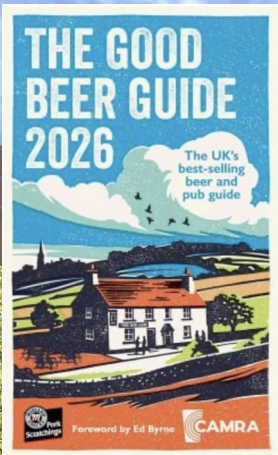


News & Ale

CAMRA

FREE
Autumn 2025
No. 156



**Good Beer Guide 2026 is launched.
Herbert Wells, Woking, celebrates
30 years of being in the Guide.**



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



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CAMRA is always seeking out the pubs that serve the best quality beer. The very best pubs go into the annual CAMRA publication the Good Beer Guide (GBG), the latest 2026 edition was published in September. In this magazine you can read about one of our pubs, the Herbert Wells in Woking, that has been in the guide for the past 30 years. To be considered for inclusion in the guide, throughout the year CAMRA members rate the quality of beer they are drinking in pubs. You can read how CAMRA members can enter a beer score and be entered into a competition to maybe win a prize. You will then be contributing information to assist the selection of the pubs that will be included in the next GBG.

This edition also shares the experiences of a local CAMRA volunteer who worked at the 2025 Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. Lewes is a wonderful county town in Sussex, read about the Surrey/Hants borders branch visit to Harvey's Brewery in Lewes.

Ed

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Celebrating the launch of **CAMRA's 2026 Good Beer Guide** and the **Herbert Wells, Woking** achieving 30 years of consecutive GBG entries

CAMRA launched the latest edition of its ever-popular Good Beer Guide (GBG) at the end of September. The GBG is the UK's best-selling beer and pub guide, which showcases 4,500 of the best pubs across the UK. It is the definitive source for those seeking top quality ale and cider, and the guide includes 36 pubs chosen by our local Surrey/Hants Borders (SHB) Branch, covering West Surrey and North-East Hampshire.

Those 36 pubs were the subject of many visits and much debate amongst local members over the last 12 months, and many more pubs were nominated than we have space for. As is the case every year, the selection procedure was particularly close in our branch area and several pubs that serve quality real ale have narrowly missed out on inclusion. A place in the Guide is much sought after by all licensees who are serious about keeping real ale, so commiserations to those pubs that are not included. It doesn't mean that you don't sell good quality beer, it's just that the competition continues to increase and we are restricted on the number of pubs that can be included in the SHB CAMRA area.

The SHB CAMRA launched the latest edition of the GBG, at the Herbert Wells, Woking as part of a double celebration marking the inclusion of the pub in the Guide for an incredible 30 consecutive years.

For nearly all that time the pub has been run by Gary Hollis, who is one of the longest serving Wetherspoon landlords in the country. Opening in Summer 1995 on the site of the original Woolworths, the Herbert Wells was one of the first Wetherspoon pubs in the area. An ever-changing range of up to seven guest beers is on offer, together with a couple of real ciders within the range of four bag in a box ciders. The pub is extremely proud of their place in the GBG and displays covers of the Guide across the many years that it has been included. It was a pleasure to add another copy for them to display.

In addition to pubs, the Good Beer Guide aims to list all known real ale breweries and their regular beers (many thousands). Many of these will also have tasting notes supplied to steer you towards your style of beer – it can be bewildering to see a large bank of handpumps and have no idea which one is for you. This list also comes in handy at beer festivals or when buying beers in an off license or supermarket. Also, there are always numerous interesting beer-related articles to read.

The GBG 2026 is available in main bookshops, or online from CAMRA and makes an ideal Christmas or birthday present for anyone who enjoys a pint. There is also an opportunity for CAMRA members to buy it in person at Branch events until the end of October. The cover price is £16.99 but will be just £12 to card-carrying CAMRA members.

Kevin Travers

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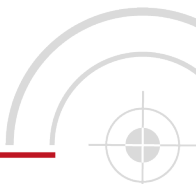
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Support our Community Pubs

Sign the Great British Pub Crawl Petition



Readers may have seen a noticeable increase in the number of pub closures in the area recently. In this issue of News & Ale alone we have reported the closure of the Wheatsheaf Bramley; Dog & Pheasant, Brook; Lamb, Farnham and Wheatsheaf, Grayswood. Although this has been offset in part by the welcome reopening of the Winterton Arms, Chiddingfold and Prince Albert, Guildford there is undeniably a downward trend.

CAMRA has therefore been supporting the Great British Pub Crawl's petition to save pubs. The petition states that, *We feel that without Government assistance, independent breweries and pubs cannot swallow the hikes in business rates, the living wage and rising operating costs. We believe pubs are the backbone of our communities and vital in maintaining mental*

health and social interaction in many communities across the UK. In some cases, these are the only places that people have any kind of social contact. We feel that far too many have been lost over the last 30 years due to a lack of support for the industry and we simply cannot continue on this course. We believe that pubs are our history, our heritage and have been our way of life for hundreds of years.

With pubs closing at an alarming rate, it's time to make our voices heard and push for stronger support for these vital community spaces. CAMRA is therefore encouraging all our members and supporters to sign the petition and help secure the future of pubs, pints, and people. You have until 8th October to do so. Here is the link to the petition, <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/721825>



Branch Presentations



Kingston and Leatherhead CAMRA Presentations Update

On 26th June, we headed out to Leatherhead to present Colin and Daniela Turner of the Running Horse in Bridge Street with a Long Service Award for 12 years at the helm of this multi-award-winning pub and to celebrate their impending retirement.



John Burns presents Colin and Daniela Turner with their Long Service Award

In Colin and Daniela's 12 years at the Running Horse, they have been voted Kingston and Leatherhead branch Pub of The Year no fewer than six times, an achievement unmatched by any other pub in our area. Throughout this period, they have also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving good quality local beer, an attribute highlighted by branch secretary John Burns in his award presentation. It was also celebrated by CAMRA members and regulars who drank to Colin and Daniel's health with excellently kept pints of Ranmore from Surrey Hills. Colin explained that he regularly sells six barrels of Ranmore each week, a tribute perhaps both to the quality of the beer and the consistency and good service from the brewery.

Although retirement beckons in a few weeks, Colin and Daniela's journey is not over - from Italy, where Daniela originated to suburban Surrey, and on to

central London, Colin and Daniel are swapping the Grade two listed Running Horse for a Mansion flat in Lisson Grove. They are looking forward to the opportunity to explore a new set of pubs from the punter's perspective, and an early-morning tour of the soon to be closed Smithfield Meat Market.

We wish Colin and Daniela a long and happy retirement and although we don't know yet what is happening to the Running Horse, Shepheard Neame and any incoming tenant have a tremendous base from which to build the future.

Dave Butler

Branch Media Contact

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East & Mid Surrey branch Club of the Year

We'd like to offer our congratulations to the Kingswood Village Club for winning our branch Club of the Year award for 2025. This marks their eighth consecutive win and 13th since 2011. We attended on the evening of Monday 16th June 2025 to present their certificate and conduct our monthly branch business meeting.

The club normally has two hand pumps in use, and on our visit we found Dark Star Hophead and Shepherd Neame Spitfire being served. The Club is a member's club but CAMRA members are always made very welcome in the club and simply need to show their current membership card to gain entry.

