a "coming soon" sticker on them. I am a supporter of Wetherspoon's pubs and do not wish to be seen as "knocking" them. In fairness they were incredibly busy, not least in catering for all those CAMRA members who had descended upon the city with the conference venue little more than 300 yards away. In general Wetherspoon is well represented in this part of Scotland. A fair-sized town like Arbroath has only one pub in the GBG and that is a Wetherspoon which probably says something about the local availability of real ale. Dundee is a relatively small and laid-back city with a nice feel to it. My only criticism is that there did not appear to be many bars in the town centre, but I did not have time to test the veracity of that statement. There is a good rail service towards Aberdeen and I was hoping to find some classic Scottish bars. We started in Montrose with only one GBG pub and easy to find from the station. Incidentally, the up platform has splendid views over the estuary, but is very exposed to any winter winds coming off the Highlands. The pub certainly had traditional elements, notably a mosaic floor and etched windows, but was not quite the real thing. That was to be found at a bar called The Grill in Union Street, Aberdeen with a long oak bar with ornate fittings and three Scottish beers. The other pubs in town did not come close, but the beer was fine. For some strange reason,



The Grill pub in Aberdeen

where smaller traditional bars were found they were often covered in fairy lights. Somehow the words tradition and fairy lights do not fit comfortably together. Broughty Ferry is on the same line and boasts four GBG pubs. The only one I can recall from the last visit was the Fisherman's Tavern which was one of few pubs boasting 25 consecutive years in the GBG but was subsequently dropped for one year spoiling its perfect record. It remains a fine pub as is the Ship Inn next door. Returning to Dundee by train the platform was heaving. Obviously, the attraction of four GBG pubs in one town was not to be missed by CAMRA members. On the Sunday we returned to the Bank where we had started three days earlier. The pub had been drunk dry and there was no real ale despite ordering three times the normal amount of beer. Next year the 2025 National CAMRA AGM is in on my home territory at Torquay!

Bob Southwell

After Dundee.....

When I booked a hotel in Dundee last year to attend this year's CAMRA AGM and Member's weekend I suggested to my wife, Janet, that we hire a motorhome and visit northern Scotland. She readily agreed so after a bit of research we booked our motorhome which became affectionately known as "Scooby" thanks to a registration plate including the letters SCO. We initially intended to do the North Coast 500,

a 500-mile route around northern Scotland however we began to hear stories that it might be crowded and not as good as we hoped so we decided to visit the Outer Hebrides. Once things had wound up in Dundee, we drove over to Perth to pick up Scooby. I'd made some beery enquiries and contacted the local CAMRA branch who confirmed that Real Ale is a bit of a rarity in the area. Setting off from Dundee we headed for Nairn, near Dundee where we found the excellent Bandstand pub. This had lovely views over the Moray Firth although more importantly an excellent pint of Cromarty White Out a 3.8% golden ale alongside TT Landlord and Inveralmond Ossian Ale both also in great condition. Unfortunately, we were a few days early for their beer festival however I'm sure the locals will have enjoyed themselves. Next day it was onward to Ullapool for the ferry to Stornoway. As we had a couple of hours to wait in Ullapool, I investigated the local pubs. WhatPub indicated that the Argyll Hotel was the best bet however I was told that they didn't do Real Ale until May as there was no demand. I found this amusing as it was April 30th and the next day would be May 1st!! My thirst was slaked on the ferry as they sold Loch Ness Brewery bottled beer although not bottle conditioned. Stornoway had one bar that sold Real Ale, the Crown Inn. A decent pint of Fyne Ales Jarl and a half of Deuchars IPA were enjoyed after a day wandering around the town and some local beaches. We spent the next few days driving southwards through the islands. It was quite a few days later that I found some more Real Ale in the Westford Inn on North Uist. Fyne Jarl along with Isle of Skye Red and YP were available plus a couple of Willams Brewery beers (Birds & Bees and Joker) on keg. I had found a brewery in Tarbert, Loomshed however they just brewed a lager and a Scottish Ale. I visited the brewery and tried both, a bit cold and gassy but it was good to see at least someone trying to brew local beer.



The Loomshed brewery in Tarbert

We had to catch a ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray, and beside the ferry car park was the Isle of Harris Brewery, they had 10 beers available, again all keg but a far better choice.

I'd heard good reports of pubs on Eriskay, the Am Politician, named after the ship that sank nearby that inspired the film Whisky Galore, unfortunately had only Isle of Skye Red in bottles and Drygate Seven Peaks and Caledonian Best on keg. The Polochard Inn had bottles of Isle of Skye Red, Gold, Black and Raven alongside Skye IPA on keg. There were also some empty Loomshed kegs outside although the barmaid couldn't tell me anything about them. We returned through the Isle of Skye where the Slaighcan hotel sounded good. The onsite Cuillin Brewery is still operating, however the cask beer is only sold in Seuma's Bar and this week it was closed on the day we visited so I had to settle for Cuillin Session, a keg beer. All in all we had a great holiday, the scenery and beaches were stunning, we saw White Tailed Eagles, Golden Eagles, visited beautiful deserted beaches however the lack of decent beer was a bit of a disappointment.

Ian Johnson



Forty years, and still going in Farnborough



On Saturday 4th May, Peter and Julie Moore celebrated being at the Prince of Wales, Farnborough, for 40 glorious years. John Medhurst bought the Prince of Wales in 1981 as part of his Memory Inns estate. In 1984 Peter and Julie were employed as landlord and landlady at the pub. They themselves bought the pub from John in 2002, and the ownership has remained with them.

