

News & Ale

CAMRA

FREE
Spring 2026
No. 158

Redhill Beer Festival October 29th to 31st

Details inside



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

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In this edition you can read about the new National Beer Scoring System (NBSS). It is important for CAMRA members to score their beer as it gives an indication of the quality of beer served at the pub or club. Only those pubs or clubs with the highest scores will be put forward for entry into the Good Beer Guide. Surrey/Hants Borders branch of CAMRA has held a competition to encourage the entry of NBSS scores. This edition announces the winners of the 2025 competition, the competition will also be run in 2026 so please keep scoring your beer and you just might win a prize.

On a sad note, Thurstons brewery have announced that they have stopped brewing with the last brew produced in May 2026. This reflects the very difficult economic conditions the brewery and pub trade are encountering now. Please support your pub and/or club, without your support we could see many more breweries and pubs close.

Ed

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Why isn't my local in the Good Beer Guide?



.... is something we are regularly asked and there can be a number of reasons. The Good Beer Guide is CAMRA's flagship publication, which lists the best pubs in the UK. But what you may not know is how those pubs are selected to appear in the Guide. The answer is that it is largely via beer ratings submitted by CAMRA members from all over the country. So, if your favourite pub isn't in the Guide, this may well be because you, and others, haven't rated the quality of beer there. By rating beers, you can contribute to the process of selection of pubs that go in the Good Beer Guide and help ensure the best pubs are selected.

So how do I rate the quality of the beer?

CAMRA members have been encouraged to do this for many years but a new system was introduced at the start of June, so now is a really good time to start. The new approach should increase the number of members participating as well as increasing the overall number of

ratings being submitted, by making it easier for you to choose a rating that matches what you think of the quality of a beer.

Importantly you don't have to be an 'expert' to begin scoring your beer. However, it is not about your personal favourite beer receiving the highest rating! You may try a beer that isn't to your normal taste but what you need to consider is the quality of that beer, how well the pub has kept it and served it and rate it according to the general guide below.

How do I submit my ratings?

In order to submit your rating, you simply find the pub on CAMRA's online pub guide <https://camra.org.uk/pubs> on a computer or by smart phone, which lists over 55,000 pubs and clubs from all over the UK. There are functions to find a pub near where you are, or simply search by name and location. Once you have logged in using your CAMRA membership number and

Rating	Description	Your reaction
Excellent	Exceptional and clear (if intended to be) with fantastic aromas, flavours and ideal carbonation.	Superb! You tell your friends and compliment the cellar manager.
Very good	Satisfying and well-kept with a great appearance, good carbonation and enticing aromas and flavours.	You consider having another and may cancel plans to move to another pub.
Good	Nice appearance, good carbonation, aromas and flavour.	Pleasant but not memorable. You're happy to have another but might consider something else.
Acceptable	Unremarkable and ordinary, with no noteworthy characteristics.	You're unlikely to have another unless it is all there is and there isn't another pub to go to.
Poor	Noticeably imperfect.	Drinkable with resentment, but you politely ask for a replacement.
Undrinkable	Unpleasant to drink, likely with a disgusting taste, incorrect appearance and off/foul aroma.	You politely ask for it to be replaced and consider asking the publican to take it off.

password you can then easily add your rating, using the guide above. There is also a box to tick if the pub doesn't serve real ale, with the information being fed directly back to the local CAMRA Branch to help keep information up to date.

Once you have rated your beer, you can also enter the name of the beer you are drinking if you wish to do so. Once you have entered the brewery name you should be able to click on the arrow in the beer box and a dropdown list of that brewery's beers should appear. In some cases, the beer you are drinking may be new or a one off by the brewery so may not appear on the list if this is the case you can simply

type in the beer name. Select the correct one click 'submit rating' and it will be entered into the database. It is as simple as that. An added bonus is that it will keep a record of your ratings so you can look back to see what beers you have had and how you rated them if you want.

Most importantly you are helping ensure that the Good Beer Guide really does list the pubs with the best real ale across the country.

Kevin Travers

Post Surrey/Hants Borders AGM trip to **Ten Tun Brew House in Alton**

This year after CAMRA's Surrey/Hants Borders branch AGM, 23 intrepid travellers caught the train from Woking to Alton to visit the rather wonderful Ten Tun Brew House. We were split into two groups for our brewery visit with head brewer Dave Hall. Whilst one group listened to Dave the other tucked into the fine beers on offer at the Ten Tun Tap House side of the business, and then of course we swapped over. The brewery is micro, and as such is always producing a small batch of something new. Their cask ales are more traditional, and the keg beers are in line with what we have grown to expect and enjoy in the modern style. Dave was an excellent host, giving us all a really informative tour. The staff at the bar worked so hard keeping up with our orders whilst juggling their regular customers at the same time. Other pubs in Alton also visited and enjoyed were the Eight Bells, Cassidy's Bar and Railway Arms. It was a good trip with a variety of good beer

establishments in the town. Huge thanks to Ten Tun Tap for hosting us all.

(picture on front cover was taken at the Ten Tun Brew House)

Val MacT

PS: if anyone would like to plan and lead our next post AGM outing, do please get in touch!



Branch Presentations



East and Mid Surrey Branch Awards

Pub of the Year

The **Three Horseshoes** in Cranleigh's High Street has now won the Branch's Pub of the Year award for the third year running. The intriguing pub building includes a snug bar plus a large lounge bar featuring an inglenook wood-burning fireplace. A large modern dining room leads to an outside space with play equipment. The bars serve six changing real ales, with one normally a dark beer, with the current selection being shown on the web site. The presentation to landlord Peter Slinger has been arranged for 27 July. Check the web site for details of a celebratory event.



Cider Pub of the Year

Meanwhile, in Dorking, **Cobbetts** micropub has continued its run as Cider Pub of the Year. Special care is taken to only serve real ciders and perries from CAMRA approved producers, including the local Barnards ciders, made in nearby Abinger.

Martin Longhurst

Cobbetts Cider Pub of the Year

Ten Year Award for The Radius Arms

The East and Mid Surrey CAMRA branch would like to congratulate The **Radius Arms** in Whyteleafe for their award for ten consecutive years in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. Members of the branch met at the micropub on the afternoon of Saturday 7th February 2026, where we presented the certificate. On the bar we found both Ice Queen and Butterley from Ossett Brewery, The IPA from Anspach and Hobday and Millionaire Shortbread Stout from New Bristol Brewery. The micropub is a couple of minutes' walk from both Upper Warlingham and Whyteleafe rail stations so is easily accessible by public transport if you'd like to pay a visit. Pictured is our branch chairman, Rob Wells (on the right), presenting the award to owner Vince.



Darren May

Radius Arms

Surrey/Hants Branch Awards



*Presentation at Herbert Wells.
Image by Wetherspoons*

Thirtieth Anniversary Presentation to the Herbert Wells

We launched the release of the 2026 Good Beer Guide at the **Herbert Wells** in Woking. We sold a few copies of the guide that evening and took time to celebrate a rather astonishing achievement. Believe it or not the Herbert Wells in Woking has been in the Good Beer Guide for thirty years. We were all treated to some great beers and had a big branch member presence. It was a good evening for real ale, and we even had a local MP join us to celebrate.