Pictured are Simon from the club's committee and Rob Wells, our branch chairman, who is presenting the award.



Kingswood Village Club - Club of the Year presentation

Ten consecutive years in Good Beer Guide

The evening of Tuesday 3rd June 2025 saw members of the East and Mid Surrey branch gather at The King & Queen in Caterham on the Hill, to present the pub with an award to recognise their hard work in appearing in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide for ten consecutive years.

Being a Fuller's pub, you can regularly find London Pride, ESB and Dark Star Hophead on the bar alongside an always interesting guest ale. On the night we visited, we found Cow Down from Stone Daisy, a microbrewery from Salisbury.

Pictured is Rob Wells, our branch chairman, presenting the certificate to Kathy, the landlady at The King & Queen.



King and Queen - 10 years in GBG

Redhill Beer Festival Beer of the Festival



North Riding - Beer of the Festival presentation

The boundaries of the branch were somewhat extended on Saturday 5th July 2025 when several volunteers and members of the Redhill Beer Festival committee made the long journey to Scarborough in North Yorkshire to present the North Riding Brewery with their certificates for both winning and coming runner up in the 2024 Beer of the Festival competition.

To recap, their Choc N Nut Porter won beer of the festival, with their Bakewell Tart Stout coming in the runner's up position. To celebrate this achievement, we thought it was only right to make our way to their brewpub just off the Scarborough seafront to hand over their certificates.

On the day itself we found their Ernest Pale, Peasholm Pale and Toasted Marshmallow Stout all being served, along with a couple of guest ales as well.

Pictured is Stuart from the brewery receiving the certificates from Martin Longhurst, our festival chairman, alongside members of the festival team.

Sally Gingell

Crown wins Surrey/Hants Borders branch Pub of the Year

The Crown at Horsell has been awarded the Surrey/Hants Borders branch of CAMRA Pub of The Year 2025. The certificate was presented to the landlady and landlord, Antoinette and John, by the branch Chairman Mick Bell on 19th June. The picture shows SHB branch members in the beer garden of the Crown with Antoinette on the right of the picture and John wearing the black T-shirt.



SHB Pub of the Year Crown, Horsell

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year



Borough Beer House

On Saturday 14th June, members of the SHB CAMRA branch met at the Borough Beer House in Farnham. Having received a national CAMRA design award only a few days earlier, we were there to present Joe and his team with the second place award for the branch "SHB CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year". This was a great achievement given that the pub was only 18 months old at the time (almost to the day). There was a large range of cider, beer and a perry on offer. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Simon Price

Three Horseshoes Double Win

It was an evening of double celebrations at The Three Horseshoes in Cranleigh on Monday 14th July 2025. Not only has the venue won the coveted East and Mid Surrey Branch Pub of the Year award for the second year in a row, but 2025 has also seen them win the Surrey County Pub of the Year award as well. The certificates were handed over as part of our monthly branch meeting which was also being held in the Snug Bar at the pub.

Congratulations to landlord Peter Slinger and his team on their achievement. To celebrate, Peter had put on a Beer Exhibition over the preceding weekend, featuring some 24 cask ales, mostly on gravity dispense in the cellar. Fortunately, he has a young and fit team of bar staff! Some of the highlights on the evening were Harvey's Sussex Best, Downland Low Battery and Devil's Dyke Maple Porter.

Pictured is Peter receiving the two certificates from Rob Wells, the Branch Chairman, watched by the Bar Manager, Ray White.



Three Horseshoes

Sally Gingell

Pub News **Round Up**



ADDLESTONE

RAOB Club

This venue is now a regular in the Good Beer Guide, serving two changing ales. It also has an occasional beer festival, with latest one in late Spring. There are sports TVs and a decked rear patio. Recent ales have included Pennine Orange Flare and Titanic Steerage. **Laurence ‘Spike’ Milligan**

ALDERSHOT

Royal Staff

Following on from the news reported in the previous issue it is sad to report that in August Rushmoor Borough Council granted permission to convert the pub to a nursery, so this area of Aldershot will now be publess. **Kevin Travers**

ASH

Greyhound

After less than 12 months, Dorking Brewery has surrendered their lease on the pub. However, it has been taken over by Stubbings Pub Group and real ale remains available, though the Dorking beers have been replaced by two beers from Hogs Back, with TEA and Surrey Nirvana noticed on sale recently. **KT**

BRAMLEY

Wheatsheaf

Sadly, the Wheatsheaf closed at the end of August 2025. The landlady saying that rent, price increases and ongoing roadworks in Bramley have made the business unviable. **KT**

BROCKHAM

Tap House

Situated in what used to be the village club, the Tap House could be easily missed. However, it is worth visiting for food and quality beer. Three hand pumps serve brews from Harvey's, Firebird and Surrey Hills. A very good pint of Surrey Hills Three Peaks was on sale on a recent visit. **Roy Golding**

BROOK

Dog & Pheasant

The pub closed in July, citing the inability to reach the necessary revenue levels to sustain the business. They are however exploring options to secure funding for the purchase of the freehold and complete essential maintenance, with the goal of restoring the pub to its former glory; so, this closure may not be permanent. **KT**

BURPHAM

Anchor and Horseshoes

Situated on the London Road, 1.5 miles from Guildford town centre, the pub is easily accessed by bus. It serves four real ales with St. Austell Tribute and Greene King Abbot the regular beers with two guest ales also available, recently being Hogs Back Surrey Nirvana and Surrey Hills Shere Drop. Mike and Julia are the landlords running a fantastic venue with regular live music, ‘Quiz Night Wednesday’, and excellent food on offer. There is a large rear garden and smaller front one as well.

Dylan Thomas

CAMBERLEY

Camberley & District Club

This private members’ club opened in 1903, close to Camberley’s bustling town centre, near Park Street’s shops and restaurants. It is a great place to meet friends, bring guests and enjoy a drink and chat. A variety of indoor activities including televised sport, darts, snooker and quiz nights are available to its members and their guests. New members are welcome, often by introduction through existing members.

The club is free of tie, enabling it to provide a broad choice of beers. At present, a good relationship has been established with Triple fff Brewery, whereby they deliver a fined batch of one of their cask ales every Friday afternoon, which often lasts for a few days, but can go very quickly at busy times, so it is “first come, first served”! Moondance, Alton’s Pride and Sundown are often available by rotation, all of which have received my “seal of approval”! A range of bottled ales is available, including Timothy Taylor Landlord and Fullers London Pride. **Harry Fish**

Carpenters' Arms

Since Ben left this Greene King pub some weeks ago there was a period without a replacement manager, but the staff seemed to be coping well with the situation. Sadly though, there was a great lack of guest ales, even from the Greene King brewery – especially during the rugby season we used to see several such ales on, and rugby being shown on some of the numerous TVs within the pub. However, a new Manager (Oscar) has now been appointed, and no doubt is getting to grips with the situation. Meanwhile, various local bands have featured here on several occasions, and we look forward to their continuation. **Doug Fish**

Royal Standard

Mark continues to run this pub well and it is a popular spot for inexpensive good food, no doubt thanks to the excellent work done in the kitchen by the same person that used to work at 'The Cambridge', days before it closed unexpectedly! Mark makes sure his beers are in good order too and although this is also a Greene King pub it often features a guest ale as well as the Greene King IPA and Abbot. The Royal Standard has recently had Deuchars IPA and St. Austell Tribute. Good on yer, Mark! **DF**