For anyone who has not yet visited, this is a wonderful multi-award winning Real Ale pub. With five regular beers on the front bar and five guest beers on the back bar, there is always something to enjoy. They hold a beer festival in October and other events throughout the year.

The day of celebration generated lots of conversations starting "Do you remember when ..." and ended with NRG, a local duo, playing up-tempo covers to an enthusiastic crowd dancing and singing along.

Congratulations to Peter and Julie for keeping such a great pub for us all to enjoy, for the past 40 years.



John Medhurst, Julie and Peter Moore



Current manager Jack with Peter Moore

Val MacT



DOCKENFIELD

Bluebell

Robin Catchpole and his family have been running the Bluebell for the past 11 years. Turning a fairly run-down pub into a successful gastropub, which recently won a very highly prized Estrella Damm top Gastropubs award. Whilst the focus is very much on food, up to four local real ales are also available. However, a threat to the very future of the pub has arisen following a planning application, currently being considered by the local council. This is to remove an existing requirement that the house next to the pub cannot be sold or leased separately from the pub. Whilst on the surface this might seem quite innocuous, it actually presents a serious threat to the pub's future if it were to be approved. The landlord lives in the house and it is obvious that to sever the link between the pub and its adjacent dwelling would threaten the very existence of the Bluebell as a viable establishment as the success of the pub is intrinsically tied to the presence of its proprietors on site. Furthermore, the assertion that the quality and viability of the pub are unaffected by such a separation is not only erroneous but also profoundly shortsighted. Fortunately, the local community seems to agree, with over 80 objections all making broadly the same points. **KT**

DORKING

Cricketers

There is a new landlord here and the pub is now open every day from midday till 11:30pm and does food every day. Tim has taken over from Rosie, who had been the landlady for fifteen years. It was good to see that he has restarted the beer festivals, which had stopped after COVID. For the one held from 6th to 9th May there were thirteen beers in the tent outside as well as the four inside. **Sally Gingell Old House**

This pub, now run by Dorking Brewery, recently had their Aldhurst Original, Black Noise, DB One and Pilcrow Pale available as well as Pilgrim Progress as a guest. **SG**

DORMANSLAND

Old House at Home

Continues to be a popular village pub, with two well-kept ales available. **Peter Spooner**

EAST HORSLEY

Thatchers Hotel

This hotel closed during lockdown and was subsequently used to house refugees but

reopened in April. It has a typical hotel bar, open to non-residents, but the availability of real ale is not known. **KT**

EAST MOLESEY

Europa

Recently reopened after refurbishment and now part of Stonegate's Craft Union chain, Fullers London Pride and Timothy Taylors Landlord are typically available. Live sport is shown and there is a pool table in the back bar. **John Burns**

Poyntz Arms

This former Shepherd Neame pub reopened in April 2024 under the management of Esher based brewery Big Smoke. Up to ten real ales are on offer several from Big Smoke and Shepherd Neame plus guest beers from around the country. A good range of quality food is available all day and the pub has regular live music including an Irish jig band every Thursday. 10% CAMRA discount except on Mondays when all ales are currently £3.50. **JB**

EGHAM

Egham United Services Club

The Beer Festival in March was again successful, with many ales selling out in first couple of days. Winner of Branch Club of the Year 2024, and currently subject of ongoing refurbishment. Check WhatPub in case opening hours are affected. The next Festival is planned for Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th July 2024, where further funds will be raised for local charities. **LM**

EGHAM HYPHE

Compasses

Has been closed and boarded up for over a year, and is the subject of a planning application to demolish and redevelop as housing. This has been turned down by Runnymede Borough Council due to flood plain related restrictions rather than loss as a pub. **LM**

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Happy Man

Regular beer festivals, most recently in May. Four ever changing real ales, and food menu recently revamped. **LM**

EVERSLEY

White Hart

This traditional pub is on the edge of Eversley village, known for its close connections with Charles Kingsley, and the local cricket club, one of

the oldest in the country. The pub is well run by Tori and Zoe, who have extensive experience in the hospitality industry, and are now providing good food as well as a range of drinks. On my recent visit I enjoyed the Black Sheep Respire session ale (4%) which was in excellent condition, and also a very fine meal, so I'll be back soon! There is an extensive car park and garden area, with picnic benches, very popular on summer evenings. This is a dog-friendly pub, with canine treats in jars on the bar. On cold winter evenings you will be welcomed by a log fire. Best to phone in advance for your bookings and information: 01183-437031. **HF**

FOX CORNER (WORPLESDON)

Fox

A recent stop found five local beers, two from Surrey Hills, two from Tillingbourne and one from Dorking. I first tried the Surrey Hills Ranmore and it was fantastic. I then tried a beer which is not normally to my taste, Dorking Aldhurst Original, and this was also really good. You can get a CAMRA discount here. **RG**

GODALMING

Antelope

This new craft beer bar and bottle shop finally opened in April. It is serving a range of 10 keg beers, from microbreweries across the world, but no real ale. **KT**

HOOKWOOD

Black Horse

Now no longer in the clutches of Badger Brewery, this free house sells three cask beers with Sharp's Doom bar available alongside one or two guests. This was found to be By the Horns Ho-padelic on a recent trip. The pub's main draw is the food. Alongside a more standard pub group menu there is a large selection of Indian meals. **RG**

LIMPSFIELD CHART

Carpenters Arms

Since the pub was acquired by Titsey Brewery, three of their ales are available, plus Harvey's Sussex Best and Larkin's Traditional. **PS**