Ten Years in the Good Beer Guide White Hart, Chobham

On a Saturday afternoon in January 2026, I led a visit to Chobham by the 73 White Bus from Woking Station. Upon arrival there were other branch members present. We had a choice of some great real ales and Stan the Landlord was very pleased to see us. I made the presentation of the certificate around three o'clock and Stan was very happy that the branch was celebrating the pubs achievement. We had a photo opportunity behind the beer engines.



White Hart, Chobham



*Garden Gate,
Aldershot*

Ten Years in the Good Beer Guide Garden Gate, Aldershot

On a rather wet Tuesday evening in January, we had a branch social at the **Garden Gate** in Aldershot. It is always good to visit the Garden Gate as the beer is great. But the main reason for the social event was to present Yvonne and Bob Swann with a certificate to celebrate being in the Good Beer Guide for ten years. From the choice of beers on sale, I went for Surrey Hills - Ranmore and I was not disappointed. The condition of the beer was exceptional and was most enjoyable. Just after nine o'clock, we had the presentation to Yvonne and Bob, and they spoil us with some tasty pizza. It was good to see a fair turnout of local branch members.

Mick Bell

Cider Pub of the Year

Congratulations to Andy and Emma at the **Star** in Godalming, they have won our Cider Pub of the Year again. The presentation was made on Easter Saturday during the pub's Beer Festival. The pub offers a wide range of ciders from traditional strong "scrumpy" ciders to lighter ciders often flavoured with fruit. If cider is your drink, you won't go wrong at the Star. If you haven't visited before why not pay a visit, the pub is easily accessible in Godalming town centre.

Ian Johnson



Star, Godalming

Kingston and Leatherhead Branch Awards

Winter is always warmed by our **Pub of The Season** (POTS) award, but this particularly grim season was also livened up by a victory on the planning front and more. An opportunity all round to demonstrate the strengths of the Kingston and Leatherhead branch!



Branch Chair Richard Russell presents Jo Fuller at the Barley Mow, with their Pub of The Season award.

On 29th January we gave our POTS award to Jo Fuller at the **Barley Mow** in Epsom for the most improved pub over the past six months. The award is serious recognition for the hard work and spirit of the team running the pub, and in the case of the Barley Mow, as Jo states, this is actually about “everything we’ve done over the last two years”. She and her team have a supreme customer focus and a recognition of what really matters, for example strictly changing prices only once a year as an example. Jo herself has put in 30 years into the industry, starting out at the Mad Bishop & Bear at Paddington, to taking over as tenant at the Barley Mow in 2024, giving her a great knowledge about how and what she can effectively manage in these challenging times.

Jo also speaks highly of everyone who has helped bring about the changes. Her team, pictured by Heather and Jacob, grows to 18 in the summer – they are the “We” who manage the pub and whose strength is shown in the really positive relationship with their neighbours. But Jo also speaks very highly of the team at Fullers supporting her, from Simon Enemy to her Business Development Manager, Steven, and the teams at Nectar and Innserve, all there to support her in what she wants to achieve and demonstrated in her 32-page business plan!

Above all, the Barley Mow is centred on people, Jo’s customers, team and support all dedicated to giving you a great time – very deservedly our Pub of The Season.



What to do with the Marquis of Granby

Celebrating the present is built on the past and we were pleased that Elmbridge Council agreed with our objection to the planning request to change the **Marquis of Granby** at the Scilly Isles from a “pub with extended dining facilities” to a restaurant. In our view, and more importantly that of the planning officer, there was no justification for the proposed change. What is required is a plan for the site, as illustrated by our picture, and one that recognises its importance, not merely a change of planning status.

With great timing, the news of victory came through on the morning of our walk-through

neighbouring territory, Hampton Wick, providing more reason to celebrate across four pubs from the White Hart Hotel to the Lion! Among our celebrants was Chris, attending his first CAMRA event who said "...the afternoon was even friendlier than I expected. I had lots of great conversations with interesting people, most of whose names I can't remember, but I look forward to seeing them over a pint or two in the future." We all look forward to doing so again very soon!

Finally, January also provided us with opportunity to reapply for the ACV (Asset of

Community Value) for the Willoughby Arms in Kingston which it has held for ten years. Recognising the importance to the community of this great pub feels particularly important and we wait for positive confirmation from our friends at Kingston council. Overall, another couple of months covering pubs and people that we care about and that provide value to our communities.

Dave Butler

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North Surrey Branch Awards

Branch Cider Pub of the Year

The 2026 North Surrey CAMRA Branch Cider Pub of the Year was to the **Thames Side Brewery** in Staines. The certificate was presented to Andy Hayward by the North Surrey Cider Representative Sue.



Thames Side Brewery

Branch Pub of the Year

The 2026 North Surrey CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year was to the **Happy Man**, Egham. The certificate was presented to James Oldroyd at the Happy Man by members of the North Surrey branch.



Happy Man

Laurence 'Spike' Milligan

Get out of the group chat and into the round

Notifications off



Beer fest friends BFF's

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Pub News **Round Up**



ADDLESTONE

RAOB Club

Popular with darts and snooker players, and usually two ales on, one of which is usually Shepherd Neame Spitfire or similar. There is also a guest ale, which has recently included Milestone Cromwell Best and New Bristol Bristolian Rhapsody. The Club is always looking for new members, and card-carrying CAMRA members are also welcome. **LM**

BAGSHOT

Three Mariners

The pub reopened in November with new landlord Steven Hession at the helm. The quality of real ale has been maintained with Dartmoor Legend and Butcombe Bitter spotted in recent weeks. Food has been reintroduced with a variety of meal deals taking place throughout the week, such as Wing Wednesday and Pizza Thursday and a burger & pint offer during live sport. **Kevin Travers**

BRAMLEY

Jolly Farmer

This lively independently owned pub, which has been in the same family for over 50 years, is a long-standing Mecca for real ale lovers. It always has at least half a dozen beers from all over the country of different types and flavours and a couple of beers from Dunsfold's Crafty Brewing, usually Hop Tipple and one other from their range such as Grumpsters, which is Blind Side rebadged. **Charles Meade-King**

BROCKHAM

Taphouse

Four cask beers usually on sale. Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and Surrey Hills Shere Drop are regulars, plus usually one from Firebird and another from Surrey Hills. Recently the changing

beers were Firebird Nelson Sauvin and Surrey Hills By the Wey. **Roy Golding**

CAMBERLEY

Cabin

Mark opened this place about seven years ago, and although there's not enough space to provide real ale he did include a few bottled beers that had some sediment in them, but to be honest, they didn't seem to be particularly sought-after by customers, so space has been provided for a more 'flexible' array of beers and ciders – plus other drinks, of course, including the popular 'Baby Guinness'! Proper Guinness is also available, of course, and Hofmeister lager. The whole place is nicely full of 'oddities' lining the walls including an area for paintings for sale – basically, the whole place is 'buzzing', especially when they have 'live music' on each week! Mark's nephew, Luke, works alongside, these days, and provides good backup – keep it up, chaps! **Doug Fish**

Camberley & District Club

This private members' club (established 1903) is close to Camberley's town centre, handy for nearby shops and restaurants, with access limited to members and guests by invitation. New members are welcome, often by introduction through existing members. Guests are welcome to use the facilities, if signed in by a member.