Station Tap

While the Claude du Vall was closed in August for a comprehensive 'refurb' the new couple in the neighbouring Station Tap have taken advantage of this opportunity to supply cask-ale lovers with the sort of beers we favour. Two handpumps are still there, and evidently, they plan to put on both St Austell Tribute and Fuller's London Pride, so we look forward to that, and hope they keep them on, after the Claude du Vall reopens at the end of September. **DF**

CAPEL

Crown

This two bar village pub has a pleasing quirky interior. Two hand pumps serve local beers from breweries such as Surrey Hills, Dorking, Hogs Back and Crafty. These beers turn over quickly, and quality is excellent. The pub has an admirable policy of only buying cask beer from local brewers. **RG**

CHERTSEY

Olde Swan Hotel

Landlord Phil Squire had a double celebration in the middle of his latest beer festival, when he was awarded North Surrey Branch Cider Pub of the Year 2025, and a Special Award for his 10 years serving great cask ales and cider. Regular ales are Sharps Doom Bar, Timothy Taylor's Landlord and Tring Side Pocket for a Toad, with additional guest ale such as Mighty Oak Captain Bob. **LM**

CHIDDINGFOLD

Winterton Arms

Good news to report that the pub reopened in June with a £650,000 refurbishment following over three years of closure. Timothy Taylor Landlord has been reported as the regular beer with guests from Adnams and Hogs Back also being seen. **KT**

DORKING

Cobbetts

One or two cask beers, always of exceptional quality are served. One will be from Surrey Hills, but when a second is sold, it may be from a brewery such as Left Handed Giant or Downlands. Six keg beers are sold - these could be from anywhere in Britain, or occasionally from further afield. **RG**

Old House at Home

This Dorking Brewery tied house sells three or four of their cask ales. A happy hour operates from Monday to Thursday from 4pm to 7pm when Dorking beers are just £4 a pint. A very good pint of Stanza was enjoyed recently. Good food in huge quantities is sold. **RG**

White Horse

This venerable old hotel can be found in the centre of town. Three hand pumps serve good quality real ales including Surrey Hills Shere Drop and Fuller's London Pride. The food is also of a good standard. **RG**

DORMANSLAND

Old House At Home

This Shepherd Neame pub remains a popular village pub, with a couple of well-kept ales available. **Peter Spooner**

Plough Inn

Popular for food and has two ales available, Fuller's London Pride and Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter. **PS**

EGHAM

Egham United Services Club

This 2025 CAMRA County Club of the Year held its 46th successful beer festival in the summer. This featured numerous cask ales from all over the country, many from new breweries. The next festival is due to take place from the 5th to 8th November. Unfortunately, long-time Club Secretary Julie Black passed away after a short illness. Julie was ever present at the club, played a huge part in its success, and will be sadly missed. CAMRA sent its heartfelt condolences to Julie's family. **LM**

Foresters Arms

This traditional community local tucked away in the back streets is currently under threat of closure, as the owner has applied for planning permission to convert the pub into flats. Whilst it no longer serves cask ale, and understanding the need for affordable housing, it would be yet another lost pub, and local residents and CAMRA will be making their opposition known. **LM**

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Happy Man

Landlord James Oldroyd was presented with his CAMRA Branch Highly Commended Pub of the Year 2025 award during their latest beer festival. There are always three to four ever changing ales on the bar. The next beer festival takes place from 1st to 5th October. **LM**

ESHER

Albert Arms

A new manager took over earlier this year. London Pride plus one other Fuller's ale is on offer. Recently these have been Dark Star Hophead, Gales Seafarers and a Fullers/Sambrook collaborative golden ale. **John Burns**

EVERSLEY

White Hart

This traditional pub is on the edge of Eversley village, a short distance from the local cricket club, one of the oldest in the country. The pub is run by Tori and Zoe, experienced in the hospitality industry, who have built up a good following on the food side, as well as putting the "Hart" back on the map with local drinkers. They operate through the Stonegate group, which gives access to a wide range of beers, including Fuller's London Pride,

Otter Bitter and Hogs Back Surrey Nirvana.

There is a rear car park and garden area, with picnic benches, close to the surrounding countryside. 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 at each end of the main bar. There is also a party room which can be pre-booked. Best to phone for your bookings and information: 01183-437031. **HF**

FARNCOMBE

Cricketers

This wonderful community focussed pub retains a multi room layout together with a secluded garden to the rear. The beer range comes from Fuller's and included London Pride, Gales Seafarers together with the seasonal offering Hop Tropic on a recent Branch visit. **KT**

Ragged Robin

This former Beefeater was taken over by Heartwood Inn in May 2024 and reopened as a gastropub in June. On our recent Branch visit the regular beers Fuller's London Pride and Timothy Taylor, Landlord were both on good form, as was the Hogs Back TEA. **KT**

FARNHAM

Beefeater

The pub became open only to residents in July 2024 and a planning application has now been submitted to demolish the pub area and replace it with additional hotel accommodation. **KT**

Lamb

The pub closed in late July and it is believed new tenants are being sought. In the meantime, it is hoped that the local community may consider applying for the Lamb to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. **KT**

Lost Boy

The pub has been taken over by Upham Inns following the Oakman Inns & Restaurants going into administration. **KT**

Wheatsheaf

The pub reopened in July and is another addition to the Stubbings Pubs Group portfolio, though still owned by Shepherd Neame, with their beers remaining on sale. **KT**

...Continued on page 20

Kingston and Leatherhead CAMRA

50th Anniversary Celebrations

July 2025 was a truly notable month for Kingston and Leatherhead CAMRA. On July 10th, fifty years to the day, more than 30 members of the branch gathered at the Victoria in Surbiton to celebrate our anniversary in the same pub that hosted our inaugural meeting. A slight delay in proceedings due to changing barrels in the cellar provided an opportunity to study the selection of press cuttings featuring pictures of youthful branch members and to reminisce about our early history via the memorabilia provided by John Burns. These included photocopies of handwritten minutes from our first meeting attended by some 225 enthusiastic drinkers squashed into the Victoria, our first local pub guide, typewritten and on sale for 7p and a programme from the first Sandown Park Beer Festival, held in 1981.



The Victoria, Surbiton

Many of us also took the opportunity to collect our commemorative polo shirts and T-shirts from Keith Richardson. These are still available in a great range of colours and some excellent designs on-line at <https://www.tshirtstudio.com/marketplace/camra-kingston-leatherhead> or via Keith (keithrklc@gmail.com) to save on delivery charges.

Once the beer was flowing freely, it was time for the official, but brief speech from our chair Richard Russell, reminding us of good times

past and raising a glass to absent friends. More conversations about the past and the future were followed by some energetic corraling and finally a photograph outside the Victoria to record the occasion. Members then dispersed to the Lamb and the Antelope with the hardy regathering at the Coronation Hall for a final birthday pint.



Park Brewery Tap

Celebrations continued on Saturday 12th July, with a visit to the Park Brewery in Kingston. Frankie Kearns and her team looked after us excellently in the Tap Room. On a very warm afternoon, the commemorative polo and T-shirts modelled by members were very appropriate as well as elegant! A good time was had with old and new friends, some perhaps surprised to find themselves part of our second commemorative photograph, but all able to bear witness to the vitality of the branch as we reach our half century and look forward to the future.

