Joint Surrey/Hants Borders and Oxford **CAMRA Social**

On Saturday 25th July, 10 Surrey/Hants Borders branch members travelled to Oxford for a joint social with Oxford CAMRA, starting in the Iffley area then walking along the Isis to a riverside pub before moving on to the BMAN brewery.



Returning to the city centre, Mark Geeson led a group on a scenic tour of the architectural highlights and a behind the scenes look at St John's college, before visiting the covered market micro pub and other fine city pubs.

Oxford CAMRA were delighted that we joined them and we hope to enjoy many more socials together.

Mark Geeson





Taken at the BMAN brewery



The group enjoyed an excellent pint of Wadworth beer

Surrey/Hants Borders CAMRA **go to Winchester**



After working at Winchester's CAMRA Beer Festival in June, Mark Geeson put together a tour of Winchester highlights on 22nd August.

Starting in Hop Back's Albion near Winchester station, 14 CAMRA members moved on to the Royal Oak (with parts dating back to 1006), then via the Butter Cross (sadly shrouded in scaffold) to the wallet-busting Eclipse (quirky crooked room upstairs with a dishevelled suit of armour), a beautiful walk through the cathedral grounds to the Queen Inn (pub and brewery), walking back to the Wykeham Arms then a peaceful walk along the River Itchen to the centre and the Hyde Tavern, finishing again at the Albion.

Mark Geeson

Beer Scoring Competition 2026

1st June 2026 - 31st January 2027

Our competition had begun in fine style with over 130 people submitting their ratings for the pubs in our SHB CAMRA area. Our lead scorer has over 800 points and there are 20 people scoring over 100. If you haven't already, take a look at the league table on our SHB CAMRA website.

I hope you are enjoying the new "wordy" version for rating your beer. A reminder is shown in the table below.

I know it can be a bit tricky sometimes, typing in the beer you are drinking, if it doesn't pop up immediately on the app. But it is helpful for the branch to get a feel for the range of beers our pubs and clubs are selling, not just the quality.

Any questions about all this, get in touch with us. It would be fab if we could have 50% of our branch members submitting scores on a regular basis, helping provide a wealth of information for Good Beer Guide discussions.

Val MacT

How's your beer?

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.

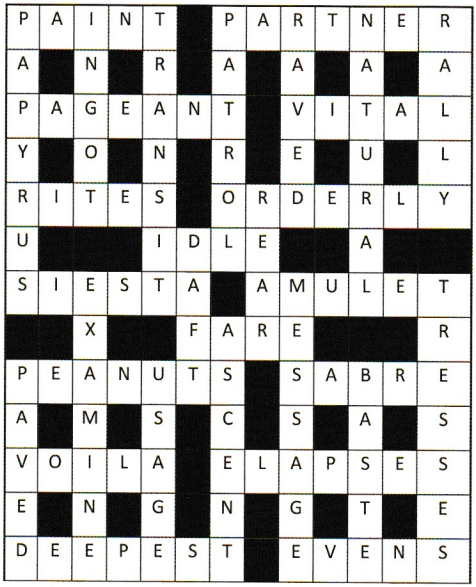
Headscratcher No. 104 Results

The winner of Headscratcher No 104 was John Dodd of London W12, and the draw was made by Will Hallinan, owner of The Goat in the Garden, Farnborough.

Correct answers were also received from Dennis Batty, Barry Cox, Jane Cox, Jennifer Davies, Roger Grant, Bob Heaps, Gary Hinde, John Hook, Robert Inman, Ian Johnson, Magnus Mackay, Mr S. Magin, Heather Mort, Mark Nichols, Paul Telling, Chris Truin, David Turnbull, Alan Welsh.

One correct entry was received after the submission deadline.

Thankyou John!



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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Why join **CAMRA?**

CAMRA membership costs £35 for individual membership and £43 for joint membership for a couple. Which seems a lot but is only seven or eight pints at today's prices. For that you get to support CAMRA's campaigning for pubs and beer for a whole year, which some may think is good enough reason in itself. CAMRA has 140,000 members nationally, and its size helps it to gain credibility when speaking to Government. You can also help out locally with Surrey/Hants Borders branch activities, even becoming a committee member... or just scoring beer quality on the website.

