



Campaign
for
Real Ale

News & Ale

FREE
Spring 2022
No. 144



BEER FESTIVALS ARE BACK

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

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Now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted and the better weather is coming it is time to be more active in supporting our local pubs and clubs. Many will be recovering from the downturn caused by COVID and the usually quiet period that occurs between Christmas and spring. It will be good to be able to enjoy a pint of real ale in a beer garden without the help of the heaters to keep warm. For those interested in trying many different real ales then a visit to a beer festival is recommended. These have now re-started after a period of almost two years. A list local beer festivals appears in this magazine so go along and enjoy.

Cheers Ed.

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Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA

Chairman's AGM Report



We held our first physical Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 3 years on Saturday February 19th at Woking Railway Club. After 3 years wait we nearly didn't have an AGM as Storm Eunice caused havoc with public transport. I was sitting at the Railway Club 15 minutes before the scheduled start discussing with the handful of people there whether we should go ahead. We decided to delay the start by 30 minutes and by that time we had 22 people, so we got started. The usual AGM business was conducted, accounts approved, officials re-elected if they were happy to stand again and a new Public Transport Officer appointed as the previous one had stood down. I was re-elected for another year.

Our branch goals have changed this year, the three goals we have adopted are:

1. To review all our WhatPub entries that say a pub has disabled access and check thoroughly that this is truly the case.
2. To try to make social events inclusive where possible.
3. To keep WhatPub entries up to date.

Full details of these goals can be found on the branch website for CAMRA members. You will need to use your CAMRA log in to access the members area.

It was refreshing to see a few new faces at the AGM. I have been concerned for a while that we haven't been attracting new people to help in branch activities. If you are a CAMRA member and haven't been active, would you consider helping in some way? This help could be something small like entering beer scores onto the National Beer Scoring System or perhaps you would like to organise a social event at your local (or your favourite not so local) pub or help at a beer festival. We're a friendly bunch of people and would support anyone who wants

to try and get involved. If you would like more information drop me an e-mail at: chairman@shb.camra.org.uk.

Ian Johnson

Chairman Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA

Pub of the Year announced!

Just as we are going to press the CAMRA Surrey Hampshire Border branch Pub of the Year has been announced. **The Crown** in Horsell holds the award this year. The Club of the Year is **Woking Railway Club** and Cider Pub of the Year is the **Star** in Godalming. A full report and article about the presentations will appear in the next issue.

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Your Pub Needs You



After two years, where going to pub has been banned, discouraged (unless you ate a Scotch egg!) and made unbearably complicated, it is all too easy to settle up in front of Netflix with a can of your favourite craft beer and feel you are doing your bit.

But in doing so, there is a danger of losing one of the most important features of the English communities – the pub. Pubs are the heart of local communities, one of the few places where you can meet people in a relaxed, social environment. With community centres up and down the country closing, pubs offer a vital hub for locals to get together as a community. Pubs are also taking an active role in tackling loneliness – whether that's running lunch groups, chatting to regulars or just providing a place for people to meet. In addition, many community pubs in rural settings are stepping

up to fill services lacking in the local area, such as running post offices, village shops, cinema rooms and library – going above and beyond just serving drinks!

The value of pubs cannot be overstated. The pub and beer industry supports nearly 900,000 jobs in the UK and contributes £23.6bn to the UK economy annually.

So as the evenings become lighter and it's gradually getting a bit warmer outside, now is the time to remember why you love your local and get out there are support them as the trade recovers from the effects of the pandemic. Please support for pubs and social clubs as well as the brewers and cider producers that supply our favourite things to drink while we are there. Head down to your local.

Kevin Travers



THE CROWN
HORSELL

Village Pub

A traditional, two bar pub with a warm welcome where real ales take precedence

Home of award-winning
Thurstons Brewery

6 real ales on tap every day

All local or independent breweries

Large garden with petanque terrain
Quiz every Wednesday at 9pm
Annual beer festival in May
Regular theme nights

CAMRA Surrey Pub of the Year 2019

104 High Street, Horsell (15 mins walk from Woking Station) GU21 4ST
Tel: 01483 771719

Royal Oak wins Pub of the Season Award

Members of the Kingston & Leatherhead CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) branch made their way to the Royal Oak at West Molesey last Tuesday night to make their Winter Pub Of The Season award to the pub's landlord and landlady, Geoff and Jan Nordemann. The award is made to a pub that has improved over the last twelve months, nominated and voted for by branch members.



Geoff and Jan have been at the Royal Oak for six years now, with Geoff giving up his previous job as a plumber. He had actually been using the pub for thirty-five years and when the tenancy came up, and he and his wife decided to go for it. As Geoff quoted 'He liked it that much he brought it', and a very good job they are doing as well This was as demonstrated by the number of customers who were enjoying themselves. Including one of their two dart teams who were playing against the pub from across the road. The Royal Oak also has two football teams, as well as supporting local charities, the nearby church and holds carol services.

During the evening the Kingston & Leatherhead branch chairman Richard Russell made the presentation of a framed certificate to Geoff and Jan. All together a well run pub which is well worth a visit to sample some of their excellent ales.

Clive Taylor

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SEVENTH EDITION
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CAMRA
Campaign for Real Ale

Keep The White Lion **ROARING!**



The White Lion (20 Lower Farnham Road, Aldershot. GU12 4EA) remains closed and unoccupied but the Community Group (Aldershot Community Pub Limited) set up to buy and run the pub is definitely active and aware!

The owner had planning permission to convert the pub into 4 flats resoundingly REFUSED by Rushmoor Borough Council last August. However, just as News & Ale was going to press, the owner, submitted a new planning application. This application is rather different as they are only seeking to convert the upstairs area to 2 flats, with the downstairs area being retained as a pub, with a new kitchen and toilets being provided, albeit with a smaller trading area.



There are two ways of looking at this, that the loss of the accommodation upstairs would be damaging to the continuing pub business and the owners are simply trying to convert the pub into housing by stealth. Alternatively, the proposal could be viewed as a genuine attempt to provide a viable pub as part of a mixed use development. The owners clearly don't want to run the pub themselves, but now at least appear willing to lease it out to others to do so.

The new owners have to date been unwilling

to engage with ACPL, but perhaps that may now change. As News & Ale went to press the Campaign Group was actively considering its next move, but could the pub be a small step closer to being saved? As things stand the building is deteriorating and its asset value will be steadily decreasing the longer it remains shut.

Meanwhile ACPL is not dormant but is broadening the campaign to support the other Community Pubs of Aldershot, that is to say the non-pubco chain pubs that still provide the Community focus that we wish to re-establish in The White Lion.

The most obvious activity that ACPL is undertaking is a complete redesign of the website www.whitelionaldershot.co.uk and equally important is maintaining the content of the website, which has been static for far too long. By the time this edition of News & Ale is published the website will have been relaunched and able to provide a wealth of information about the campaign to date and the vision for the future.

These fine words come at a cost and ACPL have also set up a GoFundMe account to ask all White Lion and Community Pub supporters to donate what they can afford to keep the campaign active. The GoFundMe link is <https://gofund.me/984fa535>

Note that GoFundMe donations are just that, donations, and should The White Lion become available to buy then a separate Crowdfunder account will be established to sell shares for the community purchase of the pub.

Also see our FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteLionAldershotCommunityPub/> and Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/WhiteLionAlRoar>

Please support our Community Pubs and help Keep The White Lion Roaring!