Dave Butler

K&L Branch Media Contact

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How much could one drink bravado!

The Grumpy Old Man Reminisces



It is an obvious fact that as we age the body does not perform as well as it once did. In my youth there was a lot of bravado as to how much individuals could drink. I remember one who was going on a canal boat trip and was looking forward to consuming 100 pints. Blimey, that's seven pints at lunchtime and the same in the evening for seven days if this was indeed possible, let alone desirable, to experience that cycle of hangover, hair of the dog and more drinking for a whole week. I was never a prolific drinker and today 100 pints would be something like three months' worth at the very least. It was a stupid ambition and it is worth reporting that individual died an early death, but not from alcohol problems.

A group of us used to travel into the Black Country at weekends, catching the 20:58 back home from Wolverhampton. It was a long day and we must have consumed a fair amount of beer in the course of the day, often including 5am starts and getting home around midnight. There is no way that I could do that now, finding it difficult to get out of bed before 8am. It was not just the volume involved, but the pace of downing pints before moving on. The final pub was the Great Western below Wolverhampton railway station. Inevitably, there was a call to leave with just over ten minutes notice, which was always excessively tight, which meant downing your beer and going. It is a sharp walk uphill then crossing the bridge to the platform on the far side. Somehow we always made it, but literally with only seconds to spare. We would have no hope now. Downing would now be much slower with much faffing around including going to the loo as well as sorting out bags etc. The slight slope would see some breathless and the bridge and steps would tax knee joints and even if we did make it, we would not have recovered before Birmingham. Now

you really need just over 20 minutes to make it to the station which is over twice the Olympic sprint time of previous years. How odd it is to measure human decline by how long it takes to get from a pub to the railway station.

Obviously, the older you are the more likely you are to suffer a variety of difficulties emanating from joints and muscles, including back pain with pub furniture not always being very kind. Beware sofas and other soft furnishings where you very quickly sink almost to ground level. Unless you have exceptionally long arms it is impossible to reach your beer on the table without the effort of sitting up. Trying to stand up on leaving is embarrassing as you need some assistance to pull you up. Pubs with lots of tables and chairs present another hazard from the number of legs pointing in a variety of directions. Add one walking stick, a rucksack of shopping and the pub dog rolling around underneath your feet and you have a situation which again might require some assistance. Escaping to the garden requires negotiating the benches. Basically, it helps if you are an Olympic gymnast or contortionist to manoeuvre into position. Also, if you have back problems there is no support for the back.

As we get older there is an assumption that we become more intolerant of events taking place around us. I don't think that I have ever meet anybody who actually admits to being intolerant and I don't believe it to be true of myself, but I have three grumps which probably do make me intolerant.

Firstly, faffing at the bar and quite often by more elderly people. Does this meal come with carrots and can I have broccoli instead. Repeat this process for three or four people some of which are not at the bar requiring consultations

elsewhere. I felt like shouting 'all I want is a pint without carrots' and I will be gone, but of course I never did. A big queue had formed by now and I should have been served first but wasn't.

Secondly, there is the problem of the mobile phone on loudspeaker. The banalities of one idiot shouting down the phone give you the bonus of hearing similar from a second idiot.

Thirdly, there is the problem of badly behaved children, which I have written about before, and the accident hazard of their scooters strewn across the floor. Why is this allowed? Of course you don't need to be old to criticise the above, but when you remember the Good Old Days it becomes a little more personal.

Bob Southwell
Aka The Grumpy Old Man

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I always walk him here
for a pint of his
favourite...

TIMOTHY TAYLOR'S
1858
CHAMPIONSHIP BEER
LANDLORD
THE CLASSIC PALE ALE ABV 4.3%

ROB MURRAY

*Time for that
taste of Taylor's*

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.

£3 single bus fares scheme

The Government scheme to limit single bus fares to £2 in 2024 has now ended and the limit is now £3 in 2025 (please check if your route is covered by this scheme before travelling <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/3-national-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 pre-Covid levels and many bus routes are under threat of being withdrawn. Note, it may be cheaper to buy a return ticket or enquire if the bus company has a cheaper Day Ticket. Stagecoach has a Gold Nightrider rover ticket that is valid in Surrey and Hampshire and is only £3 (at time of publication) and valid if traveling after 7pm. Other bus companies may have similar tickets.

Improved/reduced bus services introduced in June 2025. There have been a number of improvements to bus services in Surrey these include new evening buses on the Falcon 436 between Woking and Weybridge, later running buses on Sunday evening on the Stagecoach 91 in Woking and a new hourly bus service the Falcon 714 from Kingston-on-Thames and RHS Wisley. There has also been some reduction in services. All the changes can be found at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/bus-timetable-changes/forthcoming-changes>

OCTOBER

Thursday 9th 8:00pm Monthly Thursday Social at the Star, Godalming Join SHB members for our monthly Thursday pub social. All welcome especially potential new members. [SHB]

Thursday 9th 7:00pm A Selection of Surbiton pubs. Starting at the Royal Oak, then on to the Prince of Wales (8:00pm), Wagon and Horses (9:00pm) and finishing at the Antelope (10:00pm). [K&L]

Thursday 16th 8:00pm Pub of the Year presentation to the Park Tavern, Kingston. [K&L]

Saturday 18th 12:00pm Prince of Wales, Farnborough, Beer Festival Social. Join Branch members for an afternoon of good beers at the annual Prince of Wales Beer Festival. [SHB]

Monday 20th 8:00pm Branch Meeting at Plough, Leigh. [EMS]

Wednesday 22nd 7pm Quiz Night at the Borough Beer House, Farnham Quiz starts at 7:30pm and it is £2 entry per person. [SHB]

Wednesday 29th to Tuesday 4th November Halloween trip to Cambridge Enjoy exploring the Cambridge beer Quarter and city centre pubs. Details on SHB website or contact Mark Geeson for details 07463 195500. [SHB]

NOVEMBER

Thursday 6th 8:00pm Branch meeting, Rising Sun, Epsom. [K&L]

Thursday 13th 8:00pm Monthly Thursday Social at the Herbert Wells, Woking. Join SHB members for our monthly Thursday pub social. All welcome especially potential new members. [SHB]

Saturday 15th 1:00pm Visit to Ashtead. Starting at the Woodman, then on to the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower (2:00pm) and then finishing at the Brewery Inn (3:00pm). [K&L]

Monday 17th 8:00pm Branch Meeting at Fox and Hounds, South Godstone [EMS]

Friday 28th Sirencraft and Elusive Brewery Trip. A trip to the Sirencraft and Elusive breweries taprooms near Wokingham. Full information will be on the SHB website <https://shb.camra.org.uk>. [SHB]

DECEMBER

Wednesday 3rd December 2:00pm Branch social at the Pigs Ear Beer Festival. [K&L]

Friday 5th 7:00pm SHB CAMRA Christmas Party at Woking Railway Athletic Club. Woking. Enjoy a fantastic selection of beers, and get ready for some fun with a quiz, a raffle, and a delicious buffet to satisfy your Xmas cravings. To help us ensure we have plenty of beer and food for everyone, please let us know if you plan to attend. If you'd like to join in on the buffet, we kindly ask for payment in advance. Full information will be on the SHB website <https://shb.camra.org.uk>. [SHB]