NUTFIELD MARSH

Inn on the Pond

In a rural position between Merstham and Nutfield, this Shepherd Neame pub sells two of their beers, Whitstable Bay Pale and Spitfire. A good pint of the former was enjoyed on a recent visit, whilst overlooking the surrounding countryside. **RG**

OCKLEY

Cricketers

The beers available at this pub in April were Surrey Hills Ranmore and Shere Drop as well as Harveys Best. **SG**

Inn on the Green

On the same trip in April the guest here was Arbor Mosaic alongside the regular Surrey Hills Shere Drop. **SG**

OKWOOD HILL

Punchbowl

There was an unusual beer for the area available in April here. Timothy Taylor Landlord Dark was on as well as Dark Star Hophead, Fullers London Pride and St. Austell Proper Job. **SG**

OXTED

Oxted Inn

Next to the station it usually has up to seven ales available, including various guests. The demise of Cellar Head Brewery will sadden some customers, as their popular ales regularly featured on the bar. **PS**

REDHILL

Garibaldi

The pub has been put up for auction but the group operating this community run free house on the southern edges of Redhill is trying to raise £500,000 through Crowdfunding to buy the freehold of the premises. **RG**

REIGATE

Roe Deer

On Croydon Road, a little was away from the town centre, this small pub has one real ale on sale, with Timothy Taylor Landlord alternating with St Austell Tribute. The former was in good condition on a recent visit. **RG**

SHALFORD

Parrot Inn

There is the possibility of good news of the pub reopening one day. A planning application from Pearmain Pubs has been submitted - 24/P/00613. Proposed single story and first floor extensions, timber frame pergola, garden outbuilding and associated landscaping; changes to fenestration, new ventilation and kitchen plant. **C M-K**

Continued on page 26

Social Events and CAMRA Contacts



All social events can change due to unforeseen circumstances such as rail strikes that were not known at the time of publication. Please check the latest updates on each respective CAMRA branch web site before attending an event. Only social events known at the time of publication are shown. If you are attending your first social event, then you may wish to email the respective branch and let them know that you are attending their event so they can look out for you at the event.

£2 single bus fares scheme extended to end of 2024

The Government scheme to limit single bus fares to £2 (two singles are often cheaper than a return ticket) has been extended to the end of 2024 (please check if your route is covered by this scheme before travelling <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#south-east>). Please take advantage of this scheme to travel by bus (where possible) to your pub as travelling by bus is still below the level pre-Covid and many bus routes are under threat of being withdrawn.

JULY

Friday 5th Pub Walk from Headley to Mickleham.

Bus 21 from Epsom (High St) 11:02am Leatherhead (the Crescent) 11:18am gets to the Cock in Headley at 11:30am. We will spend an hour or so there then walk over the hill to the William IV at Mickleham on to Surrey Hills Brewery or get the bus at 1:20pm which stops near the brewery. [K&L]

Friday 5th July 12:00pm Crossways, Churt Beer Festival with a presentation to recognise Teresa Ewen's 30-year management of the Crossways Pub. [SHB]

Wednesday 10th 1:00pm onwards. Branch visit to Ealing Beer Festival. [K&L]

Wednesday 17th 6:00pm Guildford Pizza and Beer Night Meet at the Britannia then walk one mile to the Olde Ship Inn for 7:30pm serving excellent pizzas. Please confirm by July 7th to allow the table to be booked using contact social@shb.camra.org.uk [SHB]

Tuesday 23rd 8:00pm Branch Meeting at the Running Horse, Leatherhead. [K&L]

Thursday 25th 1:00pm Egham Beer Festival Social. [SHB]

AUGUST

Saturday 3rd 11:00am Fleet Beer Festival Social. [SHB]

Wednesday 7th 8pm New Members Social Prince Arthur, Fleet [SHB]

Wednesday 14th 12:00pm Thameside Tootle. Meet at midday under the clock at Waterloo Station. This is an opportunity to enjoy ales in some wonderful historic pubs on, or close to the Thames. Please let us know if you'll be coming along by emailing Social@shb.camra.org.uk [SHB]

Tuesday 20th 8:00pm: Summer Pub of the Season, venue to be confirmed on the K&L CAMRA website. [K&L]

Sunday 25th 2:00pm Long Service award to Rick at the Willoughby Arms, Kingston, to celebrate 32 years as licensee (presentation at 3:00pm). [K&L]

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th 12:00pm Branch Social at Haslemere Beer Festival. Time to be confirmed on the SHB CAMRA website once details of any rail engineering works are known. [SHB]

Tuesday 10th 8:00pm Branch Meeting at Walton Village, Walton-on-Thames. [K&L]

Wednesday 11th 6:30pm New Members Social in Haslemere. Meet at Hapers (near the station and then visit pubs in Haslemere that are part of the Halsemere Ale Trail. See SHB CAMRA website for further details. [SHB]

Saturday 14th September 12:30pm Pub Walkfest (Wanborough to Godalming). This pub walk is also part of the "Guildford WalkFest" event. Meet at Wanborough Station 12.30pm. The walk will visit the Good Intent, Cyder House (Shackleford) to finish at the Star (Godalming). [SHB]

Thursday 19th 7:30pm Shuffleboard Evening at Ascot Brewery. Disruption is Brewing Company Tap Room, Camberley. We have acquired exclusive use of the brewery's shuffleboard free of charge from 7.30pm until close! A great opportunity to enjoy excellent beers and take part (if you fancy it), in informal shuffleboard matches. To have an idea of numbers please let us know you are going by emailing the Social Secretary on Social@shb.camra.org.uk [SHB]