The club is free of tie, enabling it to provide a broad choice of beers. A good relationship has been established with Triple fff Brewery. They deliver a fined batch of one of their cask ales every Friday, which attracts a strong following from the regulars. Moondance, Alton's Pride and Sundown are often available by rotation. At a recent visit I much enjoyed the Lady Eleanor, which received my "seal of approval"! A range of bottled ales is also available, one of the most

popular ones being Timothy Taylor Landlord. The club has several TVs, darts, two snooker tables and a pool table. Social events are held throughout the year, both within the club, like quiz nights, Paddy's Party, birthday parties, and trips out for horse-racing etc. Comfortable seating is provided, with side tables, away from the main bar area. **Harry Fish**

Claude du Vall

Just an 'update' on my previous 'Pub clip' to say that the manager Paul not only returned to action when the pub reopened last November but has also featured in photos in the last two editions of the Wetherspoon News and also achieved the goal of another year in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide, of course! Well done all round, Paul! Nice to see the return of the old clock at the far end of the bar, which is useful for those of us wanting a late bus home, as all too often!! Seems to have been a succession of 'beer-fests' within the pub, so many of us have been sampling a whole new range of beers, thanks! Altogether, a very well-run pub that maintains an excellent array of beers and food at amazingly modest prices! Well done, all! **DF**

DOWNSIDE (COBHAM)

Plough

This food-oriented pub on the outskirts of Cobham near the River Mole had Bath Gem on offer when visited recently. **John Burns**

EAST MOLESEY

Poyntz Arms

One of a growing number of Big Smoke pubs in the area, this large corner pub usually has up to three of the brewery's own ales, a Shepherd Neame offering and a changing guest ale, often from other small breweries. 10% discount applies to CAMRA members. An Irish Traditional band performs every Thursday night. **JB**

EFFINGHAM

Queen Stage (Sir Douglas Haig)

The pub closed suddenly in February when the leaseholder surrendered the lease and its future is uncertain. Formerly the Sir Douglas Haig, in recent years it was a pub and coffee house with a strong focus on welcoming walkers and cyclists. **KT**

EGHAM

Egham United Services Club

A Mecca for lovers of cask ale and real cider, two regular ales from Surrey Hills and Rebellion, together with three guests, usually including a dark beer. Three beer and cider festivals a year are held, which are open to the public with discount entry for CAMRA members, and they recently hosted their 48th, with numerous ales many from new breweries. In April the local branch Club of the Year certificate was awarded to club Vice President Alan Purvis. Their 49th Beer Festival takes place from 29th July to 1st August 2026. **Laurence 'Spike' Milligan**

Foresters Arms

In our last edition we reported that this back street local had been granted planning permission for redevelopment as flats but was still trading but has unfortunately now closed. Another sad loss of a local community amenity. **LM**

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Happy Man

Cosy multi-roomed pub well known for its ever-changing selection of cask ales. Regular beer festivals have proved popular with both local residents and students from nearby Royal Holloway University. In March landlord James Oldroyd was awarded local CAMRA Pub of the Year. **LM**

EVERSLEY

White Hart

This traditional pub is in 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, who previously worked at the nearby hotel and conference centre. They have used their experience in the hospitality industry, to build up the restaurant side of the business, as well as serving a variety of drinks. They operate through the Stonegate group, with access to a wide range of beers. At a recent visit I much enjoyed the Wallops Wood from the Bowman brewery, which was in excellent condition.

There is a rear car park and garden area, with picnic benches, close to nearby 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. **HF**

FARNHAM

Den 97

Bright and airy modern sports bar, that opened in November, in the new Brightwell development. No real ale is served, though a keg beer from Siren Craft is available. Food consists of burgers, pizzas and loaded fries and is available all day. There is a strong emphasis on sports, with Sky and TNT Sports, two shuffleboard and six dartboards available, together with a selection of board games, all of which are available for booking. **KT**

Plough

The pub closed in February and its future is uncertain. Shepherd Neame brewery owns the freehold though for the 18 months prior to closure it had been run by a fast-food franchise, Hungry Boys, who have decided to focus on their pop-up operations and have therefore given up their lease on the pub. **KT**

GUILDFORD

Cannon

Sad to see the Cannon shut in January. Built in 1844 it served as the tap for the Cannon Brewery, until its closure shortly after the First World War. It remained a traditional pub for many years, until conversion to H Bar in 2022 and becoming a student hang out and night club. A notice

posted on the window said that the business is insolvent. The tenancy is currently being advertised by Star Pubs and Bars (Heineken) so fingers crossed it may reopen. **KT**

Wates House (Sir Ronald Wates)

This Surrey University Campus bar closed in December but is due to reopen as a franchised Wetherspoon in May. The Branch is planning a social evening there in mid-August; see social diary for details. **KT**

HERSHAM

Bricklayers Arms

This Big Smoke pub was recently refurbished and has two distinct areas, one with pool tables and live sport, the other catering for diners and those looking to enjoy a convivial pint in comfortable surroundings. Up to three Big Smoke ales and a guest are usually available and a 10% discount is available for CAMRA members. **JB**

Royal George

Lively and welcoming community local with four cask ales on offer, typically including Timothy Taylor Boltmaker, Harvey's Sussex Best, Young's London Original and guest ales from around the country. A 10% discount is available for CAMRA members. **JB**

LONG SUTTON

Four Horseshoes

Another very successful Branch social was held at the pub with 11 members all very pleased with Tony's Sunday roast for £11.50 and two roaring real fires. Two beers were on Palmers Copper and Bowman Meon Valley Bitter both in good condition in this Good Beer Guide listed pub. Tony and Shelia the landlord and landlady are both in their 80s and are doing a superb job running this fairly remote and unchanged wonderful county pub. Visit soon before it disappears just give them a call before you go, as opening hours are limited. **Tony Lea**

...Continued on page 20

Surrey/Hants Borders

Chairman's report



Welcome to the Spring edition of News and Ale. At the Surrey/ Hants Borders CAMRA AGM back in February, Mick Bell stood down as Chairman, and I was elected as the new chairman. Thank you to Mick for his efforts over the past few years leading the branch and running the Surrey Tasting Panel. Simon Price was elected as my Vice Chairman, I look forward to working with Simon in the future, promoting CAMRA and running the branch. We also saw a new LocAle Officer, Ian Nunn and a new Young Members officer, Dylan Thomas. I wish them success in their roles.