Monday 8th 7:00pm Cider Social at Borough Beer House, Farnham. Please join us at a branch social focused on cider tasting. The Borough Beer House

has a great range of ciders, all available in third pint measures, so this is a great opportunity for those who don't normally drink cider - but might like to try! There is also of course an extensive range of cask ales if you just want to come along and be sociable! [SHB]

Thursday 18th 8:00pm Thursday Social at Prince of Wales, Farnborough. Join SHB branch members for our monthly Thursday pub social. All welcome especially potential new members. [SHB]

Saturday 20th December Annual Christmas Kingston visit. Starting at the Canbury Arms at 12:00pm. See K&L branch website for details. [K&L]

JANUARY

Friday 2nd Day out to Reading. See K&L branch website for details. [K&L]

Friday 9th 6:00pm Westy Beer Fest. Social. Join SHB members at the Westy Beer Fest for the Friday evening session. [SHB]

Sunday 11th 12:00 pm Sunday Lunch. Join the SHB branch for Sunday lunch. Full information will be on the SHB website <https://shb.camra.org.uk>. [SHB]

Thursday 15th 8:00 pm Thursday Social at the Crown in Horsell. Join SHB members for our monthly Thursday pub social. All welcome especially potential new members. [SHB]

FEBRUARY

Thursday 19th 8:00pm Thursday Social at the Star in Godalming. Join SHB members for our monthly Thursday pub social. All welcome especially potential new members. [SHB]

BEER FESTIVALS

LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS

Friday 3rd to Saturday 4th October Ascot Racing and Beer Weekend, Ascot Racecourse. Details at <https://ascotbeerfest.org.uk/>

Thursday 16th to 19th October Spa Valley Beer Festival, Spa Valley Railway, Tunbridge Wells. Details at <https://spavalleyrailway.co.uk>

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th October Prince of Wales, Farnborough, Beer Festival. The festival is celebrating beers from near and far this year, with a selection of 40 real ales. As well as cask ales, there will be ciders and craft beers available plus a BBQ and live music each day.

Thursday 30th to Saturday 1st November Redhill Beer Festival at Merstham Village Hall, see website <https://ems.camra.org.uk/festival> for further details.

Friday 9th January Westy Beer Festival at West End Centre Aldershot. Details at <https://camra.org.uk/pubs/west-end-centre-aldershot-151373>

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th April Farnham Beerex at Farnham Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham. GU9 7QR. Please note, Beerex is run in association with the Farnham Lions Club CIO so free entry is not available to CAMRA members, however advance tickets are expected to become available from early December 2025. Further details about the Beerex can be found at <https://www.farnhambeerex.org.uk>

CAMRA NATIONAL EVENTS

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th April CAMRA Members Weekend at St. Albans. Full details can be found at <https://camra.org.uk/members-weekend-agm-conference>

SURREY/HANTS BORDERS [SHB]

Includes all of the boroughs of Rushmore, 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/>

Great British Beer Festival 2025

Behind the Scenes



I hope some of you managed to get to Birmingham in August to visit the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham. I was there for over a week as I had volunteered to help again, something I have done for over 20 years or more. I have often wondered if the visitors give much thought to how the event happens. The Trade session starts at noon on Tuesday, however, the early staff arrivals were on the Thursday before.

The hall was empty, just a shell so all the bars, cooling fridges, stalls, signage, IT, seating etc. needed to be sorted. We had our own medical team, known as “Team Green”, on site at all times. As the NEC was a new venue it was a steep learning curve, we had been at Olympia in London for many years so knew how things worked, not so at the NEC! Members of the GBBF Working Party had been to the site beforehand, so they had an idea of what to expect and detailed plans had been drawn up but there are always unforeseen problems.

One important area is the “Volunteer Village” which includes the “Volunteer Arms” also known as the VA or Volly. This is a behind the scenes area for staff to relax and enjoy a beer and something to eat. There is also a supply of

tea, coffee and soft drinks. Unfortunately, the NEC would not let us arrange our own catering this year so we had to rely on their services to feed the volunteers.

Friday sees the first deliveries of beer, this is mainly for the VA so that there is something for staff to drink once they have finished for the day. During set up the venue is considered to be a construction site so all staff must remain “dry” until the VA opens and work stops. CAMRA take staff safety and welfare seriously, so this makes a lot of sense even if we are being tempted by all the beer around us.

I arrived on site on Saturday morning along with the bulk of the volunteers, this is when the rest of the beer arrives and starts to be distributed to the relevant bars. My job is in the office as part of the Wet Stock team. The first job is to check all the beer in and make sure that what arrives is what was ordered and any discrepancies are recorded. We received around 1,300 different containers of beer and that does not include the cider or foreign bars. This is all done using spreadsheets and a database that has been developed over many years, however, every year Andy, my manager, finds something to tweak – I do my best to help!

Whilst I am busy in the office the bulk of the volunteers are getting the casks/kegs/keykegs into coolboxes in the right order. Hand pumps need to be installed and pipework known as “pythons” needs to be connected to get the beer from cask to hand pump. There were also two keg bars, one a “brewery bar” for Siren and Attic and one a CAMRA bar. A brewery bar is one that represents an individual brewery, we had three cask brewery bars, each with a number of distinct breweries such as Harvey’s, Dorking, Green Duck, Thornbridge etc. Whilst these bars are staffed by brewery employees as well as CAMRA volunteers the beer is controlled by the CAMRA cellar teams and if it is not up to scratch it will not go on sale. Additionally, there were four “CAMRA” bars all with a selection of beers from across the country. Finally, an American bar had a selection of US cask beers, two more bars had a wide selection of European beers.

Before the festival is open our team sorts out pricing for the beers which is done on a cost plus a mark up to cover overheads. Once the prices are sorted, cask end cards with details need to be printed along with beer descriptions. Sometimes casks turn up without pump clips so we have to either get replacements from breweries or produce something suitable ourselves.

Once open, our main job is to keep an eye on stock levels, the bar teams dip each cask twice a day and we record these to give a percentage sold etc. Various other jobs seem to keep us busy although we do get a chance for a beer or two!

When the last customers leave on Saturday it is all hands to work to get as much stripped down and ready to be sent back to breweries or CAMRA HQ before our staff party.

Ian Johnson

On The Stage at the Great British Beer Festival 2025



Surrey/Hants borders CAMRA branch member, and Champion Beer of Britain co-ordinator, Kevin Travers took to the stage at GBBF on Tues 5th August to present certificates to the champions in the CAMRA Home Brewer of the Year competition. He was also on hand to congratulate Penzance Brewery, brewers of

the Champion Beer of Britain, Penzance Mild. Look out for the Surrey/Hants Borders branch’s Cornwall weekend away in 2026, where we hope to include a visit to Penzance Brewery.