Friday 27th Worthing Micropub Tour. A day tour of micropubs in Worthing. Details to be available on the SHB CAMRA website <https://shb.camra.org.uk>. [SHB]

OCTOBER

Saturday 5th 12:00pm Royal Surrey Hospital Social Club Beer Festival. Join SHB branch members to sample five beers including one dark. There is also a barbecue, food and light music. The RSH Social Club is served by seven buses per hour from Guildford. [SHB]

Saturday 19th 12:00pm Prince of Wales, Farnborough Beer Festival. Join branch members at the Annual Beer Festival. [SHB]

BEER FESTIVALS

LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th June, Guildford Beer Festival at Guildford Cricket Club. Full details and ticket purchasing options can be found at <https://guildfordbeerfestival.co.uk/>

Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd June, Godalming Beer Festival The return for the third year of Godalming's beer festival. Earlier in the year than previously, but again being held in Bury Field and expect to see over 70 cask ales, craft beer, gin, cider, music, street food and games. Organised by the SHB Branch Cider Pub of the Year, The Star, Godalming. More details and early bird tickets are available at

<https://godalmingbeerfestival.co.uk/home/>

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June, Crown, Horsell Beer Festival

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July, Crossways, Churt Beer Festival Details will be posted on the SHB CAMRA website <https://shb.camra.org.uk>

Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th July, 43rd Egham Real Ale and Cider Festival. Forty plus ales and ciders, many from Britain's newest breweries. BBQ, hot and cold food, live music Friday and Saturday evening. The Egham United Services Club is five minutes walk from Egham Railway Station and buses 8, 441 and an occasional 500 from the nearby High Street.

<http://www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk/>

Saturday 3rd August, Fleet Beer Festival, Harlington Bar, Fleet. Organised by Fleet Lions, full details and how to get tickets are at

<http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/beerfest/>

Saturday 10th August, Barley Mow Beer and Music Festival, Winchfield.

Friday 6th to Saturday 7th September, Haslemere Beer Festival. The festival is held in Haslemere Hall serving over 50 real ales, ciders, and perries, a wide range of live music and local food. Tickets can be purchased at <https://tickets.haslemerehall.co.uk/sales/genres/events/haslemere-beer-festival-2024/> in due course.

Friday 4th to Saturday 5th October, Ascot Beer Festival. Full details available at <https://ascotbeerfest.org.uk/> later in the year.

Saturday 5th October, 12:00pm to 5:00pm Royal Surrey Hospital Social Club Beer Festival. 1 Gill Ave Guildford GU2 7WW. Five cask beers and barbecue.

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October, Prince of Wales, Farnborough Beer Festival. The festival is celebrating its 23rd anniversary with a selection of beers from local micro breweries. As well as cask ales, craft beers and ciders will be available and there will be a BBQ and live music each day.

Friday 1st to Saturday 2nd November, Alton Beer Festival. Full details available at <https://www.altonbeerfestival.org.uk> later in the year.

CAMRA NATIONAL EVENTS

Note, there is no summer Great British Beer Festival in 2024 but it is planned to return in 2025.

SURREY/HANTS BORDERS [SHB]

Includes all of the boroughs of Rushmoor, Surrey Heath & Woking and parts of Guildford, Hart and Waverley. Join the SHB Google group requests:

shb_camra@shb.camra.org.uk

Contact (Les Murrell): social@shb.camra.org.uk

Web: <https://shb.camra.org.uk>

NORTH SURREY [NS]

Includes the Boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne, from Stanwell in the north to Woodham in the south.

Contact: contact@northsurrey.camra.org.uk

Web: <https://northsurrey.camra.org.uk>

KINGSTON AND LEATHERHEAD [K&L]

Includes Kingston Borough, Leatherhead & Elmbridge.

You can also find us on Facebook or follow us on X

@CAMRAKL

Contact (John Burns): contact@kandl.camra.org.uk

Web: <https://kandl.camra.org.uk>

EAST AND MID SURREY [EMS]

Includes Boroughs of Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge, and parts of Guildford, Mole Valley and Waverley.

Contact (Roy Golding): info@ems.camra.org.uk

Web: <https://ems.camra.org.uk/>

NATIONAL CAMRA

Web: <https://camra.org.uk/>

What's Brewing: <https://wb.camra.org.uk/>

Podcast: <https://camra.org.uk/podcast/>

National Beer Scoring Competition



Each year CAMRA branches select the best pubs in their area to be included in the Good Beer Guide. One of the important ways that branches can monitor how well pubs serve their beer throughout the year is by beer scores submitted by members. Surrey/Hants Borders branch has an initiative to increase the number and breadth of scores received to help ensure our GBG selection truly represents the best beer available in our area. If you are a CAMRA

member you can help. Scoring is quick and easy and may also help you appreciate your pub trips more. As last year SHB CAMRA is running a competition: members who submit 25 scores across at least 10 of our branch pubs will be entered into a prize draw. Full details are at <https://shb.camra.org.uk/nbss>. To date eight members have already qualified for the draw, but even if you are yet to submit your first score there is still plenty of time to qualify.

Beer Scoring Form

Name

Member N^o

Date

Pub	Brewery/Beer	Score

0 **No cask ale** available.

1 **Poor Beer** that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.

2 **Average** Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.

3 **Good Good** beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.

4 **Very Good** Excellent beer in excellent condition.