Peter Broberg

Pub News **Round Up**



ALDERSHOT

Funky End

Reopened in November after being closed for over a year. Little appears to have changed in terms of décor; no real ale is sold. **Kevin Travers**

Garden Gate

This fantastic community pub, continues to be the only pub in Aldershot to regularly sell the superb Surrey Hills Ranmore, which was in great form when visiting recently and it remains their best seller. The pub also houses a community defibrillator and was busy training a number of locals to use it recently - a great initiative. **KT**

Mytigar (Albion)

Pleased to report that a planning application to convert the pub to flats has been refused by Rushmoor Council because it failed to meet the Council's Pub Protection Policy. Sadly the pub continues to operate as a kitchen to a Nepalese catering business, and is rarely open to the public. **KT**

ASHFORD

Ash Tree

A large Fuller's pub serving the usual range of ales and pub grub. The pub was closed for several weeks in February, but reopened at beginning of March. **Robert Veryard**

BAGSHOT

Foresters' Arms

Lisa has been here four years now, and as well as maintaining good cask ale the pub food obviously has a good reputation, with special offers at lunchtime. Sharp's Doom Bar is the regular ale here, with a guest ale, and I've enjoyed both the Ascot Gold Cup and Wye Valley HPA on separate occasions. Nice to see Staropramen and Birra Moretti among the lagers available on draught – more to my taste than some others when we get some hot weather! Also good for musical entertainment every Sunday from 5-7pm, live bands on the last Saturday of each month, and 'Open Mic' on the 1st Monday of each month. There are also occasional comedy nights too – something for everyone! **DF**

Kings Arms

Mark and Sarah have been at this Greene King pub for well over 10 years now, I reckon, and made it altogether much tidier than I recall in the past. The

cask ales seem to have been reduced to just the IPA for the moment, at least, but it's been consistently good on recent visits. The pub is part of the 'Hungry Horse' range, so has competitively-priced food and drinks, as well as Sports TVs, etc., and social events – overall, a popular spot! Opens for breakfasts at 8am, and the bar at 11. **Doug Fish**

Three Mariners

Good to see Barry still in charge, and evidently keeps this characterful pub in good order. The four cask ales on in recent weeks have been Fuller's London Pride, Harvey's Sussex Best, Courage Best, and Timothy Taylor Landlord – an excellent range, I reckon, and kept in good nick. Opens 11-11 Mon-Sat, with food 12-1030. Sun. opens 12-1030, with food 12-9. **DF**

BETCHWORTH

Dolphin

The Dolphin is a Young's pub and is featured in CAMRAs Real Heritage Pubs of the South East guide. There is also a large tented area outside the pub adding more space. As well as Young's own beers, an excellent pint of Surrey Hills Shere Drop is served.

Roy Golding

BLACKWATER

Mr Bumble

It was a pleasure to award Philippa with another year's recognition for having been included in CAMRA's current Good Beer Guide, helped by 'cellar-man' Keith. They maintain four cask ales here, the regular one being Fuller's London Pride and the others mainly from nearby Ascot Brewing Company (actually in Camberley!), and Windsor & Eton, also sometimes from elsewhere. The pub is also noted for live bands every Saturday evening, with 'Open Mic' nights on Thursdays, and other live music on Fridays – a popular spot, to be sure! Opens at midday. **DF**

BROCKHAM

Taphouse

This free house is situated in what was the middle part of the village club. A mezzanine floor adds more seating room. There are usually two cask beers on sale from local breweries such as Surrey Hills and Firebird. **RG**

CAMBERLEY

Bear

For the moment, at least, Sully has maintained the large canvas extension in front of the pub (which enabled more customers to be accommodated during the days of 'one-way systems' and 2-metre spacing) and this worked out well. Glad to see that he's maintained two cask ales – Fuller's London Pride, and St Austell Tribute, various draught lagers, and a range of assorted beers in the fridges, including some high-octane Belgian ones! The food range is very popular and live music has been restored on Thursday evenings, starting at 8.30. Opens Mon-Fri 12-11, Sat 11-12, Sun. 12-1030. **DF**

Cabin

In 2017 "Sparks" and a few friends decided to set up a new bar in a retail outlet for sale along the London Road and set about this, creating an imaginary 'log cabin', with numerous eccentric touches such as musical instruments and vinyl LPs attached to the walls and an old bicycle or two. Recent additions have included numerous paintings exhibited by customers. On Sunday afternoons they also feature blues-based groups or 'Open Mic' sessions, and vinyl records on Wednesday evenings, when people often bring their own to share with others. Basically, very different from other bars and loved by many now 'regulars', who enjoy the general atmosphere here and, of course, the extensive range of drinks, including six types of coffee! No cask ale here, but a large range of bottled beers and my CAMRA colleagues enjoyed it when I included The Cabin on a recent pub crawl'. Closed on Mondays for 'recovery purposes' but open Tues-Thurs 5-11, Fri 5-12, Sat 2-12, and Sun 2-10-ish. **DF**

Carpenters Arms

This is a Greene King pub managed by Ben for several years now, and he generally has a guest ale on to supplement the IPA and/or Abbot. Recently had an excellent pint or three of Timothy Taylor Landlord, and Twickenham beers are often on too. He's happy to give card-carrying CAMRA members a discount on their cask ales, as are most Greene King managed pubs. The food range is very popular here, as are the Sports TVs, particularly for football and cricket fans. I've heard some excellent live bands here too and although it's quite a small area some of us even have a 'bop', especially after a few beers! Opens Mon-Sat 11-11, Sun. 12-1030. **DF**

Claude du Vall

Paul continues here as the Manager, and no wonder, as it was great to be able to present him with yet another year's recognition in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide – congrats, Paul! It's amazing how

Wetherspoon pubs maintain such low prices, not only for drinks but also for their food range - no wonder they're popular! Most readers will already be aware of this, but it takes considerable effort to keep the range in good condition – as well as regular ales such as Sharp's Doom Bar, Ruddles Best Bitter, and Greene King Abbot they normally have three or four guest ales, and beer festivals several times each year. Long may 'Spoons' continue! **DF**

Crabtree

Amy has been here now for over 15 years – obviously well thought of by Mitchells & Butlers, as well as her staff and regular customers! The pub is spacious and well-furnished inside, with plenty of seating outside, too and a considerable parking area. There are several cask ales on here, generally including Fuller's London Pride, St Austell Tribute, and Black Sheep Twilighter, and they give a discount to card-carrying CAMRA members for a pint of cask ale. It's also a popular place for lunchtime and evening food, which is competitively priced, especially on Thursdays, when steaks are discounted! Quiz Nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Carry on, please, Amy! **DF**

CHERTSEY

Coach & Horses

Licensee Claire Trinder is heading for a well-deserved retirement at the end of March, after running the pub for over 30 years. Bev Busby, who has been bar manager for seven years, will take on the tenancy from April. The permanent offering of Fuller's London Pride and ESB will be joined by a guest ale changing on a monthly basis. **Anthony Groves**

Crown

Young's Original available all week round, with St Austell Proper Job joining it at weekends. **AG**

Olde Swan

The Swan now has two guest ale lines, as Timothy Taylor Landlord has given way to a further range of guest ales. These accompany Tring Side Pocket for a Toad and Sharp's Doom Bar. Recent visits have found Exmoor Gold, Box Steam Soul Train, Dark Star Hophead, Titsey Gresham Hopper and Milestone Black Pearl on – great to have a pale and a stout as guests side-by-side. A beer festival is being planned for the Jubilee weekend of Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th June. **AG**

Thyme at the Tavern

Regularly one or two cask ales on, mostly from local breweries including Surrey Hills, Twickenham and Tillingbourne. **AG**

Continued on page 14

The Resumption Of Grumpy's Annual Calender



Now that there is some sort of return to normality I was reminded how many of my groans fit in to the annual sequence of events. It was late October and that dreadful event called 'trick or treat' was upon us. I always avoid this by going out and not being disrupted every couple of minutes by children demanding chocolate to fuel their obesity. In the case of the older ones, it can be made worse by demands for money or even alcohol with rejection greeted by eggs and flour thrown. A friend of mine has an industrial water pistol to give them a real trick, but I wouldn't dare and therefore escape to the safety of the pub. It was quiet and headed towards my usual territory which was already occupied by a couple and a young child. The child was quiet and well behaved, but taking no chances I ventured further away. For once, I made the right decision as no sooner than seated that the child 'kicked off' standing on the seat and basically screaming which went on and on. Eventually, the parents gave up trying to calm him and took the responsible action to leave. Shortly afterwards, small groups of adults and children started to form and they were obviously planning to go on manoeuvres for 'trick or treating'. The kids were approximation of zombies or other horror figures apart from one little girl who was dressed as a fairy complete with a wand which was a little bizarre! They were planning their strategy of 'attack'. When I left later I witnessed them in operation, systematically 'combing' the streets like a modern style industrial Fagin style operation. I was reminded of a beer festival where the charity organisers told their volunteers to walk four feet apart at the same pace and when they reached the far end to repeat the process, but having changed positions so as punters would encounter different faces. This was hardly entering into the spirit of things and they were not invited back again.

Next there is Christmas and the problem of Christmas Day. Generally, the pubs are only open for a couple of hours at lunchtime, but become full of family groups whose last visit to the pub was the previous Christmas day. Inevitably, regulars are pushed aside and getting served was chaotic. A family order comprising beer, miscellaneous spirits, wine and children's soft drinks combined with the interruptions of asking Auntie Flo what type of sherry she required. Inevitably, all of this produced much mess engulfing the tables. Sadly, some years ago a 12% winter beer was available and virtually everyone was trying a half as it was Christmas. This beer had taken months to mature and it was largely left untouched which would have brought tears to the eyes of the brewer. How sad and so unnecessary! This year it was regulars only and their dogs and a far better atmosphere resulted. At least visitor's children were not able to feed the dogs mince pies!