Val Mac T



GRAYSWOOD

Wheatsheaf

The pub closed in August due to personal circumstances of the licensee, having only been refurbished and reopened last year. It may reopen under new ownership, but no news yet. **KT**

GUILDFORD

Britanna

Overlooking the River Wey, this is one of two Shepherd Neame owned pubs in Guildford, a sister pub to The Star. 1698 Bottled Beer is my choice a 6.5% Ale, on hot days I have a cider. **DT**

Keep

This pub overlooks the Castle Grounds in Guildford town centre. There is a court yard garden and two real ales are available. New landlords have recently taken over and the Surrey Hills Ranmore tasted great on a recent visit and is selling well They have completed a spring clean and increased opening hours. The pub has a lot to offer and is worth supporting. **DT**

Prince Albert

After being closed for over two years, the pub reopened in August, being run by the landlord of the nearby King's Head. Four real ales are available, including a house beer. Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter, Hogs Back Surrey Nirvana and Surrey Hills, Shere Drop were all on sale on the opening night. **KT**

Star

Popular pub and live music venue in the centre of Guildford, Owned by Shepherd Neame and serving a range of their beers on draught and in bottle. Pub manager Pip runs the pub with a relaxing atmosphere indeed. At the rear of the pub is a separate room where live music is held and there is a plaque on the wall at the front of the pub commemorating the venue as where The Stranglers did their 1st performance. Jugs are available. **DT**

White House

Fullers owned pub, with a range of their beers on draught and in bottle. I like to have the Golden Pride 8.2% beer when visiting. The venue overlooks the River Wey and is popular for meals. **DT**

Wine Rack

This shop offers cask ale for takeaways, often Hop

Back, Surrey Hills and Hogs Back.

There is a huge bottled beer selection plus canned craft beers, ciders and growlers/jugs for craft beers. Local gins and wines are also available. **DT**

HORLEY

Jack Fairman

The pub closed at the start of September to have its roof replaced; consequently, there will be no October Ale Festival this year. The planned re-opening date is Friday 7th November, but this may change as work progresses. It is hoped that the reopening will be celebrated with a tap-takeover and meet-the-brewer session. Check the East & Mid Surrey branch website nearer the time for further details. **Ray Wadey**

LEATHERHEAD

Running Horse

A new tenant took over in July following the retirement of Colin and Daniella. Surrey Hills Ranmore was still on offer when visited recently. **JB**

NEWDIGATE

Six Bells

At the last visit very good quality Surrey Hills Ranmore and Shere Drop were the regular beers at this village pub which can be found opposite the church. Two or three craft keg beers were also sold. At the time of writing it was reported that the pub was to close in September, all the staff were to be made redundant and the pub put up for sale. **RG**

OLD OXTED

Wheatsheaf

The pub has been closed for a while but has now reopened with new operators. **PS**

OUTWOOD

Bell

This old and attractive Fuller's pub sells three of their beers. At a recent CAMRA meeting very good pints of London Pride, plus Gales Seafarers and HSB were enjoyed, despite the hot weather outside. **RG**

REIGATE

Hop Stop

Opposite Priory Park, this modern bar serves one cask beer alongside an eclectic selection of keg

beers, often including offerings from Verdant. Some very interesting cans and bottles are also sold, often from top quality European craft breweries. **RG**

STAINES-UPON-THAMES

Thames Side Brewery Tap Room

The local CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2025 is developing a reputation for numerous musical and cultural events including open-mic and poetry readings. Recently this included performances by several bands from the Chertsey Rock Project, a school of rock & pop for children and adults. In addition to several ales brewed onsite, there are usually a guest ale and real ciders. Note open Wednesday to Sunday. **LM**

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Magpie

This historic riverside pub, where the Grand Order of Water Rats was founded, had a thorough refurbishment in spring 2025. The renewed downstairs bar opens onto the patio which overlooks the River Thames, and there is an upstairs function room. Three real ales are on offer, recently Sambrook's Wandle, Vocation Bread and Butter and their house ale Magpie Ale, which is from the Greene King stable. **LM**

THAMES DITTON

Red Lion

Re-opened on 15th May under its original name having recently been known as Ditto's and the Foundry. Now run by the local Big Smoke Brewery, with three real ales on offer, two from Big Smoke and one guest, usually from another independent brewer. A spacious welcoming pub with an attractive outdoor area at the rear. **JB**

WALTON ON THAMES

Bear

The pub has been refurbished with a more modern look. The in-house barber has gone but there are plans to restore real ale, probably Youngs Original or Fuller's London Pride. **JB**

WEST MOLESEY

Royal Oak

Now has Sharps Twin Coasts as a regular, alongside Otter, Twickenham The Naked Ladies and Fuller's London Pride. **JB**

WESTON GREEN

Greyhound

Reopened in July under its original name having recently been known as Sexton's on the Green. The new tenant previously ran a Good Beer Guide listed pub in Cambridgeshire and has reintroduced real ale - just one changing beer at the moment but he hopes to expand the range in the future. A good range of home cooked food is available in the lounge, an open fire in winter and there is a pool table in the back bar. There is a large attractive garden at the rear of the pub. **JB**

WEYBRIDGE

Elmbridge Arms

The pub closed in early 2024 and the interior has now been stripped out. There are rumours that developers intend to convert the pub into retail units with flats above, though no planning application has yet been seen. **JB**

Jolly Farmer

Recently voted Kingston & Leatherhead Branch Summer Pub of the Season, this welcoming pub with a large garden at the rear has five ales on offer, typically including Surrey Hills Shere Drop, Hogs Back TEA, Tribute and Marston's Ringwood Fortyniner. **JB**

WINDLESHAM

Windmill

New manager, Rhys, has taken the helm at this M&B Country Pub chain establishment. He is keen to reestablish the pub as a Real Ale destination. On my visit St. Austell Tribute was served in good condition with Fullers Seafarers coming next then London Pride. At the moment the pub serves just one Real Ale although this increases to two during busy periods. Hopefully Rhys's efforts will be successful, and Real Ale will become a feature of the pub. **Ian Johnson**



Brewery News



CRAFTY, Dunsfold

www.craftybrewing.co.uk



The core range of Hop Tipple (ABV 4.2%), Loxhill Biscuit (ABV 3.6%), Blindside (ABV 4%) are continuing to sell well and win awards. Hop Tipple and Loxhill Biscuit won Silver at the Indie Cask Awards in July (Cask Session Pale Ale and Cask British Bitter respectively). The Summer saw the arrival of a few new beers. "Giant Redwood" APA and "Amarillo" single hop. Crumbs "Rye Ruby" and Ridgeway's "Bad King John" have sold well in cask.

Since 2023 Crafty have been in partnership with "Crumbs" brewing of Reigate, brewing Crumbs' range of beers made with unsold bread from the Chalk Hills bakery and since 2025 have brewed Ridgeway's ales.

With their in-house canning and labelling capability, the bespoke-labelled wedding, personalised, theatre, and event beers are popular. Sales of the "Honour and Craft" beers and ciders support British armed forces veterans <https://honourandcraft.co.uk/>.

The Crafty brewery on Dunsfold Road is open to visit for off-site sales Monday to Friday 10:00-16:30 (Closed Bank Holidays) and beers are available to order online for delivery 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, Capel

dorkingbrewery.com/



Dorking Brewery continue to focus on their three pubs, Dolphin, Brewery Inn and Old house. They have re-brewed Buffalo Buffalo for the first time in many

years and will have Five Claw returning in late September! They also do free brewery tours every weekend - just register online.