5 **Perfect** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

Redhill Beer Festival 2024

The highly popular Redhill Beer Festival will be held again this year at Merstham Village Hall, Station Road North, Merstham, Redhill. RH1 3ED.

It will start on Thursday 31 October and run until Saturday 2 November 2024.

We aim to have around 65 Real Ales and ten ciders on offer, along with hot food. No advance booking required, just pay on the door. There will be a £4 refundable deposit on our five colour souvenir glasses remembering the foundation of Imperial Airways at nearby Croydon Aerodrome in 1924.

The opening hours on Thursday and Friday will be 12pm to 11pm, admission £4, or £3 for card-carrying CAMRA members. There will be free

admission on Saturday between 12pm and 6pm (or whilst stocks last).

The Hall is between Merstham railway station and the bus stop at The Feathers on the A23 (405 bus between Croydon and Redhill) and is less than 150 metres from each.



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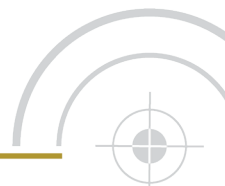
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It's a Handpump Hijack!



Big brewers threaten consumers' rights with plans to hijack the iconic cask handpump

For generations, a handpump on the bar has been a mark of assurance. Where cask beer is well kept, consumers can be sure of a spotless cellar, well-trained bar staff and commitment to offering the best of UK brewing.

Now, Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) – one of the world's largest brewery conglomerates – has resorted to misleading consumers by hijacking the handpump to serve its "Fresh Ale" product. CMBC says this is "preserving the beloved hand pull ritual that delivers the traditional theatre of serve that ale is famed for".

CAMRA's Real Ale, Cider and Perry Campaigns Director, Gillian Hough, said: "Consumers deserve better than Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) play acting at serving cask – a product they claim to champion. Instead, CMBC have closed breweries and removed cask lines from bars. There's room for all kinds of beer on the bar, but brewers should champion their whole range honestly, proudly serving their keg beers through keg fonts rather than using handpumps and misleading their customers."

So far, CMBC has three beers in their "Fresh Ale" range. They are Wainwright Gold, Wainwright Amber, and Hobgoblin IPA, and will have "brewery conditioned beer" displayed on the pump clip.

In the 1970's, when CAMRA was founded and cask was under threat, the loss of a handpump was often a canary in the coalmine – not just for individual venues, but also for the beer industry as a whole.

So what can we do locally? As yet in the Surrey/Hampshire Borders Area we have seen

no examples of the use of these fake "Fresh Ale" handpumps. However, CMBC supply a number of pubs in our area, so we would really appreciate it if all readers could be our eyes and ears and help fight the handpump hijack. Simply let us know if you spot any, by dropping an email to pubs@shb.camra.org.uk A photo would be really appreciated as evidence so we can highlight examples.

Finally, if in doubt, ask the person serving you if it is cask ale. We need consumers to make licensees aware of the issue of misleading dispense and explain why you won't be buying it.

Cheers,

Kevin Travers

Pubs Officer Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA

ASK, "IS IT CASK?"

The launch of 'Fresh Ale' by Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company (CMBC) is a handpump hijack, which misleads consumers into thinking they will be served a cask-conditioned beer – which is far from the case.

Serving so-called 'Fresh Ale' though a handpump also boots a genuine cask beer off the bar, depriving consumers of choice.

CMBC claim to champion cask beer but have instead closed breweries and removed cask lines from bars.

Harvey's Brewery unveils updates to their beer range

On 1st May 2024 Harvey's Brewery unveiled refreshed designs within its beer range, featuring enhancements to Dark Mild and the introduction of Sisters Table Beer.

Harvey's Dark Mild was recently awarded the prestigious title of Champion Mild of Britain, now boasts a new look. Adorned with a rich russet brown hue and featuring the striking XX motif, this design pays homage to the traditional XX stamps used in their brewery to denote the strength of the beer. Harvey's are confident that this updated presentation will further elevate the Dark Mild brand, enticing more drinkers to savour its exceptional taste.



In an exciting development, Harvey's Brewery was proud to also introduce Sisters Table Beer, formerly known as Harvey's IPA, which will be included in their new core range line-up. This rebrand is a tribute to the remarkable women who have made invaluable contributions to Harvey's over the years and celebrates their close association with the Seven Sisters. The label prominently features three women, honouring both sets of extraordinary sisters who have played pivotal roles in the company's history: May, Elsie, and Nora Harvey-Smith, as well as Audrey Elder, Joan Saunders, and Eileen Rundle.

The decision to transition to the Table Beer style name is rooted in evolving consumer tastes. Table Beers offer a light, easy-drinking experience with an ABV ranging between 2.8% and 3.8%. This adjustment better aligns Sisters Table Beer with contemporary preferences, while their Wharf IPA continues to cater to those seeking bolder, hoppier flavours.



"We've put in a lot of effort to update these two beers, and we're excited to have them join Harvey's core range," said Zoë Prescott, Marketing Manager at Harvey's Brewery. "Dark Mild is an exceptional beer that we knew deserved some extra attention to showcase its qualities, and Sisters Table Beer provided a great opportunity to reposition and celebrate the influential women in Harvey's history. We wanted to make sure our loyal drinkers feel appreciated and ensure these beers get the recognition they merit with a fresh new look that appeals to everyone."

Sisters Table Beer and the revamped Dark Mild will be available in select retailers, pubs, online and in Harvey's Brewery Shop starting from May 2024.