Throughout the lockdowns and other interruptions, I thought that landlords were generally a professional in their approach despite being provoked by many an idiot trying to get around the regulations. Unfortunately, such high standards were not always evident in the past. In my younger days I remember entering to hang up our coats only to be told that they were flea and moth ridden and m only fit for his dog to lie on. He also suggested that we move to the other bar so as not to upset the locals. Throughout the 1970's long male hair was fashionable which infuriated many landlords and especially those with a military background. If you dared not to ask where the toilets were or you might well get the response questioning whether you needed the male or female toilets. Even worse, one landlord asked a customer to check that the toilets were not being used as he feared that other customers might think that they were being propositioned. There were two

landlords who were so elitist that it was a wonder that they had any customers at all. The first was a large Polish man who I asked to stamp my pub trail passport. He held this document as if it was a piece of used loo paper and was concerned that the proletarian hordes would descend upon him. He made it clear that he did not want the riff-raff contaminating his establishment, but eventually signed with a pretentious moniker covering the whole passport and then threw it back at me. The second was a South Africa who had been put in this pub to tidy up the clientele. He certainly did that, but with his attitude cleared out most sensible people with his rules and regulations. When I entered it was empty with Sibelius playing played at full blast. I told how nice it was to hear the Sibelius, but in reply he told me that if I didn't like it I should get out. Three possibilities present themselves.

1. He misheard and thought I was being critical

2. Nobody likes a clever dick which I was obviously being.
3. He had had put himself on an elitist pedestal and resented oiks like myself joining him.

Anyway, I was thrown out leaving the pub empty which is what his attitude and music deserved.

Finally, there is some excitement to look forward to with the imminent kid's half term. Kids in pubs is becoming more and more reminiscent of those old black and white films where the wagon train forms a circle and is surrounded by yelping Indians. The circle is now formed by the pushchairs with the kids doing the yelping supplemented by the older kids with their scooters. If that is not enough excitement there is always Mothering Sunday to look forward to and a no-go day for the pub.

Bob Southwell

AKA *The Grumpy Old Man*

The Star Godalming



**Easter Beer Festival
April 15th - 17th**



**Ales from across
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Surrey CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2019

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Finalist at The Great British Pub Awards 2015/2016/2017/2018/2019

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Back
for 2022



CAMRA
Campaign
for
Real Ale



Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st May 2022

Presented by Kingston & Leatherhead CAMRA
and remembering ABC motorcycles that were made in Kingston 100 years ago

Kingston Workmen's Club and Institute

Old London Road, Kingston KT2 6ND – Behind the 'falling down' telephone boxes
Four minutes walk from Kingston rail and bus stations

- 70 real ales, many local
- 11 ciders & perries
- Hot and cold food
- Plenty of lounge seating
- Two outdoor areas with tables and seating
- Fully stocked wine and spirit bar on site

Thursday: 12.00pm-10.30pm, entry £5

Friday: 12.00pm-10.30pm, entry £5

Saturday: 12.00pm-9.00pm or until the beer runs out, entry £2

£2 discount for card carrying CAMRA members
and students (£1 discount on Saturday)

Plus £1 Refundable Glass Deposit

Join CAMRA at the Festival and get two free pints!*

This Festival uses tokens at the bar.

Visit kandl.camra.org for beer list during May

*T's & C's apply.

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company 02653887.

The Return of the Beer Festival Season



Beer festivals are back and gearing up for a return to your area, after an almost two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In March 2020, when the first lockdown started, CAMRA official events were suspended for the safety of members and beer festival lovers and in line with government regulations. Now as we begin to return to more normal circumstances and restrictions are lifted, branch beer festivals that have been 18 months in the making are welcome to open their doors once more.

I am sure we have all missed the social benefits of a drink with friends and look forward to meeting up with loved ones and fellow branch members over a pint.

Within Surrey we have a number of beer festivals to look forward to

APRIL

7th – 9th Farnham
14th – 16th Egham (36th)

MAY

13th – 14th Hindhead
19th – 21st Kingston

JUNE

3rd – 4th Alton

JULY

28th – 30th Egham (37th)
29th – 30th Guildford

AUGUST

6th Fleet

SEPTEMBER

2nd – 3rd Haslemere

OCTOBER

Ascot (TBD)
Prince of Wales, Farnborough (TBD)

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Redhill (TBD)

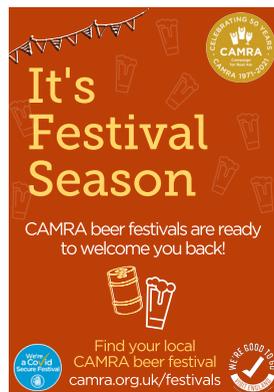
NOVEMBER

3rd – 5th Egham (38th)

Further details of the beer festivals can be found under 'Festivals' section on the Social Events page.

To see the latest calendar, check out CAMRA's 'Festival Season' landing page at camra.org.uk/festivals

We can also look forward to the return of The Great British Beer Festival in August 2022, after missing out on CAMRA's flagship event for two years – keep an eye out on the national CAMRA channels for updates!



Things may look a little different at your favourite festival - national CAMRA and local branches are introducing rigorous safety scheme to make sure our local festivals are Covid secure. It is paramount to ensure all beer festival attendees are happy and feel safe and comfortable when visiting beer festivals, and processes have been put in place to ensure this.

The updates to festival health and safety documents include that a coronavirus risk assessment be completed during the festival planning stages, as well as ensuring all festival volunteers receive additional induction, information, instruction training and supervision in light of the pandemic.

If you have any concerns or would like to learn more about CAMRA's Covid secure regulations, you can find more information and FAQs available at camra.org.uk/beer-festivals-events/our-events/beer-festival-covid-faqs/

Pub News **Round Up**



COBHAM

Loch Fyne

Remains boarded up after being closed by Greene King in March 2020. They have indicated that it will not reopen in its current format and it is expected to be sold. **John Norman**

DORKING

Cobbett's

As business has improved in this bottle shop and micropub it has extended its opening on Friday night till 8:30pm (this is closing time, there is no drinking up time). There are between one and three cask beers available with the higher number being found at the end of the week. There are also six keykegs, three ciders and a large number of bottles and cans. The quality of the draught beers is invariably excellent. **RG Cricketers**

Recently the guest beers in this Fuller's pub has included Big Smoke Solaris, Dark Star Nordland, Thornbridge Jaipur and Wild Beer Bibble alongside the regulars Dark Star Hophead, Fuller's London Pride and Fuller's ESB, Monthly quiz nights started again in February. The pub is closed on Mondays. **RG**

Falkland Arms

This now belongs to Punch since they bought the pubs which were part of the Ram Pub Company owned by Young's. Locally they now also own The Old House in Dorking and the Royal Oak, Stonebridge. **RG**

Queen's Head

This pub was been named Fuller's Pub of the Year at a ceremony on Thursday 1st December 2021. The licensee, Manu Bhatt has only been at the Queen's Head since February 2020, arriving shortly before the first Covid lockdown. Since he arrived a large teepee in the garden has extended the space available for dining. The beers available are usually Dark Star Hophead, Fuller's London Pride and a guest beer from Fuller's list. **RG**

EAST MOLESEY

LJ's (formerly Gallery 84)

Has reopened but does not sell any real ale. **JN**

EFFINGHAM

Sir Douglas Haig (Queen Stage)

A planning application to retain the pub but build

additional housing, an office and garage on the site of the coach house, following its demolition, was approved in February. The pub is due to reopen as the Queen Stage on 23rd March, a café-bar, geared towards catering for cyclists and providing them with food and accommodation. **KT**

EGHAM

United Services Club

A constantly changing range of guest real ales, from breweries far and wide, always including a stout/porter. The next Egham Beer & Cider Festival will be held at Easter from Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th April. **AG**

ELSTEAD

Royal British Legion Club

A few branch members went to the Royal British Legion Club in Elstead and all were very impressed with the very friendly welcome and ambiance of the club even on a Tuesday afternoon. A real log fire was roaring and an excellent cask ale choice and condition. Card carrying CAMRA members are welcome at any time in the club, just show your card (or a Good Beer Guide) to the bar person. **Tony Lea**

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

Bailiwick

A top-quality food destination with a range of real ales on. Windsor & Eton Guardsman and Knight of the Garter, plus The Bailiwick Great Park Ale (Berkshire brewed, English style 4.3% IPA apparently exclusively brewed for this pub). **Richard Snell**

Barley Mow

Idyllic setting overlooking the village green. Sharp's Doom Bar, St Austell Tribute, Windsor & Eton's Knight of the Garter and Guardsman on. **RS**