Roy Golding

FARNHAM TOWN BREWERY, Farnham

farnhamtownbrewery.co.uk



Farnham Town Brewery made its first public appearance at Farnham Beerex (Craft Bar) with Blind Bishop's Steps a 4.1% ABV Best Bitter. Since then, the beer has also featured in cask at both Fleet and Egham Beer Festivals along with a 4.5% ABV hazy pale ale "Walking Between Raindrops". At the time of writing their beers were set to be available at the Borough Beer House (Farnham) and White Horse (Hedgerley) and will also be found at the Ascot Racecourse Beer Festival.

Chris Truin

HOGS BACK, Tongham

www.hogsback.co.uk



The brewery have been brewing various Exmoor beers over the past few months : Exmoor Wicked Wolf a 4.2% ABV golden ale with hints of juniper, Exmoor Ale the classic 3.8% ABV bitter and Exmoor Silver Stallion - a 4.3% ABV bitter brewed for the brewery's 25th anniversary alongside Three Hogs brewed for the women's football tournament and Butchers Brew , a 4.5% English craft lager to celebrate Surrey Hills butchers being at the brewery for two years. One Planet have produced a hazy lager 5% ABV.

The brewery hosted a very successful acoustic festival and the popular Hop Harvest weekend was in September. The hops are growing well in the hop garden despite a dry summer and the solar panels have been producing lots of electricity. The Estate Manager, Matthew was interviewed by BBC Radio Surrey about the history of hop growing in the area.

Hog's Back are hosting a Fire and Food Fair in October.

Surrey Nirvana has won a silver at the British Bottlers Institute awards 2025.

Michele Axton

TERRA TEMPO, Tongham

terratempobrewing.com/

TERRA TEMPO

Here are a few of their recent beers which can be bought online or at Hogs Back Brewery shop: Relatively Clean Rivers 2025 6% ABV is a remake of their 2024 organic apricot and peach beer but using 50% more peach and 50% more apricot. It is close to a certain Belgian apricot beer. £1 from each bottle sold will go towards the Canal and River Trust.

Return of the Mack is a barrel aged Berliner Weisse blended with a Barneybeer pickle, cucumber and dill gose. It tastes just like a liquified Big Mac and goes perfectly with one!

Take Me to Your Dealer is a 5% ABV oak aged ale with mango and organic gummy bears. Designed as a bit of fun and not to be measured against the brewery's other offerings.

The brewery continues to produce some very interesting beers.

Michele Axton

THAMES SIDE, Staines-upon-Thames

thamessidebrewery.co.uk



Founded in 2015, and since 2022 situated within a large taproom by the entrance to the Two Rivers retail car park in Staines. Several regular ales in production are named after birds found on or near the Thames and include Black Swan Porter 4.6% ABV, Egyptian Goose IPA 4.8% ABV and White Swan Pale 4.2% ABV. A series of specials are also produced, with their naming following a musical theme including Ghost Town and Black Magic Woman.

Laurence 'Spike' Milligan

TRIPLE FFF, Four Marks

www.triplefff.com



Triple fff have had a busy summer and have been surprised by the level of demand for darker beers even during the summer months.

Their fastest growing beer has been "Satisfaction" 3.4% ABV Golden Session Ale which having only come into existence this year is some weeks selling only 20% less than Alton's Pride, with the other big growth product (has become a real cult favourite) being Jagged Little Pilsner in kegs.

The annual Brewery Open Day took place in mid-August and was a capacity sell out with bands, food trucks and an open dray pulled by shire horses. Being only 100 metres from the Watercress Line, Triple fff continues to work very closely with Mid-Hants Railway and has seen a sizeable uptick in walk in visitors to the Brewery Tap Room stepping off the wonderful steam railway. A new beer "Crazy Train" a 4.2% ABV amber ale was brewed for the day in memory of the late Ozzy Osbourne.

The Tap Room continues to have nine Triple fff beers on tap at any one time.

They also attended the London Craft Beer Festival in July where the reception for cask was far greater than expected and they will have a main stall at St Alban's Beer Festival in September which they are excited about.

Alton's Pride - a former CAMRA Supreme Champion Beer of Britain - followed on from winning SIBA's Best Bottled British Ale up to 6.4% ABV 2025 by also taking a Gold at the World Beer Awards 2025 and being Country Winner for Bitter up to 4.5% ABV!

Dave Patey

**News
& Ale**

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Good Beer Guide selection process - Be part of it!

Be part of the Good Beer Guide selection process by scoring your beer, accumulating points and maybe win a prize.

You may recall, in News and Ale issue 155, we introduced you to this year's SHB CAMRA Beer Scoring Competition. The more beer scores that are submitted by local drinkers, the bigger and clearer picture we have of what is being drunk, and where, in our branch area. This helps when we come to discuss the pubs that should be included in the next CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

At the time of writing this article, the highest scorer in our competition has a whopping 1021 points - having visited and scored beers in 60 different pubs in our branch area. Can you catch them? Of course you can! With a minimum of 11 points available per visit to a new pub, visit 90 pubs and that is 990 points. Bonus points can be gained on route and with perhaps more than one pint scored in a few pubs and you are there. With roughly four months until the end of January 2026, you could have as many as 22 or so new pubs a month to discover. So, even if you do not already have some scores in the system, you can do it. Sounds like great fun.

We have 165 of our SHB members who have submitted scores so far, it would be wonderful if more of you could get scoring. Boost your chances of winning a prize at the Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA AGM in February (it will not just be the person with the highest score who wins, there are other prize categories too) and help your branch by providing year wide information for GBG decision time.

SHB Committee

The CAMRA National Beer Scoring System (NBSS)

- **0:** No cask ale available - This can be because the pub never has it or it's run out
- **0.5:** Beer undrinkable / Poor
- **1:** Poor - Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment

- **1.5:** Poor / Average
- **2:** Average - Competently kept, drinkable pint but does not inspire in anyway, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing
- **2.5:** Average / Good
- **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
- **3.5:** Good / Very Good
- **4:** Very Good - Good Excellent beer in excellent condition
- **4.5:** Very Good / Perfect
- **5:** Perfect - Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely

How to score your beers

1. To score your beers, go to the CAMRA web site <https://camra.org.uk/pubs>.
2. Click in the "Search Pubs or Places" field and enter the details of the pub whose beer you are scoring or if you are in the pub click on "Pubs & Clubs Nearby" and, if your browser is location enabled, the pub you are in will be displayed.
3. Find and click on "Beer Score" and sign in with your CAMRA membership number.
4. Next find the pull-down menu "Please select" to score beer as per the NBSS scale displayed.
5. Click on "Search for a beer" to find the beer you want to score and if you wish you can also comment on your score and enter the price per pint.
6. Click on "Submit and score again" if you are scoring another beer or "Submit and close" to complete the scoring process. The whole process can be completed in seconds so no excuse to not enter your score.