I am writing this on a lovely sunny morning having just returned from CAMRA's AGM and Members' Weekend in St Albans. The AGM discussed CAMRA's financial position following a not insignificant loss last year. Part of this was expected due to the move from premises in St Albans that had become impractical to continue in, the office building needed significant expenditure and even then, would not be ideal, the warehouse was also becoming unsuitable. Our new premises in Luton put everything on one site and will make things a lot easier operationally. Another reason for loss was GBBF which had moved to Birmingham.

For many years people had asked for GBBF to be moved to a more central location, Olympia not being available in 2025 gave the opportunity to try somewhere else. Unfortunately, this did not work, GBBF and GBBF Winter have been shelved for the moment with thought being given to the reasons for the losses and how we move forward. Falling membership numbers is another reason for financial pressures, if you are not a CAMRA member please consider joining the campaign. There are many benefits, free entry to CAMRA beer festivals, £30 worth of vouchers for a variety of pubs, discounts

on books and other products, there is a link to CAMRA membership elsewhere in this magazine.


Our branch Pub of the Year was announced recently, I'm pleased to say it is the Crown in Horsell one of my favourite pubs (and close to my home!) Our Club of the Year is Woking Railway Club. Finally, our Cider Pub of the Year is the Star Godalming, the presentation happened at their Beer Festival over Easter, see elsewhere for report. If you are looking at these awards and thinking, why is it always the same pubs/clubs that win, firstly it is because they are very good at what they do and secondly, they have been voted for by CAMRA members. Finally, the top pubs were visited by a panel of judges and scored on beer quality, welcome, atmosphere, support of CAMRA aims etc. If you would like to be involved in selecting next year's winners, please get in touch.

Ian Johnson


SHB Branch Chairman

Did you know?

Pubs raise over £100 million a year
for charity



Source: pubaid.com (accessed 2020)



The future of Surrey Hills Brewery looks bright



Surrey Hills Brewery was sold by owner Ross Hunter in August 2023 to two local men who liked the beer, Andy Russell and Chris Carney. Often changes in ownership can bring about catastrophic results, with the new guard wanting to impose themselves upon the new business. So, has this happened at Surrey Hills Brewery? Absolutely not. Whilst keeping a watchful eye on proceedings, Andy and Chris have let things carry on much as before.



The brewery is extremely lucky to have Simon Jones still brewing. Simon has been there for 17 years and was at Scotland Farm in Shere before the brewery moved to Dorking. Simon is a genius, and it is he who brewed the Shere Drop which won CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain in 2019. He also brewed Hammer Mild; a beer only produced a couple of times but took the gold

medal in the mild category in the Champion Beer of Britain awards in 2010. So, he is a great brewer.

These days brewing is split with George Ogle, who is Head of Operations. George is responsible for two new additions to the beer range, Three Peaks and By the Wey. Three Peaks is a regular addition to the portfolio and is a light and hoppy ale at 3.3%. It is one of the best sellers at the brewery bar. It was brewed by George with help from Ross and has now been rebrewed seven or eight times. The other beer is a one-off (although don't be surprised if it reappears next year.). This is wholly George's recipe, and is brewed using Galaxy, Citra and Mosaic hops, along with Maris Otter and a Bavarian malt, which gives colour to this 4.8% American Pale Ale.



There is a third brewer starting out now. This is Lewis, and older drinkers may remember his father, Stig, who was working at the brewery back in Shere twenty years ago.

With regards to the brewery now, brewing takes place around 150-160 times a year on the 50-hectolitre kit. That is over one million pints a year. Even so, more beer is often sold in a week than brewed. For this reason, the

brewery is looking to expand, and a new hot liquor tank should arrive soon, with plans for two new fermenters in the new year. It is worth remembering here that sales are mainly within 15 miles of the brewery. A great achievement will take place on 13th May when the 2,000th brew will take place in the 21st year of brewing. This will be Ranmore.



as such, but a new decked area provides decent seating around tables made from pallets. There is a roof to this (although no sides), but heating should be available for winter. In the middle of this is a long table, modelled on Bavarian Beer Halls. This area has proved very popular with ramblers, cyclists, dog walkers, and those just turning up for beer to take away.

These days Shere Drop, Ranmore and Three Peaks are always available, plus Gilt Complex, Gilt Trip and Greensand as they can be fitted in. Albury Ruby appears in winter, and Collusion (a 5.2% ale brewed with different hops each brew). So far there have been 40 iterations of this. However, version 37 has just been rebrewed (the first time this has happened) for a competition. So, look out for Collusion v37.2 soon.

Another major change has been improvement to the drinking area outside. There is no taproom

Roy Golding

THE SANDROCK



House of ale repute...

The Sandrock is under new ownership, and we have made a few changes... As well as adding some cozy new furniture, we have also upgraded our cellar to better support the mighty SANDROCK 8, a carefully curated rotating selection of real ales from both local and not so local breweries.

We have reopened our kitchen! Offering traditional pub grub and classic Sunday roasts!
Call us on - 01252 438043 Or find us on the internet! - www.sandrockfarnham.co.uk

OUR OPENING HOURS

	BAR	KITCHEN
Monday	16:00-23:00	Closed
Tuesday	16:00-23:00	17:00-21:00
Wednesday	12:00-23:00	12:00-14:30 17:00-21:00
Thursday	16:00-23:00	17:00-21:00
Friday	12:00-23:00	12:00-14:30 17:00-21:00
Saturday	12:00-23:00	12:00-21:00
Sunday	12:00-22:30	12:00-16:00

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 £3 has been extended to the end of March 2027 (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 rover ticket. Stagecoach has a Nightrider rover ticket that is valid in Surrey and Hampshire and is only £4 (at time of publication) and valid for travel after 7pm. Other bus companies may have similar tickets.

JUNE

Thurs 4th 5:35pm Evening bus (71) tour to Chiddingfold. Catch Service 71 at 5.35pm from Guildford Bus Station. The tour will start at 6.20pm at the Winterton Arms before moving on to the Swan Inn, from 7.30pm and finishing at the Crown Inn, from 8.45pm. Full travel details on the Branch Website [SHB]

Thurs 11th 6.30pm Growlers & Cans and Kerrera - Guildford. Both micropubs are now serving a cask ale. 6.30pm Growlers & Cans and 8pm Kerrera. [SHB]

Thurs 11th to Saturday 13th June Kingston Beer Festival. Kingston Beer Festival is on at Kingston Workmen's Club. [K&L]

Thurs 18th 8:00pm Thursday Social at the Borough Beer House, Farnham. [SHB]

Tues 23rd 8:00pm Branch meeting White Hart, Godstone. [EMS]

Weds 24th 7.30pm Summer evening tour of Thames Ditton pubs. Starting at the Olde Swan, then across the road to the Red Lion (Big Smoke) and finishing at the George and Dragon (Shepherd Neame). Both start and finish are close to Thames Ditton Station. [K&L]

Sat 27th 1:00pm Good Intent Puttenham Beer Fest Social. Meet branch members at Beer Festival. [SHB]