Brewery News



BY THE HORNS BREWING CO., Salfords

<https://bythehorns.co.uk/>



After a very successful soft launch of more frequent Saturday opening at the Salfords based brewery during February and March, in tandem with live screenings of

Six Nations rugby games, Chris reports that they remain committed to opening regularly at weekends. They are just awaiting completion of the relevant licence application from Reigate and Banstead Borough Council before they can proceed. They are hopeful that this will come through shortly and that they will be opening their tap room every Saturday from late May onwards. In the interim, they held a further one-off open day on Saturday 11th May, which like the previous events involved plenty of their beers, live music and a local food offer, giving an indication of what is to come over the summer.

Tom Gammons

CRAFTY, Dunsfold

www.craftybrewing.co.uk



Crafty continue to brew a year-round range of cask-conditioned ales and regular seasonal ales, now including versions of "Crafty One" dry-hopped with signature hops like El Dorado.

The in-house canning and labelling is going well, the bespoke-labelled wedding, personalised and event beers are very popular. As a result of this success, Crafty have won the "SIBA Business Innovation Award" for their customisable beer-label system which has proved popular with customers looking to mark a special occasion. Crafty also support other breweries and are in partnership with Crumbs brewing of Reigate, brewing Crumbs' range of beers made with unsold bread from the Chalk Hills bakery. Sales of the "Honour & Craft" range of canned beers and cider supports military charities <https://>

honourandcraft.co.uk/ and will soon be available in keg.

The brewery is open to visit for off-site sales on Monday to Friday 10:00-16:30 (Closed Bank Holidays) and beers are available to order online in cans, bottles, polypins and mini-kegs. There are regular pop-up tap-room events on site, including local food vendors. Details and booking are through the website. The W3W location of the main gate is ///drama.bonus.corrects.

Mike Sanders

DORKING BREWERY, Dorking

<https://dorkingbrewery.com/>



There is a new head brewer with Tom Mahoney returning having worked at Brew York, Partisan and Five Points. Ted, the previous brewer, has moved to Australia for two years. Two new beers are being launched, All Roads is a hoppy pale cask beer whereas Freedom Trail New England Pale will be for keg and can.

The Dorking Brewery Social Club is being launched. For £99 a year you will get 10% off website orders, one free beer for each pint of draught (not packaged) beer you buy at the tap room in Capel and five social nights at the tap room where you and four friends drink for free.

Roy Golding

DROP KICK, Dorking

<https://dropkickbrewing.co.uk>



Fin is concentrating on sorting out the keg beer range at the moment, there are currently four available at the tap room in Dorking. A fifth, Golden Greatness, will be launched at the beginning of June. Once things are settled, hopefully a cask ale will follow.

Roy Golding

MAVERICK, Kingsleywww.maverickbrewingco.com

Maverick recently celebrated our first year of being open with live music and a BBQ. There will be food trucks on Friday and Saturday evenings over the summer period. On Saturday evenings there will also be live music.

On Thursday 8th August (7:00pm to 9:30pm) the brewery will be hosting ShakesBEER with the Four Forty Theatre. They will perform a Summertime Shakespeare Double Bill of Twelfth Night and a Midsummer Night's Dream using only four actors in forty (ish) minutes each. This will be a night of laughter with a Seaside Twist. The event will take place on the grounds of the brewery and will go ahead whatever the weather presents, so please dress appropriately. Limited bench seating is available or bring your own chair. The tap Room will be open from 5pm and the performance will start at 7:00pm. No alcohol is to be brought on to the site as the brewery will be serving a selection of their beers. Food will be available. This is a **ticket only** event so please contact the brewery before attending.

SURREY HILLS, DorkingSurreyHills.co.uk

New owners, Andy and Chris, have found their feet and enjoying not really changing anything. Such as

it's popularity, a new batch of Collusion will be brewed at the end of June. Hopefully, a new and celebratory beer will be coming out later this year. More details to follow.

Roy Golding**THURSTONS, Horsell**www.thurstonsbrewery.co.uk/

Seasonal beers Horsell Hooker and Chobham Treacle returned to the bar during the early months of the year. Horsell Invader has been brewed for the first time in several years and I have really been enjoying the traditionally dry hoppy flavour of this pale coloured beer.

Thurston's first lager has been brewed. John and Simon are determined that this will be no ersatz beer. As I write, the lager is maturing in cold storage. When the beer is ready it will be available as a cask conditioned lager in the Crown and some may be sold in keg from other venues as well as in bottle. Also look forward to Amber Ale, which will be brewed towards the middle of May, so it will be ready for sale by the end of May.

Nick Banyard**TRIPLE FFF, Four Marks**<https://www.triplefff.com>

Triple fff have had a busy first four months of the year. They have now fully commissioned their smaller five BBL kit to complement their 50 BBL kit. They have been sweating the assets too! Some of the beers they have brewed on it include Winter Sunset (2x), Comfortably Numb (2x), Lady Eleanor (2x), Jagged Little Pilsner (2x) and even a Pressed Rat and Warthog to see how it went with Milds. New to the Triple fff stable of beers, thanks to the new kit, are Jagged Little Pilsner (5% Czech/Bohemian Pilsner), Winter Sunset (4.2% Amber Bitter) and Fool's Gold, a strong Golden Ale at 5.4% brewed exclusively with British Malt and Hops. Along with their newer Pilsners and Lagers (Barbarian was a new launch this year, marking a change from the cult favourite, Goldffinger) they have experimented with kegging but only for lagers and pilsners. There are absolutely no plans afoot to mess with their core business of cask ale!