Beehive

Fuller's London Pride and Dark Star Hophead on. **RS**

Fox & Hounds

Another good food destination with a real ale offering. Hobgoblin Gold (although this will change back soon to Breakspear's Oxford Gold after there being supply issues) and A Fox's Tale (rebadged Ringwood Razorback). **RS**

Happy Man

Tring Citra, Purity Pure Gold, Exeter Darkness and Ferryman found on a recent visit. Constantly changing

range of good quality ales, supplemented by great food. **RS**

EPSOM**Café Rouge**

Has been converted to Cappadocia, a Turkish restaurant, having closed due to the collapse of the Cafe Rouge owning company. **JN**

FARNHAM**Sit and Sip**

A planning application has been submitted as part of the Brightwell development in Farnham for the inclusion of a new Sit and Sip outlet on the site. Sit and Sip is a small chain of boutique lounge bars and bottle shops, which typically sell a range of microbrewery keg beers and bottles as well as artisan gins to drink in and take away. Other sites already exist in Chichester, Horsham and Wokingham. **KT**

FLEET**Hart House**

The Hart House reopened in November 2021 as a light and airy gastropub leased by Portobello Brewery. Sadly none of their real ales are available, try the Prince Arthur over the road, though there is a selection of their beers on keg and in bottle. Whilst there is a strong food focus, there is an area to drink without dining at the front of the pub. **KT**

GODALMING**Sun**

The Sun has been sold by Hall and Woodhouse. It now sells Sharp's Doom Bar, Timothy Taylor, Landlord and Fuller's London Pride, a Marston's dray was spotted outside this week! **David Monger**

A new Micro-pub

Waverley Borough Council have approved a planning application to convert a former florist in the town centre into a micro-pub. It is not yet known if and when the micro-pub will open. **KT**

KINGSTON**Cornerstone**

Remains shut with no sign of reopening after closing for the first Covid lockdown in March 2020. **JN**

KNAPHILL**Crown**

Now re-opened despite there still being scaffolding at the front of the pub. At last visit only had one real ale on that was Hogs Back TEA on. Food currently

includes Sunday roasts with plans to soon sell Spanish Tapas. **Brian Bourne**

Garibaldi

Had an excellent pint of Box Steam Soul Train. The other beer on was Otter Amber from Otter Brewery. The tent in the car park has now gone and has reverted to being a car park. **BB**

Royal Oak

The beers on during visit were Adnams Ghost Ship and an excellent pint of Windsor & Eton Last Drop. A number of real ciders are available. Looking forward to the warmer weather to make use of the much improved garden area. **BB**

LEATHERHEAD**Dukes Head**

Closed again in December only two months after reopening; a new tenant is being sought. Greene King had indicated that this Grade II listed pub would reopen again by the end of January, but it was still firmly shut on 5th February. **JN**

LEIGH**Seven Stars**

Excellent food is served at this attractive old pub. The beer quality is also of a very high standard with Fuller's London Pride being sold along with Surrey Hills Ranmore and Shere Drop. **RG**

LYNE**Royal Marine**

Slightly eccentric but welcoming little pub tucked away in a small village off the beaten track. Check opening times before visiting! Greene King IPA and Ruddles Best on cask. **RS/AG**

MICKLEHAM**Running Horses**

Has taken over by the team behind the Queen's Head in Dorking. Whilst some of the previous beer range remains, Surrey Hills beers have also made a welcome appearance. **JN**

MINDENHURST**Frog at Mindenfurst**

Construction work began in July 2021 for a new pub as part of the Mindenhurst development at Deepcut. The pub will be a managed Hall & Woodhouse pub and is due to open later in the Spring. The name takes its inspiration from an adjacent pond and will be located on the corner of Brunswick Road overlooking the lake and village green. **KT**

Continued on page 23

Pub Companies

Who they are and what they do



2. THE CURRENT PUB COMPANY SCENE

A pub company is simply a company that owns pubs and there are literally hundreds of them, many with only a handful or even just one pub. We'll concentrate here, though, on the bigger companies who, between them, own over half the country's pubs.

STONEGATE

Founded in 2010 with the purchase of 333 pubs from Mitchells & Butlers, Stonegate grew quite slowly over the next ten years, making a series of acquisitions including brands like Slug & Lettuce, Walkabout and Be At One, until its pub numbers totalled 765. All the pubs were managed houses. A seismic change came in 2020 when Ei Group was bought for £1.27bn, making Stonegate the largest pub company in the UK with 1,270 managed pubs and, as a result of the Ei purchase, 3,200 leased and tenanted businesses.

Ei itself had been founded, as Enterprise Inns, in 1991, initially with 333 pubs from Bass. The company built up its estate, gaining 2,200 pubs in batches by buying them from other companies or taking them over. In 2002, 1,864 pubs were bought from Whitbread and in 2004, 4,054 from Unique. By this time, it owned nearly 10,000 pubs and was in the FTSE 100 list of top companies. However, it was loaded with debt and the 2008 financial crash required a good deal of retrenchment. Ei also started building up its managed estate, including pubs on retail agreements under the Craft Union brand (we'll look at this operating model in the next article). By the time of the sale, it was down to fewer than 4,000 pubs.

PUNCH TAVERNS

The first article included a brief history of Punch to illustrate the volatility around pubco development. In summary, it grew quickly to

around 8,000 pubs, suffered under the crash, sold a lot of pubs including its managed division and was taken over in 2016. 1,900 pubs went to Heineken and 1,300 to Patron Capital, who retain the Punch brand. At takeover time, all pubs were leased or tenanted but it's also now pushing retail agreements (which it calls Management Partnerships). Some pubs were sold but in June 2021 it announced the purchase of Youngs' tenanted division, bringing the current total to 1,282.

ADMIRAL TAVERNS

Admiral was founded in 2003 by two families and grew quickly to 2,300 pubs by 2007. Many of these were 'bottom end' houses disposed of by other pub companies. The financial crash had the usual consequences for over-extended businesses and numbers were down to 1,700 by 2011 and continued to fall. By 2017 it was in the hands of Cerberus Capital Management who sold up to a joint venture by Magners cider-makers C&C Group and estate investor Proprium Capital Partners, by which time there were 845 pubs. The acquisition trail was hit in 2019 with 137 pubs coming from Marstons and 150 from Heineken. The big one arrived in July 2021 when Admiral bought 674 Hawthorn pubs from property firm New River taking the estate to over 1,500.

Admiral's pubs are all tenanted or leased and tend to be wet-led community operations. It has a relatively good reputation in the trade though there's certainly no aversion to flogging off pubs as 'development opportunities'.

STAR PUBS & BARS

In 1995, Scottish & Newcastle, one of the original 'Big Six' breweries, bought another of them, Courage, making the combined group Britain's biggest brewer. By 2011, the pub arm, then known as S&N Pub Co, had 1,500

tenanted pubs and 600 in management. Come 2008, Scottish Courage was gobbled up by international brewer Heineken and the pub business rebranded as Star Pubs & Bars. Many pubs were sold but then, in 2017, as previously mentioned, 1,900 were snapped up from Punch. Again there were disposals and the estate currently stands at 2,500.

Star vigorously promote their retail agreement scheme, Just Add Talent. In 2020, it was fined £2m for breaches of the Pubs Code (which we'll cover in a later article)

GREENE KING

In 1995, Greene King was a long-established family brewer with 900 pubs, nearly all in East Anglia and the South-East. It then embarked on a ferocious acquisition trail, swallowing up many breweries (the likes of Morlands, Belhaven, Morrells and Hardy & Hanson) and other pub companies. GK itself is now owned by a billionaire Hong Kong property developer. It has some 3,100 pubs, restaurants and hotels, of which 1,200 are tenanted or leased. Its strategy seems to be to move in the managed direction and the 'Pub Ready' retail agreements are pushed hard. GK was once renowned for not letting other people's beers in its pubs but now have a more enlightened attitude.

MARSTON'S

The company was known as Wolverhampton & Dudley until 2007 when it rebranded as Marston's, one of the many breweries it had taken over in recent years. At that time, 2,500 pubs were owned but the total is now down to 1,400. The tenanted estate, in particular, has been reduced through sales such as 200 to New River in 2013 and 137 to Admiral in 2019. In late 2020, the company took on the running of 156 Brains pubs in Wales. Also that year, Marston's merged its brewing operations with Carlsberg but this does not directly affect the pub business.

MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS

Formed originally out of the old Bass estate, M&B have 1,650 pubs and restaurants. The multitudinous brands include Ember Inns, Toby Carveries, Nicholsons and All Bar One – as can be seen, the emphasis is on food. Pubs are mostly managed though around 50 are on a lease arrangement.