Tues 30th 6:00pm Midsummer Walk. For our annual midsummer walk this year, we will be walking five miles and visiting three pubs between Brookwood and Guildford. Meet at 6pm for a prompt 6.30pm departure from Cricketers, Pirbright, 7.00pm Fox Inn, and 8.30pm Cricketers, Rydes Hill. [SHB]

JULY

Weds 1st 7.30pm Branch meeting, Walton Village, Walton-on-Thames. [K&L]

Tues 7th Wrecclesham area pub tour. Pubs visited include Bat & Ball, Boundstone: Sandrock, Wrecclesham: More details nearer the time will be on

the SHB website. [SHB]

Sat 11th Cider Pub of the Year Presentation Cobbett's, Dorking. See EMS website for timings. [EMS]

Weds 15th 8pm Provisional branch meeting. See SHB website for details. All welcome. [SHB]

Thurs 16th 8:00pm Thursday Social at the Herbert Wells (Wetherspoons), Woking. [SHB]

Sat 18th Joint Dorking Pub Tour with Croydon Branch. Start at the Star, then Old House at Home, Cobbetts, King's Arms and Cricketers. See EMS website for timings. [EMS]

Mon 27th 8:00pm Branch meeting Three Horseshoes, Cranleigh. [EMS]

Weds 29th 12.30pm Midweek afternoon stroll from Wandsworth Town to Putney Bridge. Starts at the Sambrook's Brewery Tap which is a short walk from Wandsworth Town station. Then walking on to the Cats Back (Harvey's), Rocket (Wetherspoons), Bricklayers Arms (GBG), Kings Head (the only Wadworth pub in London) and finishing at the Eight Bells (GBG), which is across the road from Putney Bridge station. [K&L]

Weds 29th 5.15pm Ripley pub tour. Catch Service 715 at 4.30pm or 5.50pm from Guildford Bus Station. We will visit Seven Stars (5.15pm), Half Moon (6.30pm), Ship (7.30pm) followed by Talbot, Anchor & Jovial Sailor returning to Guildford at 10pm. Full travel details on the Branch Website. [SHB]

AUGUST

Thurs 6th 8:00pm Thursday Social at the Crown, Horsell. [SHB]

Thurs 13th 6:15pm Guildford Double!! Wetherspoons Night. Start at Rodboro Buildings. At 7:30pm we will then walk a mile to the new 'Sir Ronald Wates' Wetherspoon on the University of Surrey Campus. [SHB]

SEPTEMBER

Fri 11th to Mon 14th Branch visit to Cornwall This weekend away is fully booked, but if you are interested, please get in touch with Kevin Travers contact@shb.camra.org.uk to join the waiting list. [SHB]

Fri 18th Bermondsey Beer Mile Branch Social. See EMS website for details. [EMS]

OCTOBER

Sat 17th 12 noon Prince of Wales, Farnborough Beer Fest Social. Join see SHB branch members for an afternoon of good beers at the annual Beer Festival. [SHB]

DECEMBER

Weds 2nd Pig's Ear Beer Festival Social held as usual in the Round Chapel, 1D Glenarm Road, London E5 0LY. If you are planning to go, please contact social@shb.camra.org.uk before attending. [SHB]

BEER FESTIVALS

LOCAL BEER FESTIVALS

Thurs 11th to Sat 13th June: Kingston Beer Festival, Kingston Workmen's Club, 25 Old London Road, Kingston. KT2 6ND.

Fri 26th to Sun 28th June Good Intent Beer Festival. Good Intent, Puttenham. Free entry. Details at www.goodintentputtham.co.uk

Weds 29th July to Sat 1st August 49th Egham Beer Festival. Egham United Services Club, Egham. Opening times: Wed. 29th July: 3:00pm to 11:00pm, Thu 30th July: 10:00am to 11:00pm Fri 31st July: 10:00am to midnight Sat 1st Aug: 12:00pm to midnight. CAMRA discounted entry. 45+ real ales, ciders and perry. BBQ and live music Friday and Sat. evenings. Details at www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk

Sat 1st August Fleet Beer Festival The Harlington, Fleet. The 18th Fleet Beer Festival organised by Fleet Lions, will have two sessions 11:00am to 3:00pm and 5.30pm to 9.30pm. It will offer 40 real ales as well as ten ciders. Full details and how to get tickets can be found at www.fleetlions.org.uk/beerfest.

Tues 25th to Sat 29th Peterborough Beer Festival. For details visit the website PBOROBEEFEST.CAMRA.ORG.UK. Free entry for all CAMRA members.

Fri 4th to Sat 5th September Yateley Cask and Cork Festival. Beer, wine and music festival held at Sean Devereux Park in Yateley, Hampshire. Over 30 beers proposed from predominantly local breweries, together with lagers, ciders and wines. Local food and

live music are also on offer. Details of ticket sales and other information is at caskandcork.co.uk CAMRA members get a free half on entry!

Fri 16th to Sun 18th October Prince of Wales Beer Festival. The festival returns with a selection of over 70 real ales. In addition to the cask ales, 10 ciders available as well as keg beers, a BBQ and live music each day. We will be holding a SHB Branch Social on Saturday afternoon.

Thurs 29th to Sat 31st October Redhill Beer Festival at Merstham Village Hall, see <https://ems.camra.org.uk/festival>, and the article in this magazine for further details.

Weds 11th to Sat 14th November 50th Egham Beer Festival. Egham United Services Club, Egham. CAMRA discounted entry. 45+ real ales, ciders and perry. BBQ and live music Friday and Sat. evenings. Details at www.eghambeerfestival.co.uk

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 [@CAMRAK](#) 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/>

Thurstons to stop brewing



I am sad to report that the shareholders of Thurstons Brewery have decided that it is time to stop brewing. Thurstons first brewed using a half barrel kit in the kitchen of the Crown in Horsell, producing just two nine-gallon casks at a time. The brewery's first delivery beyond the Crown was to Woking Beer Festival in 2012, just days after the company was incorporated. This beer was Stedman's Ale which was named to remember John Stedman the previous commercial brewery in Horsell which had operated until 1910.

In 2013 the Woking Beer Festival served Horsell Gold and Milk Stout. Horsell Gold has become the brewery's mainstay. At the time, very few other breweries were producing a Milk Stout, currently it is a fairly common style, but I do not think that I am being biased in recognising that Thurstons' Milk Stout continues to be one of my favourite examples. In checking back over my festival notes, I see that we served Horsell Hop in 2016, this beer has continued to be brewed each year including freshly picked hops grown beside the brewery. In most years the harvest is only enough for one brew, so this beer has been one to look out for.

Larger premises were soon sought and in 2014 brewing moved into an adjacent building which had recently been vacated by a travel agent business. The building allowed the brew length to be increased from half a barrel to four, allowing about sixteen casks to be brewed depending upon the beer. The brewhouse was well equipped including a hop back and three fermentation vessels. Over the years various investments in equipment have been made, but the size of the building has effectively capped the size of the brewery. By my reckoning over twenty different beers have been produced across the years. However, with finite capacity, keeping up with demand for Horsell Gold has made it harder to brew other beers as well as take time to maintain the brewery. Combining this with the well-known economic and administrative pressures on the brewing industry has meant that running the business has moved beyond a labour of love. So as there are no larger premises available in Horsell the decision has been made to call it a day.