The NBSS page is <https://shb.camra.org.uk/nbss>

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA Branch **visit to Lewes**

Lewes, a traditional market town in East Sussex, is famous for its annual fireworks celebrations, it is also home to three breweries including the largest and oldest of them, Harvey's. The brewery

won a couple of beer certificates so what better way to celebrate this event than to combine the presentation with a tour of the brewery. The trip to Lewes was on a

hot sunny Saturday in June, members of Surrey/Hants borders branch of CAMRA duly arrived at 11am at the brewery to meet the head brewer, Miles Jenner. Miles has been involved with the brewery for nearly 40 years and there is not a better person to take the branch on a tour of the brewery. Harvey's is a very old brewery and is arranged in the traditional gravity method of brewing beer. We were given a very thorough description of the brewing process filled with many anecdotes of the history of the brewery. The brewery is next to the river Ouse and is subject to flooding. The worst one was in 2000, Miles pointed out a plaque on the wall showing the height of the water during the flood. He described how beer casks were found floating to the river estuary. He took great pride in being told by the insurance company it would take three months before the brewery could brew again after the flood but with enormous effort the brewery was up and ready to brew in only nine days. After



the brewery tour Miles invited the branch into the sample room to try some of the many wonderful beers the brewery produces.



Presentation of Certificates to Miles Jenner

The presentation of certificates occurred in the main yard. Miles was presented with the certificates for the 2025 London and South-East Area Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) competition a Gold for Harvey's Dark Mild in the mild category and a Gold for Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter in the session beer category. These were presented to Miles by the London and South-East Area CBOB Coordinator Kevin Travers. We left the brewery just after 3pm and now branch members had a choice to either visit some of the pubs of Lewes or to visit the South Downs Beer and Cider Festival which just happened to coincide with the brewery visit. This is a great festival to visit, located in the Lewes Corn Exchange and had over 70 cask ales and 15 ciders available. CAMRA members were given a £5 beer voucher on entry, so it is well worth thinking about a visit for next year. For those that did not go to the beer festival there was a tour of some of the excellent pubs in Lewes. The pubs that were visited were the John Harvey Tavern, Gardener's Arms, Lewes Arms, Royal Oak and Lansdowne Arms. So, many thanks to Miles Jenner for a very informative tour of the brewery and we will look forward to visiting Lewes again in the future.



Miles Jenner explaining the brewing process

SHB CAMRA

Headscratcher No. 101 Results



I apologise for the mess-up in two of the clues in this crossword. When checking, I have marked whatever you have written as correct.

The winner of Headscratcher No 101 was Nigel Parsons of Southampton and the draw was made by Teresa Ewens, landlady of The Crossways Inn, Churt.

Correct answers were also received from Dennis Batty, John Barker, Dave Bumstead, Barry Cox, Jane Cox, Jennifer Davis, John Dodd, John L. Drake, Richard Draper, Roger Grant, John Hook, Alan Welsh.

There was one correct anonymous entry!

R	E	P	A	R	T	E	E		B		L		
E		O		A		L		S	C	E	N	E	
I	M	P	A	R	T	I	A	L		G		C	
G		U		E		C		O		A	R	T	
N	U	L	L		S	I	N	B	I	N		U	
		A		R		T		B				R	
T	A	R	G	E	T		M	E	A	G	R	E	
R				V		S		R		R			
A		T	R	E	N	C	H		B	A	T	H	
F	E	E		N		A		C		M		A	
F		R		U	N		S	H	A	M	E	D	
I	S	S	U	E		C		A		A		U	
C		E				T	E	A	R	D	R	O	P

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In memory of **Tony Legat**



Tony's friends at this year's GBBF all wearing T-shirts with his photo on!



Tony Legat, long standing Surrey/Hants Borders branch member sadly passed away on 28th May, 2025. Tony grew up in South London which probably explains why he was a lifelong Crystal Palace supporter, so much so that the Palace anthem "Glad All Over" was one of the songs at his funeral. At least Tony was able to

know that his team had won the FA Cup for the first time just days before he passed away.

Growing up Tony had a love of public transport, especially buses and he acquired a great knowledge of which bus went where. Tony met his wife Heather and they settled in the village of Beacon Hill on the edge of our branch area where they raised their two children. He was very involved with the local community being a member of the Grayshott Village Hall committee, this gave him the opportunity to run "FirkinFest" every autumn in the hall. Amateur dramatics was another love along with Formula One, he even flew to Australia for a weekend just to watch a Grand Prix. When asked why, he replied "Because I can!"

Tony was also involved with the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival and he was a Deputy Bar Manager for many years, finally hanging up his venting tools and mallet in 2023. In addition to all the above, Tony delivered News & Ale around the southwest part of our branch, covering about 15 out of the way pubs.

Tony will be missed by family and friends, his funeral was packed and the following wake featured over a dozen Real Ales kindly supplied by Papworth Brewery and Flowerpots Brewery.

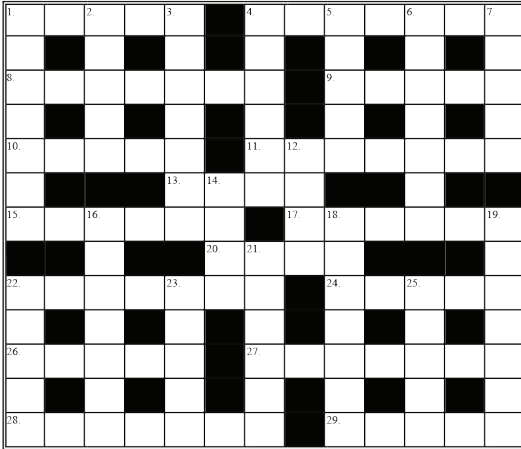
Ian Johnson

Headscratcher No. 102



Prize: £20

Clues for Headscratcher No.102



Down

1. Peter is arranging a break. (7)
2. This class achieves the highest grading. (5)
3. Extracts money with a bit of arm twisting. (7)
4. A broken-down horse is found on the beach. (6)
5. Cook in a micro. as time is precious. (5)
6. Denies reading back from a set agenda. (7)
7. Made a mistake in the letter redistribution. (5)
12. The patron usually takes responsibility. (4)
14. He will shortly enter the underworld. (4)
16. Crying out for a vocation. (7)
18. A real nut gets confused and sits on the fence.(7)
19. Hesitates from arranging this red revolution. (7)
21. The time-honoured cap is outmoded. (3, 3)
22. The runny nose contains the first medical warnings. (5)
23. Steer clear when the first lady embraces the head of amateur dramatics. (5)
25. This report is free from any defect. (5)

Across

1. Open fire holding a large gun. (5)
4. Organize the return of R. Reagan. (7)
8. Extend a prison sentence. (7)
9. This explosive firework blew its top off and caused annoyance. (5)
10. Lay to rest in the main terminus. (5)
11. Edward followed the work schedule and took turns. (7)
13. The point was made at that time. (4)
15. Practise, with no hesitation, for duty. (6)
17. The US nude revolution is new. (6)
20. Suffer a defeat in the closest finish yet. (4)
22. Will Leo become a source of wealth? (3, 4)
24. Knock over the rearranged setup. (5)
26. Estimated time of arrival is about six to see the musical. (5)
27. His true appearance is hairy. (7)
28. Propose the guests reassemble about the third of August. (7)
29. I sold reconstructed pools. (5)

Closing date for entries is Friday 12th December

All correct entries will be entered into a prize draw and the winners printed in the next edition

(unless requested otherwise).. Entries to:

**William Hill, Pendennis, Frimley Road,
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lunches across November and
December — reservations are required.


Contact us, and we can tailor buffets
for occasions such as wakes and
birthdays.

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- Quiz Night – second Sunday
of the month
- Beer Fest
- Halloween Party
- Christmas Lunches
- Monthly Live Music
- Carol Night
- New Year's Eve Party

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socials and contact
us to book:**

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