J D WETHERSPOON

Since opening its first pub in 1979, 'Spoons has expanded to 925 pubs and 50 hotels, all managed. Plans for 18 new pubs are in the pipeline,

WELLINGTON

Owned by the billionaire Reuben Brothers, the company leases all its 850 pubs on a free of tie basis.

Colin & Daniela offer you a very warm welcome to

The Running Horse

Leatherhead

Food served Monday to Saturday
Lunch 12noon – 3pm & Dinner 6pm – 9pm

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Function room available for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries & more!



Kingston & Leatherhead Branch Joint Pub of the Year 2013

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info@running-horse.co.uk

Good Beer Guide Awards



Ten consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide for the King's Head

In February 2022 a presentation was made by Branch Vice Chairman, Dave Taylor, to the manager of King's Head, Guildford to mark 10 consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide. Located off the edge of the town centre, the King's Head is the only pub locally serving the full range of Fullers beers including seasonals, plus a selection of guest ales, so there is always plenty of choice available.

Kevin Travers



Forty consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide for the Bat and Ball

In January 2022 a group of branch members had an excellent Sunday lunch at the Bat & Ball, Boundstone. After our fill of good food and excellent beer, including Triple fff Moondance and Hop Back Summer Lightning, we presented an award for an amazing 40 years in the Good Beer Guide.

The branch vice chairman, Dave Taylor, handed over the certificate, to the second longest serving Guide entrant in the branch area.

Kevin Travers



Twenty-Five Consecutive years in the Good Beer Guide for **Herbert Wells**



Well, that's a lie to start with, it has been in 26 consecutive issues. The Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA branch agreed to present manager, Gary Hollis, with a certificate for being in the Good Beer Guide for 25 years at a 2021 branch meeting. However, due to Covid restrictions and a number of other reasons the presentation got delayed until 1st February 2022 and by that time the 2022 GBG had been launched making it 26 consecutive entries.

Gary is a familiar sight to regulars in the Herbert Wells in Woking, sometimes behind the bar but more often front of house from where he oversees things. It is rare to find empty glasses or plates on tables and tables are regularly cleaned, not something you see in every pub. Gary has been manager at the pub since 1995, that's quite a stint in the same pub but he is not the only long serving member of staff, shift

manager Chris has done over 20 years as has Kitchen manager Jason. A lot of the other staff members have done well over 10 years giving the large town centre pub some of the feel of a "local", It's nice to be acknowledged and welcomed on arrival. Beer quality is always up to scratch. Wetherspoons keen pricing ensures a good turnover of beer meaning that your pint is always something to enjoy. Over the years the Herbert Wells has had local beer festivals and promotions and Gary is looking to start Tap Takeovers in the future focussing on a local brewery.

If you haven't been to the Herbert Wells I suggest you give it a try.

Ian Johnson

New Micro Pub



The Horse & Groom Chobham

serving good beer to nice people
with hilarious consequences

Find us on 

Brewery News

ASCOT, Camberley

www.ascotbrewing.co.uk



Camberley is the brewing location for 'Disruption Is Brewing', and its sister company 'Ascot Brewing Company'. Whereas Ascot Brewing Company focuses on brewing traditional classics including stouts and bitters, 'Disruption Is Brewing' delivers flavour-banging, hop-forward craft beers. Both brands are multi-award winning with Chaos More Chaos picking up a Great Taste Gold star and winning Champion Beer of the Festival at the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead CAMRA beer festival. The Devil Wears Lager and People of the Hop: VOL. II also picked up SIBA Gold Medals in their individual categories.

The company has recruited an award-winning head brewer and won accolades for the quality of their beer. John Willatts brewed the Supreme Champion Beer of Britain in 2017, an award only handed to 41 other brewers

The TapHouse serves 15 different craft beers, the premises also hosts live events including comedy nights, live music and live sports. Drinkers can see their beer being crafted in the brewery from the mezzanine level. Book a table at the TapHouse at www.ascotbrewing.co.uk/taproom or order from the webshop www.ascotbrewing.co.uk/shop

CRAFTBREWS BREWERY & TAPROOM,

Frensham

www.craftbrews.uk



Craft Brewery continues to sell their beer exclusively through the tap room. A perfect place to stop for a pint after a walk around Frensham ponds. **Chris Hunt**

CRUMBS, Reigate

www.crumbsbrewing.co.uk



As part of their contract with Waitrose Crumbs Brewing are now canning two of their beers, Sourdough Pale Ale and Bloomin' Amber Lager, as well as still bottling them. **Sally Gingell**

GODSTONE, Godstone

www.thegodstonebrewers.com



The Brewery are now doing Brewery Tours with tastings for groups of 12-20 people. **Andy Poole**

HEDGEDOG BREWERY, Virginia Water

www.hedgedog.co.uk



Having been in operation since 2016, lockdown made the brewery realise they had to diversify their outlet markets to survive and grow. Running a six-barrel plant, they brew once or twice a week and are currently concentrating on three core ales - a 4.8% pale, a 5% red IPA and a Kolsch-style ale. Plans are afoot to add an amber and a golden ale to the core range, to be supplemented by a range of seasonal brews throughout the year. All tend to be in the 4% to 5% range as Marc Sage from the brewery likes 'a good backbone' to his beers.



Production is roughly equal into cask and cans, with a small amount into keg.

Canning has switched from 330ml to 440ml eye-catching cans and they can be found at farmers' markets in West Byfleet on the last Saturday and Weybridge on the first Sunday of each month. Cask ales have featured at a number of beer festivals around the area over the last six months and have been well received. **Anthony Groves**

HOGS BACK, Tongham

www.hogsback.co.uk



Due to circumstances and consumer concerns, December sales in the trade and in the BreweryTap were slow in line with many other brewers and the hospitality sector as a whole.

However, Christmas trade in the Brewery Shop was brisk, with good footfall, and many people taking advantage of the Click & Collect service. There was a marked increase in demand for Home Delivery services in the run up to Christmas. Lots of fresh beer was ordered, including Christmas cask specials, Advent and Mistletoe & Swine. Sales of reusable glass

flagons, Snorters and Snifters, continue to grow as more consumers see the benefit in terms of the beer and sustainability. Brewery Tours were well supported and more tours have been opened up due to demand. January and February are traditionally slow months, but the brewery is hoping that the spring will bring people back to the pubs and to the Brewery Tap.

There will be a number of limited edition ales this year. The first is England's Glory, which launches in order to coincide with the Six Nations rugby. The limited edition programme will be finalised as part of the Budget planning process ahead of the start of the fiscal year in April. This will definitely include Friday 13th in May and Green TEA when hops are harvested in September. The Brewery Tap is continuing to grow. There has been a limited make-over to make it more comfortable. A new kitchen is now open and there is a new menu, which is being continuously developed. A marquee has gone up in front of the Tap room, and now houses the pizza oven. A number of events have been run in the Tap room, including live music in December, a HOG-many celebration on New Year's Eve and a special Burns Night, complete with haggis, bagpipes and a ceilidh. A charity quiz to raise funds for The Therapy Garden in Normandy took place in early February, plus a Tongham TEA Club tasting of England's Glory as well as showing the rugby live on the big screen. The full 2022 programme of events is being finalised and the next events will be advertised soon. (See the brewery web site) A major event for the brewery was the presentation by CAMRA for the champion bottled beer of Britain for A over T on 15th November 2022, attended by both members of the local branch, headquarters staff and of course brewery staff. Well done indeed. **Peter Hayward**

MAVERICK, Farnham



Maverick has still not found premises and is therefore not yet in production. Most recently two potential properties were considered, one just outside Farnham where the owner did not wish to invest money to bring the buildings to a lettable condition, the other in the town centre where the owner now has permission to install offices at an upper level. In addition to this there is now permission to build a complex of new homes adjacent and opposite the buildings which would make licensing very difficult or impossible. Maverick continues to look and is waiting for the market to turn up further potential properties. Given this extremely drawn out situation, Maverick is considering how and when to return the crowd funding monies and

then possibly running a new campaign if a suitable property is found. **Chris Truin**

OXTED

www.theoxtedbrewery.co.uk

Sadly, brewing has ceased. **Andy Poole**

PARK BREWERY, Kingston

www.theparkbrewery.com



Park winter beers have featured a lot of Chinook and Cascade dry hop beers producing a citrus or even orange flavour the most recent being Saw

Pit West Coast Pale (4.3%). More traditional Isabella Brown Ale (4.3%) is widely available but Ballet Loop (3.4%) has now arrived with the spring.