Sad as it is to say goodbye to Thurstons Horsell Brewing Company, the Crown will continue to be a prized destination for real ale drinkers and pub lovers generally. The six handpumps remain free of tie and I am sure that the beers going through the three lines currently dedicated to Thurstons will be just as interesting as the rest. To keep an eye on what is coming up, visit <https://www.realalefinder.com/beerboard/?the-crown-horsell> or download the Real Ale Finder app.

Here's to hoping that it will not be another 102 years before there is brewing in Horsell again.

Nick Banyard

Redhill Beer Festival 2026

REDHILL BEER FESTIVAL



Marking the 50th Anniversary of Concorde's entry into service

The Redhill Beer Festival will be held again this year at Merstham Village Hall, Station Road North, Merstham, Redhill. RH1 3ED from Thursday 29th till Saturday 31st October. Opening is from noon to 10:30 on Thursday and Friday and from noon to 6pm (or whilst stocks last) on Saturday. Admission is £4 or free for card-carrying CAMRA

members on Thursday and Friday and is free for all on Saturday. There is no admission to under 18's or dogs except for assistance dogs. There will be a £4 refundable deposit on our souvenir glasses remembering the 50th Anniversary of Concorde's entry into service.

We aim to have around 58 Real Ales and nine ciders and perries on offer, along with hot and cold food. The program, including beer and cider lists, will be available on the website, <https://ems.camra.org.uk/festival>, nearer the time.

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.

Our regular festival charity is St. Catherine's Hospice. During the 2025 festival, we raised £1,282 for this deserving cause.

Sally Gingell

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NEWDIGATE

Six Bells

At the time of News & Ale going to press, the pub was due to re-open in mid-May. It will be wet led to start with, with food to follow in a month or so. Surrey Hills Ranmore and Shere Drop plus Hogs Back TEA are expected to be the cask ales. **RG**

SHALFORD

Parrot

This pub has been closed since 2019 and is beginning to look rather derelict. However, it has been reported that Pearmain Pubs, who bought the pub in 2025, will be reopening the pub by the end of 2026. **CMK**

Queen Victoria

This pub is always warm and welcoming and has as standard on tap Hogs Back TEA, Timothy Taylor Landlord and Otter Bitter. **CMK**

SHAMLEY GREEN

Red Lion and Bricklayers

For a relatively small rural village Shamley Green is spoilt for choice, and both its pubs are great supporters of local breweries. The Red Lion had Surrey Hills Three Peaks and Dorking Pilcrow Pale on tap at the time of my visit. The Bricklayers Arms had Young's London Original, Harvey's Sussex Best, Sharp's Doom Bar and Surrey Hills Shere Drop. **CMK**

STAINES-UPON-THAMES

Thames Side Brewery

This large former restaurant is now home to a micro-brewery and taproom, which is well known for promoting live music including open-mic sessions. As well as several cask ales, it also offers a wide range of real ciders and recently held a festival which included ciders locally produced using local apples. Unsurprisingly perhaps, in March head brewer Andy Hayward received the local CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year award. **LM**

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Phoenix

Cosy dog-friendly riverside pub, with a patio overlooking the Thames. Two regular ales are Brakspear Gravity and now rarely seen in the area Courage Directors. An extensive food menu includes tapas in addition to pub favourites. **LM**

THAMES DITTON

Albany

This food oriented riverside pub close to Hampton Court typically has Harvey's Sussex Best or Hogs Back TEA on offer. **JB**

Olde Swan

This Greene King pub recently reopened after an extensive refurbishment and now offers a wider range of guest ales. On a recent visit Park Isabella and Surrey Hills Ranmore were both on offer alongside the regular Greene King IPA and Abbot. A 10% discount is available for CAMRA members. The pub has an attractive riverside terrace with ample outdoor seating. **JB**

Red Lion

Now well established as a Big Smoke pub, usually at least two of the brewery's ales are on offer alongside a changing guest beer from around the country. On Mondays cask ales are £3.50 per pint and on other days a 10% discount is available for CAMRA members. **JB**

WALTON-ON-THAMES

Anglers

Attractive riverside pub with a covered terrace right on the riverbank, recently taken over by Morgan Pub Collective. Cask ales are currently on offer at £4.70 per pint and typically include St. Austell Tribute, Proper Job and Timothy Taylor Landlord. **JB**

Swan

Large food-oriented Young's pub by the river that recently underwent a refurbishment and now often has Surrey Hills Shere Drop alongside the regular Young's branded ales. **JB**

Walton Village

Former branch Pub of the Year recently had a tap takeover featuring Wye Valley beers; similar future events are planned. Usually Hogs Back TEA and a couple of changing guest beers, often from small breweries, are on offer. The pub hosts a wide selection of events including comedy and film nights. Table tennis and board games are available, and live sport is shown on TV. On Mondays all cask ales are £3.95 per pint. **JB**

Weir

A welcoming, dog-friendly, riverside pub with a large sunny terrace that often has local cask ales on offer alongside the regular Brakspear Gravity. Occasional beer festivals are held, and live music is hosted at weekends, often from an outdoor stage. The pub is popular with supporters of the local Walton and Hersham football club and offers a discount for season ticket holders and club members. **JB**

WEST MOLESEY

Royal Oak

On a recent visit two Twickenham ales were available (Grandstand and The Naked Ladies) alongside Fuller’s London Pride. **JB**

WEYBRIDGE

Queens Head

This large food-oriented pub run by Heartwood Inns dating from the 18th century recently underwent refurbishment. A decent range of ales is generally on offer, recently including Surrey Hills Shere Drop, Fuller’s London Pride and St Austell Tribute. **JB**

WOKING

Herbert Wells (Wetherspoon)

The long-standing pub manager for over 29 years, Gary Hollis, retired in April. He has been at the pub for almost the total time the pub opened after it was converted from the Woolworths store that used to be on the same location. The new manager, Alan Jones, was the

previous deputy and the bar staff remain so the same high standard of real ale should continue. **ED**

WONERSH

Grantley Arms

This busy, lively pub on most recent visit had three beers on tap: Young’s London Original, Surrey Hills Shere Drop and Hogs Back TEA. **CMK**

Did you know?

Almost three-quarters of UK drinkers have tried a low or no alcohol product, with 32% choosing these products 'semi-regularly'



Source: portmangroup.org.uk "Consumer views on Low and No Alcohol products" (2022)



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CRAFTY, Dunsfold

www.craftybrewing.co.uk



Now in their twelfth year of operation Crafty Brewing continue to supply their core range of ales Blindsight (4%) Hop Tipple (4.2%), Loxhill Biscuit (3.6%), plus Crafty One (3.9%) also available in cask and bottle. These are brewed alongside a large range of bottled beers from "Ridgeway". Crafty continues to win SIBA awards for various brews. In can and keg there are also "craft" beers, lagers, and ciders which are available as personal and custom labelled cans for birthdays and events.