Pressed Rat & Warthog continues to win awards - taking Bronze in SIBA's all dark coloured session beers (porters, stouts and milds) and staying on the podium with CAMRA London and South East, but slipping from Gold in 2023 to Bronze in 2024 - still something they are very proud about. Meanwhile back at the Brewery they have both expanded their tap room and also taken delivery of a 20 BBL Square Fermenter which they intend to christen with Comfortably Numb that should be ready for release in June.

David Patey

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Headscratcher No. 98 Results



The winner of Crossword No 98 was Mark Nichols of Rugby. The winner was drawn by Wendy Stevens of the Golden Lion in Aldershot. Other entries were from:

John Baker, John Barker, Dennis Batty, Steve Beagley, Ian Berry, Clare Bond, June Cottington, Jim Davies, Norman Donachie, John L. Drake, Simon Eason, Roger Grant, Robert Heaps, John Hook, Bob Inman, Iain Murray, Andy & Linda Soltysiak, Chris Truin, Martin Turner, Colin Willoughby.

There were no incorrect entries.

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IS YOUR PINT NOT A PINT? UNHAPPY ABOUT THE QUALITY?

Should you be served with a pint that you feel is a short measure, always ask for a top up. If you feel that reasonable requests for a legal measure are not being honoured, you should contact Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 03454 040506

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SOUTH GODSTONE

Fox & Hounds

Just to the west of the A22, has added Harvey's Sussex Best to its range of regular ales. This has proven to be very popular with customers and there is also a discount for CAMRA members. **PS**

STAINES-UPON-THAMES

Thames Side Brewery

Winner of Branch Pub and Cider Pub of the Year 2024. Music is very much a feature including open mic nights, bands and food is now more regularly available. The recent Sausage & Cider Festival was a great success and will be repeated. They continue to produce interesting one-off beers, in addition to their regular range with usually up to a dozen available. **LM**

SUTTON ABINGER

Volunteer

It appears that the pub, which was under threat of closure and being turned into holiday lets, has been saved. The owners have been granted permission to extend the pub to provide holiday let-tings, but the pub itself will remain. **RG**

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Sunbury Cricket Club

Tucked away at the edge of Lower Sunbury, usually two ales, with one an interesting guest such as Ossett White Rat. A pleasant place to while away an afternoon when a match is in progress. **LM**

THE SANDS

Barley Mow

The pub closed in March when the long-term licensees relocated to Oxfordshire. It was reported that the freehold was put up for sale and the local community established the Save The Barley Mow Action Group and are working to take control of the pub through a community ownership model. They indicated they are in talks with the owners and issued an Investor's Guide, having already raised in excess of £700,000.... so, fingers crossed! Notwithstanding the above, in early May, Stonegate announced that new tenants were in place and the pub would reopen shortly in any event.... so, keep those fingers crossed for a good outcome. **KT**

TILFORD

Donkey

The pub closed in early March when the long-term licensees retired. The freehold, which is owned by

Admiral Taverns, was made available for £575,000 and the pub may also be available on a short-term lease, but sadly still remains closed. There is a lot of talk locally about the site being redeveloped, but no planning application has yet been submitted.

KT

WALTON ON THAMES

Walton Village

Great local community pub on the High Street, recently voted joint Pub of the Year by Kingston and Leatherhead CAMRA. Hogs Back TEA plus two guest ales are generally available, often from local breweries. **JB**

WESTERN GREEN

Marney's Village Inn

Cosy traditional pub in a superb location by the village pond and a short walk from Esher railway station and Sandown Park. Twickenham Naked Ladies and another locally sourced ale are typically on offer alongside Fuller's London Pride. There is a huge garden with seating for 150 people and good home cooked food is served. **JB**

WEYBRIDGE

Elmbridge Arms

This pub on the High Street is currently closed as the owners Red Cat Leased Pubs Ltd have gone into administration. **JB**

YATELEY

Anchor

This Punch Taverns pub is situated on the edge of Yateley and now run by Megan, her first pub as a tenant, having worked behind the bar for the previous tenant. Consequently she has a good relationship with broad sections of the local community and maintains the friendly atmosphere for which this pub is well known. There is an active darts section, BT Sport and Sky TV, and a pleasant back garden, popular with families during warm weather. Well-behaved dogs are welcome, for whom there are canine treats at the bar. Sharp's Doom Bar is their regular ale, with tasty bar snacks available, but best to phone ahead if you wish to confirm food availability: 01252-872248. **HF**

Hogs Back Brewery blesses hop garden, continues "beating the bounds" tradition



Surrey-based Hogs Back Brewery recently held its annual Hop Blessing at its brewery and hop garden in Tongham. Around 100 people gathered in the evening sunshine to enjoy the ceremony and the "beating the bounds" walk, back as part of the event for a second year.

The Hop Blessing took place on Ascension Day (9th May), the day on which crop blessings were traditionally held for centuries. Rev. Claire Holt, of St Paul's Church in Tongham, blessed the crops and, with Hogs Back Brewery managing director Rupert Thompson, led guests on the walk around the 8.5-acre hop garden.

Blessing of crops was observed in rural communities in a bid to encourage a bountiful harvest. Hogs Back revived the tradition in 2014 when they planted their original hop garden over the road from the brewery and continued it when they relocated to the current, larger site. Currently, the 6,000 hop plants in the Hogs Back garden are climbing up strings, spurred by the recent rainfall, and the brewery is hoping for an ample crop to harvest in late August.