As part of the Brave Noise Movement, a global initiative with other breweries to emphasise "the need for a safer and more inclusive community" brewster Frankie Kearns has launched Brave Noise Pale (4.5%) with part of the profits going to Kingston Women's Centre. It's a collaborative brew with all breweries, eight in the UK at present, following the same recipe to the letter. Brave Noise Pale Ale is a smooth, pale ale with tropical flavours and a coconut undertone, dry-hopped with Mosaic and Sabro hops. **Dave and Gill Morgan (BLOs)**

PILGRIM, Reigate

www.pilgrim.co.uk



PILGRIM BREWERY

REIGATE EST. 1982

The sale of land that includes the brewery, and which prompted six months notice to be given, is proceeding, with

the good news that the purchaser is willing for the brewery and taproom to continue.

On 19 January 2022 the Branch gathered at the brewery to make a presentation to mark its 40th anniversary. The award was presented by Branch Chair Rob Wells (right) to Rory Fry-Stone (centre), current co-owner, and John Fridd, Head Brewer. Accepting the certificate, Rory paid tribute to the founder, Dave Roberts, who retired in 2017. **Andy Poole**



THAMES SIDE BREWERY,

Staines-upon-Thames

www.thamessidebrewery.co.uk



Thames Side is Staines' multi-award-winning real ale destination. On rotation at time of writing are Harrier Bitter (3.4%), White Swan Pale Ale (4.2%),

Egyptian Goose IPA (4.8%) and Wryneck Rye IPA (5.6%) from the regular range. Beers from the small batch plant include Smoke On The Porter smoked porter (5.2%), Whiter Shade Of Ale wheat beer (4.6%), and latest new beer Minstrel In The Gallery (4.1%) an English bitter hopped with Minstrel and Jester. For fans of craft keg lager, there is Brewhemian Rhapsody pilsner (4.6%) and Helles Bells (4.5%), they also have an interesting selection of real ciders.

To accompany your drink, Caribbean fusion food is provided at weekends (check timings on website and Facebook) and music events have restarted in the Tap Room. With development of the current site being planned, the brewery and tap room will be moving a short way along the towpath, from one side of Staines Bridge to the other, into a larger premises with increased capacity which promises to enhance the whole "drinking real ale in a brewery" experience. The new site is expected to be open in April.

Further news is that Owner and Head Brewer Andy Hayward has been re-elected for a further three-year term as Chair of SIBA's South East Region. The brewery's Cormorant Stout has been nominated for the shortlist in the stouts and porters category of Champion Beer of Britain for 2022 - we wish them well. **Anthony Groves**

THURSTONS BREWERY, Horsell

www.thurstonsbrewery.co.uk



All the autumn seasonals such as Horsell Hop (green hopped with hops grown in the Crown pub garden and elsewhere in the village), Chobham Treacle and No-Ale were brewed. Horsell Hooker has just been brewed in time for the Six Nations

Championship. This year's release of Time Machine was brewed early in 2021 and should be available on bottles by the time you read this. **Nick Banyard**

TILFORD BREWERY

www.tilfordbrewery.beer



The Tilford Brewery, situated next to the Duke of Cambridge Pub, started brewing in 2017 so will be celebrating its fifth anniversary this March. Mark, the Brewer, who spent many years as a Chef at The Duke of Cambridge would like to point out that, although he supplies the Red Mist pub chain, the brewery is an independent operation.

The two core beers are Hankley Gold ABV:3.9% a light gold coloured five hopped bitter and Punchbowl Pale ABV: 3.7%. Originally brewed for Red Mist this has become their most acclaimed ale. A charity donation from each pint sold in Red Mist pubs, has raised thousands of pounds for local causes.

The Seasonal Beer for Autumn & Winter was the award winning Rushmoor Ripper ABV 4.4%. For Spring & Summer the seasonal will be Tilford Wit:AVB 4.5%, an English Wit Beer that is pale blonde in colour. Other occasional brews are Grapefruit IPA AVB:4.4% & Black Knight ABV:4.8%.

The Brewery supplies pubs and clubs in Hampshire and Surrey including Hindhead RBL, The Cricketers, Pirbright, The Aldershot Army Golf Club and pubs further afield including The Kings Arms Egham, Hare and Hounds, Newbury and The Crown, Ampney Brook Cirencester. **Bob Hunt**

TITSEY BREWERY

titseybrewingco.com



The brewery is on the move again to other farm buildings but still at the top of the hill and still on Titsey Estate land. A new 10 barrel brew kit has been ordered with the first brew expected in late summer. **Andy Poole**

Pub News **Round Up**



NEWDIGATE

Surrey Oaks

Six cask beers are always on sale at this excellent free house. The regular beers are Surrey Hills Ranmore and Shere Drop. The former is so popular that a new cask goes on sale virtually every day. Also sold is one dark beer plus three bitters, often hoppy ones. Recent breweries sold have been Fixed Wheel, Burnt Mill, By the Horns and Cloudwater. A dozen craft keg beers are sold along with a dozen ciders. **RG**

OCKLEY

Cricketers Arms

This 15th century free house reopened in December 2021 under new management, having been closed since the first Covid lockdown. Initially it hopes to be serving one local and one national beer and expects to increase the range in 2022 as the new landlady settles in. **RG**

Inn on the Green

This free house with rooms has three changing beers available. These will usually be from local breweries, one of which will be Surrey Hills, usually Shere Drop. **RG**

OLD WOKING

Crown and Anchor

The pub reopened in December. The landlord and landlady previously ran Star, Witley. The beers on tap were Butcombe Original, Timothy Taylor Landlord and St. Austell Tribute. It has a small creche-like area for children. **KT/BB**

OTTERSHAW

Castle

The beers available on a recent visit were Timothy Taylor Landlord, Harvey's Sussex Best and Sharp's Doom Bar. The front car park has been reduced in size to provide more outside drinking area. Does a very good Sunday Roast. **BB**

OXSHOTT

Victoria

Has changed ownership and has had a major makeover but remains very food oriented. Changing beers are sourced via Asahi. **JN**

SHALFORD

Queen Victoria

Looking great and welcoming and was also pleasingly busy for a cold January evening. There were two beers available, the ubiquitous Sharp's Doom Bar and Greene King IPA. **CMK**

SHAMLEY GREEN

Bricklayers Arms

Had four beers on offer including Harvey's Sussex Best and Surrey Hills Shere Drop. **CMK**

Red Lion

Had two beers on tap and one of them was from Firebird Brewing in Rudgwick. **CMK**

STAINES

Old Red Lion

In addition to the regular Courage Best and Fuller's London Pride, regularly changing guest ale recently noted as Grandstand from Twickenham. **David MacDonald**

Swan Hotel

Fuller's pub and restaurant in an impressive building situated on the riverfront alongside Staines Bridge. Quality food accompanies London Pride, ESB and Oliver's Island, plus usually Dark Star Hophead and Revelation on cask and an extensive craft keg offering. **AG**

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

Admiral Hawke

Courage Best, Sharp's Doom Bar and Ringwood Razorback on. Sunbury's only GBG 2022 entry. **RS**

Flowerpots

Brakspear's Gravity (formerly Bitter) and Marston's Pedigree on. They usually like to have Young's London Special too but there have been supply issues with this of late. **RS**

Grey Horse

Fuller's London Pride and Sharp's Doom Bar on. **RS**

Hare & Hounds

Fuller's London Pride plus rotating guest which was Dark Star Orbiter on recent visit, the guest list includes Dark Star Hophead and Fuller's Seafarer's Ale. **RS**

Continued on page 28

CAMRA's Golden Awards



To Kevin Travers

When CAMRA announced the names of the people who had been awarded with one of their Golden Awards, I looked through the list for people I knew, and was delighted to see that our very own Kevin Travers had been honoured, and rightly so!



Kevin has worked hard for CAMRA for many years now, initially in Cardiff branch, where he was their membership secretary and then branch chairman for 3 years, running many successful campaigns.

He then moved to Hampshire for work, and joined our Surrey/Hants Border Branch. Kevin was our branch secretary when I first met him, and he did this for 12 years until his dream position became vacant – branch pubs officer. For the past 9 years, he has been leading campaigns against pub closures and helping to ensure local councils have strong policies to protect pubs, as well as keeping the branch updated with all the news on planning applications, closures and general newsworthy items regarding our branch pubs and clubs.

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA are part of the Surrey/Sussex CAMRA region. Kevin is the deputy Regional Director, responsible in particular for Surrey matters. As well as this, he is also the London & South East Area coordinator for the Champion Beer of Britain competition; organising tasting panels (in fact running the Hampshire one) which feeds into the information that goes out to CAMRA members to vote for their favourite beers in the Champion Beer of Britain competition.