To accommodate extra volume and more flexible production the Crafty team now brew many beers in a cooperative facility in Pulborough, where steam-heated grain milling, and flexible tank volumes allow for more variety and control. Since 2023 Crafty have been in partnership with "Crumbs" of Reigate, brewing a range of beers made with unsold bread from the Chalk Hills bakery.

The office, store, and retail sales are at Thatched House Farm in Dunsfold.

The Crafty brewery on Dunsfold Road (B2130) is open for off-site sales and collection Monday to Friday 10:00-16:30 (closed Bank Holidays). Crafty, Ridgeway, Crumbs and Coniston beers are available to order online for home delivery in cans and bottles (Crafty polypins and mini kegs can be ordered in advance).

There are regular pop-up tap-room events on site, including local food vendors.

Details on the website <https://www.craftybrewing.co.uk> and contact via hello@craftybrewing.co.uk. The W3W location of the farm main gate is **///drama.bonus.corrects**

Mike Sanders

DORKING BREWERY, Capel

dorkingbrewery.com



They have a new wheat beer (Lunar White) come out in keg and can as a special to take over from Freedom Trail for a couple of months. Mosaic and Simcoe are the hops. Lots of money being spent on outside area at Dolphin in Betchworth, new dispense lines and they have increased cask lines to five. They also have Siris coming on cask - brewed for International Women's Day returning to our pubs late April!

Roy Golding

HOGS BACK BREWERY, Tongham

Hogsback.co.uk



January was the month where there was 20% off all drinks at the brewery in the tap room. Their Winter Ale, 4.4% was brewed and in the pilot plant wort was being produced for Terra Tempo's 14% Imperial Stout. One Planet were brewing their Hazy IPA. An alcohol-free version of their Hero IPA became available in bottles. This is part of their collaboration with Alf Turner and 5p from each sale goes to the charity Help for Heroes. The brewery raised £2,940 for Help for Heroes with their Hero IPA. The brewery was screening all the Six Nations Rugby Tournament and brewed their England's Glory a 4.4% golden ale.

To mark International Women's Day, the brewery took part in a Women on Tap event. They brewed a 3.8% Pale Ale called Juliet, a limited-edition beer. TEA club members enjoyed a beer tasting evening in February where they could sample Juliet and Exmoor Ales Beast.

Friday 13th was brewed twice - once in February and once in March. Hog's Back Blackwater Coffee Porter was brewed in February. A limited-edition keg beer appeared at the end of February English IPA 5%.

It was a very soggy start to the year for the hop garden. A local farmer put his sheep in the hop garden, and they nibbled at the new shoots which helped the estate manager. Plants were checked and stringing started in March.

The brewery hosted a Bro-ga class in April. Men can enjoy a glass of beer after class.

Tongham TEA won bronze in the International Brewing Awards (International Cask Conditioned Beer Competition). One Planet have brewed an English Pilsner 5%, and the TEA club members have enjoyed sampling it at their social.

A new cafe will open in the tap room in the summer. It will offer hot drinks, light lunches, brunch, scones and cakes. Open Tuesday to Friday 9am - 5pm. The brewery has been holding its monthly charity quiz nights and there are several charity events coming up this year.

Michele Axton

TILFORD BREWERY

tilfordbrewery.beer



Tilford Brewery has been brewing for ten years. Using a 2.5-barrel plant situated in an old coaching house adjacent to the Duke of Cambridge Pub in Tilford. Suddenly the Duke of Cambridge was sold to Brakspears who terminated the brewery's lease with just two weeks' notice. Owner, Mark Collins has moved all brewing equipment out and put it into storage. Mark has plans to restart brewing in a new location however details are still being finalised. Hopefully, we can give some more positive news in the next issue of News and Ale.

Ian Johnson

Manager at Herbert Wells retires after 29 years

After 29 years at the helm of the Herbert Wells in Woking Manager Gary Hollis retired at the end of April. Always one to shun the limelight, his mid-afternoon retirement celebration was typically low key just attended by staff and a few friends. Gary's tenure has seen the pub in every edition of the Good Beer Guide since he took over, he has been a great friend to CAMRA, organising various events and tap take overs. Drinkers should fear not though as one of Gary's deputy managers, Alan Jones is taking over and says that he intends to keep things as they are, after all, why change a winning formula?



Ian Johnson

Egham Beer Festival will in 2026 celebrate its 50th



"Mighty oaks from little acorns grow" is a saying that certainly applies to the Egham Beer Festival! At a rate of three festivals every year, Egham will celebrate EBF50 in early November 2026.

Firstly, something about our venue - the *Egham United Services Club* was founded in October 1920 as a refuge for returning veterans of the First World War and to support the widows and orphans from that conflict. At 106, we are officially nine months older than the Royal British Legion! These days we are a welcoming social club but never forget our historic Armed Services connections.

In 2008 our Club Secretary was Richard Griffin, who was extremely passionate about real ale and, under his stewardship, gradually increased the number of handpumps on the main bar from two to five, to eight and finally to ten! Alongside our two-house beers, Rebellion IPA and Surrey Hills Ranmore, we regularly offer three rotating ales from independent breweries, with the extra five handpumps coming into use for the beer festivals.

Very quickly we got noticed by CAMRA and the Egham USC appeared in the Good Beer Guide for the first time in 2009 and was also voted the North Surrey Club of the Year. Since then, the club has become a permanent fixture in the Good Beer Guide, and we have also been voted the local branch Club of the Year for each one of the intervening 16 or so years too! On top of that, the club has reached the top four of the CAMRA National Club of the Year three times, but so far has sadly not won the competition '*always the Bridesmaid!*'

Anyway, back to the *Egham Beer Festival*. It all started with a throwaway comment from Richard over a few beers on a quiet Autumn afternoon in 2008. "How about we organise a small beer festival? Let's do four per year, one for every season!" Fortunately, common-sense prevailed and the four per year was reduced to three, still a massive undertaking once the logistics became clear! From the outset our intention was to source unusual beers from as wide as possible and hopefully get beers that few of our visitors would have ever come across.



2026 April 09 Ian Davey, Tony Davies, Mike Williams and Mike Dunstan



2026 April 10 NSY COTY 2026 Spike & Alan Purvis

The very first *Egham Real Ale & Cider Festival*, as it was known in those days, took place between 11th and 14th December 2008 and the huge beer list of 57 beers(!) included ales from breweries such as Artbrew (Bridport, Dorset), Dark Star, Downton, Isle of Purbeck (Studland), Pilgrim, Sarah Hughes, Whitstable and York. We also had beers from local brewers Ascot Ales and Waylands (Addlestone) and even two from the short lived Morrisey-Fox brewery set up as a TV stunt by actor Neil Morrisey and chef Richard Fox. The cider offerings all came from Mr Whiteheads in Selbourne, Hants.