Beating the bounds similarly took place around Ascension Day, when the priest would lead a group around the parish boundaries, as a way of instilling this vital information: your parish

dictated how much tax you paid, and where you could be buried, for example. The "beating the bounds" name may have its origins in a tradition of beating children's heads at each of the boundary stones to drive home the information - a part of the custom that Hogs Back is not observing!

Rev. Holt said: "Blessing the Hogs Back hop garden continues a tradition that would certainly have been part of the cycle of hop growing in Farnham for centuries. It gave me great joy to lead the prayers for the Hogs Back hop garden, the brewery, and all who work in them, for this year and long into the future."

Rupert Thompson said: "The Hop Blessing is always a wonderful event, bringing together the local community to remember how important hop farming was to this region. We're grateful, as ever, to Claire for blessing our hops and delighted to see so many people enjoying the "beating the bounds" walk and a pint or two back at the brewery. Clearly most people today don't need to know where their parish boundaries lie, but centuries on from that, there is still a desire to connect with the local community and a large part of what we're doing at Hogs Back is about building those connections, which is shown by the many local residents who volunteer to "twiddle" our hop plants up the strings now, or to bring in the harvest later in the year. We're enormously grateful to this army of "Hogs Back Hoppers", and also to Matthew King, our hop garden manager, for his skill and dedication in tending to the hops."

Rupert Thompson showed guests the Le May Cup, which was awarded to Hogs Back earlier this year for its White Bine hop in the Institute of Brewing & Distilling's annual Hop Competition. They also received a Gold Award for their

Hogs Back Brewery

Fuggles hop and a Silver for their English Cascade. Hogs Back is the first brewer to win the Le May Cup.

The Hop Blessing has always been a free event but this year guests were asked to make a donation of £5 to the British Heart Foundation, the brewery's chosen charity for 2024. Hogs Back will be fundraising all year for BHF, especially at the Hop Harvest celebrations in September.

With the hops duly blessed, the Hogs Back team will now be tending the bines carefully until harvest. Three varieties are being grown: Fuggles - used in the brewer's flagship Tongham TEA ale; English Cascade - used in its Hogstar lager; and Farnham White Bine - a local variety that Hogs Back revived from near-extinction.

Hogs Back's Hop Harvest celebrations take place from 13th to 15th September, starting with a "Roots" session featuring original music on the Friday, followed by a music festival style event on the Saturday and a more family-friendly TEA Party on the Sunday. Tickets are available on the Hogs Back website <https://hogsback.co.uk>



Guests raise a glass at the Hogs Back Brewery Hop Blessing with managing director Rupert Thompson and Rev. Claire Holt



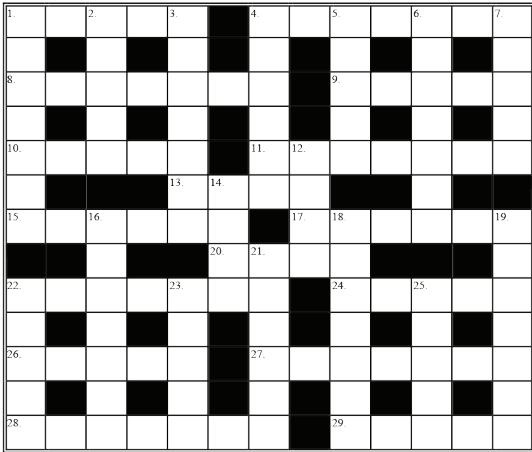
Only the finest farmers make it into our beauty parade

Shortly after harvest each year the best hop farmers in the UK journey to our brewery in Yorkshire. They bring with them carefully packed parcels of their finest crops. In what has become known as the *hop beauty parade* our expert brewers meticulously assess each batch, judging not just looks but also personality. The brewers rub each hop in their warm hands to feel the quality of the resins and release the delicate aromas that are vital to the signature flavour and balance of our beer. Only then are the *choicest* whole leaf hops selected to brew your *beautiful* pint of Landlord.

All for that taste of Taylor's



Headscratcher No. 99



£20 Prize Crossword

Clues for Headscratcher No.99

Down

1. Mountain chain in the island estuary. (5)
2. The first edition ranges over different characters and makes them extremely angry. (7)
3. The flower in her hair is wilting. (4)
4. Moved abroad on a ship. (6)
5. Right around the circumference. (5)
6. Begin with the French alarm. (7)
7. Di, Mary and the first pilgrims go west to find an ancient tomb. (7)
12. e.g. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. (7)
13. Check out a variety of pints around the European Community. (7)
15. Struggling priests persevere. (7)
16. A retiring European, with outstanding enemies, runs away. (6)
17. A bird was seen through the aero-binoculars. (5)
19. It's the fashion. (5)
21. Joy comes from the final exercise after a broken leg. (4)

Across

1. The man from Brooklyn travelled in a car with me. (8)
7. This spike has no tip to inflict damage. (5)
8. Convert a dirty room into sleeping quarters. (9)
9. A hill found in West Orpington. (3)
10. An epic tale is told in stories against war. (4)
11. Deliver a sermon from a perch. (6)
13. Introduce rest in different ways. (6)
14. Spot the minister in the crowd. (6)
17. The latest convalescence is recommended after regressive liver abuse. (6)
18. It shows courage to appear in the mating ritual. (4)
20. In favour of opening the Public Records Office. (3)
22. Unleashing pure evil's repellent. (9)
23. The first Chinese member to get to the top. (5)
24. Laid claim to a variety of trades around the South East. (8)

£20 Prize Crossword.

Closing date for entries is Friday 9th August

All correct answers will be entered into a prize draw. Entries to:

**William Hill, Pendennis, Frimley Road,
Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5NN**

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