In the past he has been involved at national level in various CAMRA initiatives and he currently sits on a couple of national committees. As I have already said publicly at our recent branch AGM, I know he is my husband, but I see first-hand how incredibly hard he works for a cause he loves, and so deserves to be recognised as one of CAMRA's Golden People.

Val MacFarlane Travers

To Farnham Lions

The Farnham Lions Club, in partnership with CAMRA and the Farnham Maltings Association have run Farnham Beerex for 45 years, since it started in 1977; it is the longest running beer festival in the country to have been held at the same location throughout.

The event is the major fundraising event for the local charities supported by the Farnham Lions. Staffed by well over 300 volunteers, all of whom are unpaid, it's a truly unique event that is firmly fixed in the town's social diary.

Held in Farnham, Surrey, the first Beerex took place in 1977, six years after CAMRA had been established, as a means of promoting traditional cask-conditioned beers from British breweries in line with CAMRA's aims, whilst raising money for charity. The concept was the idea of two CAMRA members who were also members of the Farnham Lions Club, inspired by CAMRA's Covent Garden Beer Festival (London) of 1975. Originally planned as a one-off event, until Covid intervened it has taken place every year since at the Farnham Maltings in late April or early May, still organised by the same three organisations and staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers.

The event has raised in excess of £900,000 for mainly local charities and good causes through the Lions Club of Farnham and has been instrumental in raising awareness of traditional beers in the Farnham area which can now boast a number of independent breweries including the long-established Hogs Back Brewery.

The Farnham Lions are worthy recipients of this prestigious award and current Lions Chairman Keith Harris was presented with a certificate to mark the occasion in March at a planning meeting for this year's Festival, which is again taking place at Farnham Maltings between 7th and 9th April.

Headscratcher No. 90 Results



The winner of Headscratcher No 90 was John Williamson and the draw was made by Teresa Ewens, landlady of The Crossways, Churt, Surrey.

Correct answers were also received from John Barker, Dennis Batty, Ian Berry, Lee Burnham, June Cottington, Jim Davies, John Drake, John Graham, Roger Grant, Bob Heaps, Iain Murray, Mark Nichols, G. Pote, Mark Preece, Chris Truin, Alan Welsh, K Zemek. There were no incorrect entries.

An apology must be made for the extra line of blank squares at the bottom of the grid. I have no idea how it got there. Unfortunately I missed it when proof reading.

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

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

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

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Social Events



All social events can change due to the current rules on social distancing as a result of the current covid pandemic. Please check the latest updates on each respective CAMRA branch website.

APRIL 2022

Tuesday 12th Royal Oak, New Malden [K&L]

All members welcome to come and help shortlist our pubs for the 2023 Good Beer Guide

Wednesday 13th Social

at the 36th Egham Beer Festival [NS]

Egham United Services Club. Branch Social from 19:00 on the preview evening Wednesday 13th April 2022. Main event 14th to 16th See the Local CAMRA Beer Festival Section for more details.

Saturday 16th 13:30 Easter Beer Festival Social Alfred Free House, Upper Hale [SHB]

A welcome return of beer festivals to the Alfred Free House (9 Bishops Road, GU9 0JA), Upper Hale. Meet from 13:30 on Easter Saturday afternoon. Bus service No 5 from Aldershot and Farnham.

Saturday 16th Beer Festival and Social at The Star, Godalming [SHB]

Join Mick Bell at the Richmond Arms at 12:00 and then onto the Star for their Easter Beer Festival.

MAY 2022

Wednesday 4th

Cycle Ride (or train) to Winchfield Inn [SHB]

Cycle ride to the Winchfield Inn (Station Hill, RG27 8BX) to arrive there at 19:30. Depart Farnborough Main Station 18:40, or Fleet Wharf (GU51 3QR) at 19:05. Weather dependent, check Website for confirmation.

Thursday 5th Herbert Wells, Woking [SHB]

Meet from 8pm. There is a tap takeover by Surrey Hills Brewery.

Saturday 7th Walk/Bus to Wonston Arms, Sutton Scotney [SHB]

Afternoon visit to this wonderful country pub near Winchester. See Website for details

Saturday 14th

Up and Down the City Road, London [SHB]

Meet at 12:00 - Brewhouse and Kitchen - Angel Islington (Torrens St, London EC1V 1NQ). Full itinerary on Website.

Thursday 19th 18:45

Big Smoke Tap Room Quiz, Esher [SHB]

To take part in the quiz please email social@shb.camra.org.uk

To get to the Tap Room, take a train to Hersham station, from where it is a 1 mile walk.

Thursday 26th Midweek Bus Pub Crawl [SHB]

Timings and further details will be available on Website.

Sunday 29th 13:30 Sunday Lunch at Bull's Head (GU4 7ST), Clandon [SHB]

Booking is essential, please email social@shb.camra.org.uk by 20th May.

JUNE 2022

Tuesday 7th Evening Bus crawl to pubs south of Guildford [SHB]

Jolly Farmer (High Street, GU5 0HB), Bramley, Grantley Arms (The Street, GU5 0PE), Womersley, Bricklayers Arms (The Green, GU5 0UA), Shamley Green. Check Website for timings

Saturday 11th Saturday pub ramble [SHB]

Ramble to visit a few country pubs. Check Website for timings and further details.

Wednesday 22nd Summer Solstice Pub Walk [SHB]

A 7 mile walk on the longest night of the year, visiting 3 country pubs, Stag on the River (GU7 2QG), Eashing, Cyder House (Peperharow Lane, GU8 6AN), Shackleford and Squirrel (Hurtmore Road, GU7 2RN), Hurtmore. Depart Godalming Station after the arrival of the 17.34 train from Guildford and return to Farncombe Station in time for the 22.32 train back to Guildford.

JULY 2022

Sunday 3rd 13:00 Sunday Lunch at Four Horseshoes, Long Sutton [SHB]

Booking is essential, so please email social@shb.camra.org.uk by 24th June.

AUGUST 2022

Saturday 20th Bus Crawl to Hascombe and Chiddingfold [SHB]

Catch 11:00 Compass Bus 42 from Guildford Bus Station, to Dunsfold where we start at the Sun (The Common GU8 4LE). We will then visit White Horse (The Street, GU8 4JA), Hascombe; Crown (Petworth Street, GU8 4TX) and Swan (Petworth Road, GU8 4TY) Chiddingfold before returning via Godalming to central Guildford by 19:30.

Wednesday 24th Lightwater,

Bagshot and Windlesham pub crawl

See Website for timings and further details.

BEER FESTIVALS

Due to Covid-19 many festivals have been postponed or re-arranged. Please confirm before going.

Local Beer Festivals

Farnham Beerex Farnham Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th Maltings, Farnham.

At time of publication only tickets for Friday lunchtime were available. All other sessions were sold out.
<https://www.farnhambeerex.org.uk>

Egham Beer Festival Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th April at Egham United Services Club

Now in it's 14th year! 60 plus ales plus ciders, BBQ, hot & cold food, live music. Preview night from 5pm on Wed 13th April for USC members, their guests and CAMRA members who can be signed in. 60+ real ales and ciders, many from Britain's newest breweries. Entry price £4 for non USC Members, and £3 for CAMRA card holders, students and USC guests. Just 5 mins walk from Egham Rail Station, and buses 8 & 441 from the nearby High Street.

Hindhead Royal British Legion Club, Friday 13th & Saturday 14th May Hindhead

Beacon Hill Beer Festival is back for its 18th year.

Alton Beer Festival Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th June

Tickets due to go on sale in March, full details available at <https://www.altonbeerfestival.org.uk/>

Kingston Beer Festival Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st May (See advert for full details).

Kingston Beer & Cider Festival, Kingston Workmen's Club & Institute, Old London Road, Kingston, KT2 6ND. Over 60 real ales plus 12 ciders and perries.

SURREY/HANTS BORDERS (SHB)

Includes Guildford, Surrey Heath, Waverley & Rushmoor Borough.

The Surrey Hants Borders branch of CAMRA uses a Yahoo group to keep in touch with members on a regular basis, advising of changes in the social programme, sharing pub news, and providing lots of information about Branch activities.