That initial festival was promoted in on-line real ale circles thanks to Club member Ian Davey via the beer ticking blog Scoopgen, which attracted an excellent response from beer fans all over London and further afield, bringing them to our little watering hole in deepest North Surrey. Many of those first visitors have since become staunch supporters of the EBF and come back time and time again and some of them are members of a very select group who have attended every single Egham Beer Festival!

In the early days Richard and I used to drive around the country in his Ford Transit collecting many interesting beers from as far afield as

Sussex, Kent, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and even the Black Country! I'm pleased to say the furthest I travel these days to collect beers is Brentford!!

Richard moved to Dubai in 2014 and since then I have been the sole organiser but our ethos from those early days has never changed - new breweries & new beers!

In addition to the ten handpumps on the main bar, we have a dedicated bar area outside with 8 more handpumps plus a stillage that holds a further 14 casks for gravity dispense, giving a total of more than 30 beers available at any one time. All the outside ales are connected to chillers, as are the eight ciders, on the rare occasion that the unpredictable British weather warrants it, so no warm beer or cider here! To top that off we have a BBQ area serving high quality steak burgers.

I'm proud to say that, by having a great reputation for always offering unusual and rare beers in tip-top condition, many of our regular long distance visitors book their hotel rooms and train tickets many months in advance, before a single beer has been ordered, all in the knowledge that Egham will have a beer list to tickle their fancy.

As well as having served around 2,800 different beers since 2008, we have raised more than £40,000 for charity thanks to the generosity of our visitors.



2026 April 11 Tony Hill

Our regular attendees travel from all over the country from such far-flung places as Sunderland, Manchester, Shrewsbury, York, Norwich, Peterborough, Cardiff and Swindon.

By the time you read this article the dust will be settling on our 48th Egham Beer Festival and preparations will be underway for EBF49 being held between the 29th July and 1st August; our 50th beer festival will start on Remembrance Day, Wed 11th November.

If you have visited one of our 48 festivals so far, many thanks for your patronage, and if you haven't then maybe you will consider a visit in the future. We are only five minutes from Egham station, and our team would love to welcome you to our little watering hole in North Surrey!

You can find more details at www.EghamBeerFestival.co.uk plus information and beer lists from our previous festivals.

Bob Inman
Festival Organiser

A photograph of a pub bar. In the center, there is a sign that reads "THE WHITE HART ON GODSTONE GREEN" with a stag head logo above it. To the left is a wine rack filled with bottles. In the foreground, there are several beer taps with labels like "DIRECTOR'S", "SPECIAL", and "ORIGINAL". There are also various bottles of beer and other drinks on the bar. A sign on the right says "TRY THIS...".

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Headscratcher No. 103 Results



The winner of Headscratcher No. 103 was **David Turnbull** of Guildford and the draw was made by Emily Greenwood of The Running Stream, Weybourne.

Correct answers were also received from John Barker, Dennis Batty, Steve Beagley, Andrew Beale, Lawrence Cole, June Cottingham, Barry Cox, Jane Cox, Mr J Davies, John Dodd, Terry Francis, Mike Glasspool, Roger Grant, Bob Heaps, John Howarth, Chris Hyland, Robert Inman, Ian Johnson, Iain Murray, Nigel Parsons, Clive Rendall, Sally Smith, Chris Truin, Alan Welsh, Tim West.

There were two incorrect entries.

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

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

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Please let us know for our records.

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Surrey/Hants borders CAMRA Beer Scoring Competition 2025



Thank you again to the 60 Surrey/Hants Borders branch members who submitted beer scores last year. I gave you all the statistics in the last edition of News & Ale but did not at that stage name our prize winners....

A number of them were present at the branch AGM, so we were able to present the prizes in person to four of the six winners (in the photo below)

FIRST PLACE

Mick Bell with 1353 points

SECOND PLACE

Kevin Travers with 1173 points

THIRD PLACE

Roger Deason with 1144 points

SPOT PRIZES

Ian Johnson who scored the Inn at Maybury which had not been scored for 1581 days before Ian's visit, and Lee Golding who scored Knaphill Working Men's Club which had not been scored for 1230 days before Lee's visit.

LUCKY-DIP PRIZE

Dylan Thomas (all the SHB members scoring over 100 points in the competition, had their name put in the tankard ready for the lucky dip)

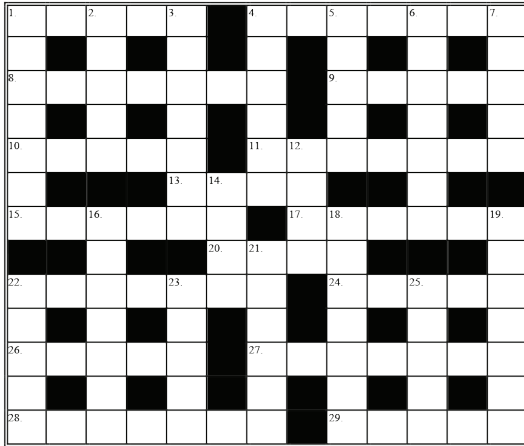
We will be running a new beer scoring competition this year, keep your eyes peeled for announcements. In the meantime, please keep scoring!

Val MacT



Winners: Kevin Travers, Mick Bell, Ian Johnson and Dylan Thomas

Headscratcher No. 104



Prize: £20

Clues for Headscratcher No.104

Down

1. Old writing material was useless after the first pen and paper yielded results. (7)
2. Around the end of the morning turn into a bar. (5)
3. Take passage with new trains arriving on time. (7)
4. Walk around old London starting with the restored part. (6)
5. Victor, in a red pullover, spoke with great enthusiasm. (5)
6. Lunar orbits around the beginning and end of August are normal. (7)
7. The meeting consisted of everybody in the railway. (5)
12. To breed is strangely rare. (4)
14. Back after the first day. That's stupid. (4)
16. Cross verbally to a pit to investigate. (7)
18. There is an implicit meaning in clutter time. (7)
19. Locks energy into stress fractures. (7)
21. Adopt a peculiar stance for the climb. (6)
22. After a pint Dave somehow surfaced. (5)
23. For employment the advancing years are put behind us. (5)
25. Tack back in deep water inlets abroad. (5)

Across

1. Knock back a pint and put a coat on. (5)
4. The back rent is below average for a union member. (7)
8. A servant and a worker joined the parade. (7)
9. Turning tail after five is essential. (5)
10. Tries in different ways to establish services. (5)
11. A well-behaved attendant. (7)
13. Lied about being unemployed. (4)
15. A reclining seat is good for a nap. (6)
17. Putting a slipper on a top thoroughbred works like a charm. (6)
20. Make out a distant echo. (4)
22. Sent up a strangely trifling amount of money. (7)
24. Diverse eras have included the bomber as a weapon. (5)
26. Hey presto! I entered into the redeveloped Oval. (5)
27. Fell asleep before a second passes by. (7)
28. The research into pet seed is most profound. (7)
29. Roll a seven and you get equal odds. (5)

Closing date for entries is Friday 8th August

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,
Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5NN**

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