However, there are also quite a lot of financial benefits.

Firstly, you get £30 of vouchers (£40 for joint members) which give you 50p off the price of a pint in a number of pubs. These are often thought of as Wetherspoons vouchers, but they are also accepted at some other pub chains including Stonegate, and at some independents. So, this brings the overall cost of membership down to just a few pounds.

There are also pubs which choose to give discounts to CAMRA members when showing a membership card. You can search both for these and the voucher-scheme pubs on the CAMRA website.

As part of your membership, you now get a free subscription to the *Good Beer Guide (GBG)* online. This is now delivered as part of the CAMRA website **camra.org.uk/pubs**, where, if you log in as a member, you can search for GBG entries. You can still buy the GBG book if you want and get a discounted price. And there is a free quarterly online magazine called BEER.

And a new benefit from this year is free entry to CAMRA beer festivals, although note that collaborative events such as Farnham Beerex aren't included. You can find beer festivals across the country at **camra.org.uk/events**

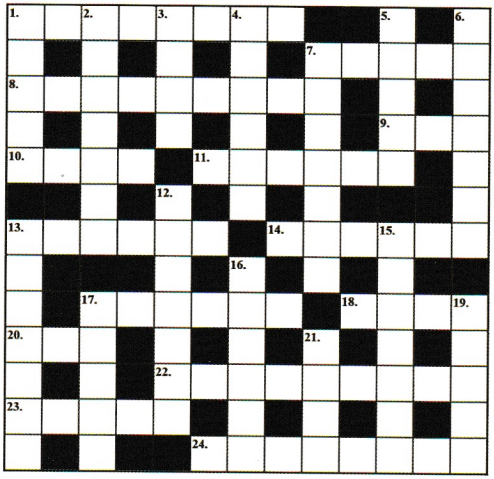
And you get members' discounts for CAMRA merchandise including books and T-shirts, and some discounts from partner organisations.

Convinced? It's easy to join, just go to **camra.org.uk/membership** to sign up.

Phil Clark



Headscratcher No. 105



Prize: £20

Clues for Headscratcher No.105

Across

1. 1. Come across a record surplus. (8)

7. 41/2 gallons containing low alcohol is not very attractive. (5)

8. Bending it reveals it can be flexible. (9)

9. Acquired part of the Congo territory. (3)

10. Retreat from the beginning of long and involved relationships. (4)

11. Strangely I'm less concerned with expressions of friendship. (6)

13. 150 always give a smart appearance. (6)

14. Puts back top operational research into the state of unconsciousness. (6)

17. Reform of late is in the embryonic state. (6)

18. The fortified wine is left. (4)

20. Everybody will be involved in a universal language. (3)

22. The quiet lodger turns out to be the head of state. (9)

23. Father gets absorbed in painting, to be independent. (5)

24. Drive right into a swamp. That will cause a scare. (8)

Down

1. Old Nick lived in confusion. (5)

2. Relives in a strange way the attitude of a slave. (7)

3. Spoken in a moralising fashion. (4)

4. Imagine I disappeared, upset the rest and caused a problem. (6)

5. The first particle of nicotine introduced into cigarettes, encourages sharp teeth. (5)

6. In confusion he ran to a different one. (7)

7. Spell ET wrongly and get shot. (7)

12. Turned over ripe etc. Then find proof of purchase. (7)

13. Two vehicles separated by a trailer. (7)

15. Being in favour of assessment is cause for complaint. (7)

16. Rush headlong into a profession. (6)

17. These parasitic creatures exist through false pretences. (5)

19. Superman is involved in anti-tank weapons. (5)

21. This band is appearing in a bazaar in Guildford. (4)

Closing date for entries is Friday 20th November
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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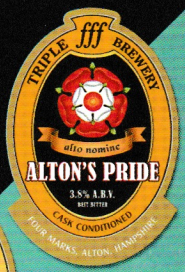
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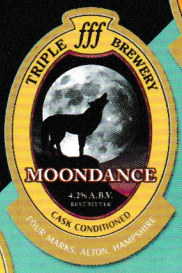
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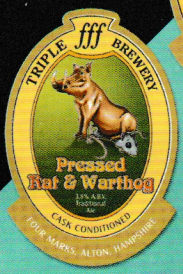
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