Join the SHB Yahoo group:

http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/shb_camra/

Contact (Les Murrell): shb@camrasurrey.org.uk

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

NORTH SURREY (NS)

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

Contact: contact@northsurrey.camra.org.uk

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

Opening hours 12 noon – 10.30pm (9.00pm Saturday)

Guildford Beer Festival Friday 29th & Saturday 30th July Guildford Cricket Club, Guildford

Full details and how to get tickets can be found at <https://guildfordbeerfestival.co.uk/>

Fleet Beer Fest Saturday 6th August Harlington Bar, Fleet

Organised by Fleet Lions. Full details and how to get tickets can be found at <http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/beerfest/>

Haslemere Beer Festival Friday 2nd to Saturday 3rd September

The Festival is held in Haslemere Hall. Full details and how to get tickets can be found at <http://haslemerebeerfestival.co.uk/>

Redhill Beer Festival (To be confirmed) – Late October

The Redhill Beer Festival is located in Merstham Village Hall and normally runs for 3 days in late October/early November every year. Previously we have put on up to 66 beers and 12 ciders and perries but, if we can go ahead this year, the offer may be different. The Organisers will be taking their decision regarding the 2022 event in August. Please check the Branch web site [ems.camra.org.uk](https://www.ems.camra.org.uk) for details nearer the time.

National CAMRA Beer Festivals

Great British Beer Festival 2nd Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 6th August

To be held at Olympia London.

<https://www.gbbf.org.uk>

KINGSTON AND LEATHERHEAD (K&L)

Covering Kingston Borough, Leatherhead & Elmbridge.

You can also find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter [@CAMRAKL](https://twitter.com/CAMRAKL)

Contact (Clive Taylor): 020 8949 2099 (H)

ctaylor2007@freeuk.com

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

EAST AND MID SURREY (EMS)

Covering Boroughs of Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge, and Dorking.

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

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

Pub News **Round Up**



Magpie

An extensive pub with a patio alongside the Thames. Southwark Bermondsey Best and Bankside Blonde both in good condition. Previously there were five or six ales on here but this is a sign of the times and most establishments have reduced their number of cask ales, hopefully things will pick up in the spring. **RS**

Phoenix

Fabio who previously ran the White Horse is now here. Nice drops of Fuller's London Pride and Brakspear's Gravity along with nice food. **RS**

White Horse

Fuller's London Pride and Black Sheep Best Bitter both in cracking condition on recent visit. A new landlord expected to start soon. **RS**

SURBITON

Duke

Re-opened in December 2021 after 20 months of closure. It has had a light refurbishment. **JN**

THORPE

Red Lion

St Austell Tribute and Greene King London Glory found on a recent visit. **RS**

Rose & Crown

Large food pub with extensive garden, popular in the summer. Timothy Taylor Landlord on cask and Meantime Pale Ale on keg. **RS**

WEYBRIDGE

Elmbridge Arms

Is one of the 42 pubs sold by Stonegate to RedCat Pub Company to satisfy CMA requirements following the acquisition of Ei Group. It is due to close temporarily soon for a refurbishment. **JN**

WONERSH

Grantley Arms

Busy for January, warm and welcoming had three beers on tap including Surrey Hills Shere Drop and Hogs Back TEA. **CMK**

WOODMANSTERNE

Woodman

This attractive pub, with a circular turret room, usually has three or four beers available. Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter and Sharp's Doom Bar are the regulars supplemented by one or two regularly changing guests. Food is available all day. **RG**

YATELEY

Dog & Partridge

The pub was previously run by Mark and Tania Edgell, who retired several years ago, and is now ably run by their daughter Jessica, who has built up an enviable reputation for providing excellence in food, drink and good service. They have an entry in the 2022 Good Beer Guide, with plans to increase the number of ales in regular use, as trade improves. On my visit they were serving Sharp's Doom Bar and St. Austell Tribute, the latter being very much to my liking. In addition, I tried their refreshing Neck Oil, a session IPA, keg beer from the Beavertown Brewery. This is a very sociable pub, which organises occasional quiz nights, music nights and other activities. This is a dog-friendly pub, with a jar of canine treats on show. Sunday lunches remain very popular. Early booking is essential, here's their number to help you. (01252-870648) **Harry Fish**

VIRGINIA WATER

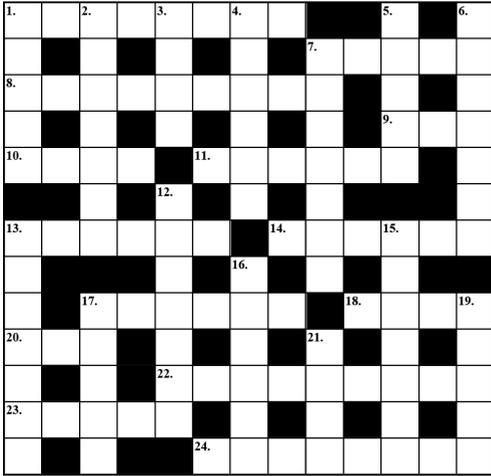
Rose and Olive Branch

Pub run by Windsor & Eton brewery. A regular changing menu complements Knight of the Garter and Guardsman on cask with Republika, Treason West Coast IPA, White Riot Pale Ale and Shout! New English Pale Ale on keg. **RS**

Wheatsheaf Hotel

Chef & Brewer restaurant with Greene King IPA and Abbot. **RS**

Headscratcher No. 91



£20 Prize Crossword

Clues for Headscratcher No.91

Down

1. Swear by a first class alternative ruse. (5)
2. Up-to-the-minute news from the Capitol. (7)
3. Tear up the lease. (4)
4. Let any reconstruction finish tidily. (6)
5. Crash into a boat. (5)
6. Relax, I've become impatient. (7)
7. Extend a period in the clink. (7)
12. After a scrimmage get an extremely peppery drink. (7)
13. 1000 exotic beers entrap male associates. (7)
15. A new variety of cattle found around India is touchable. (7)
16. A rough sleeper gets bad sores after the first day. (6)
17. Plug a small fortune. (5)
19. Sits around English locations. (5)
21. First found in ludicrous monster movie. (4)

Across

1. Creating is a different form of furnishing. (8)
7. Paces around the room. (5)
8. A worried parent rushes around a hospital dept. then becomes apologetic. (9)
9. Obtain part of a drainage tank. (3)
10. Every ache is bad. (4)
11. Claim legal reforms by end of June. (6)
13. Mother, left in charge up to Easter, shows some bitterness. (6)
14. Small extremely clumsy article as a cutting tool. (6)
17. Proust reviewed unconsciousness. (6)
18. Fresh cast for different parts of the play. (4)
20. A roll is included in a pub appetizer. (3)
22. A prophet of gloom and doom, I miss pets in distress. (9)
23. Romeo and friend regroup. (5)
24. Blowing your own one of these is boasting. (8)

£20 Prize Crossword.

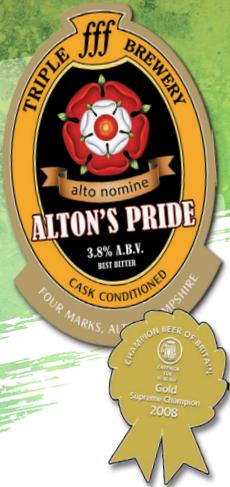
Closing date for entries is Friday 27th May.

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

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

Name

Address



01420 561422

3 Magpie Works, Station Approach,
Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 5HN

triplefff.com

triple

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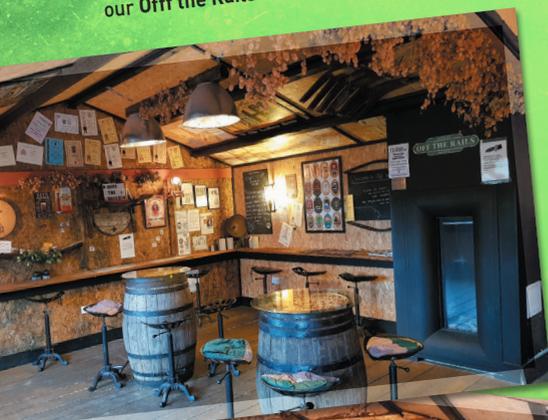
History

Triple fff Brewery was founded twenty two years ago by Graham Trott, an avid home brewer who thought he would give it a try on a larger scale and 11 years later he won **Supreme Champion Beer of Britain** with our staple brew Alton Pride.

brewery

Brewery Tours

Do something different for your Christmas do this year, or better still, buy a Brewery tour as a gift! Our tours include a half pint of any Triple fff beer as our Brewer walks you through our brewery and 2 further half pints in our Off the Rails bar afterwards.



The Shop

We stock a selection of the best rated craft beers from around the world. If beers aren't your thing then maybe our selection of artisan Gins, Rums and Vodkas can tempt you.

Opening times
Mon 10-5
Tues-Fri 10-7
Sat 10-5

The Bar

Our very cosy bar with roaring fire, serves all our core beers plus our seasonal brews and guest ales.

We have the best artisan spirits, mixers and soft drinks along with a guest cider each week as well as a bottled range from local producers.

Opening times:
Wed-Thurs 5-10
Fri 3-10:30
Sat 12-10:30
Sun 12-6



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