

Ullage

ONLINE ONLY EDITION

THE MAGAZINE OF WEST BERKSHIRE CAMRA

SUMMER 2021



www.westberks.camra.org.uk



@WBCAMRA @WBCAMRAcider @UllageBeer



@WBCAMRA

Cask is back, so back cask

The 'Cask is back, so back cask' cross-industry campaign calls on beer lovers to choose a pint of fresh cask beer, from a local independent brewery, when they return to the pub.

We are lucky to have many pubs where locally brewed cask ale is available in West Berkshire. The following pubs brew their own beer or source it from breweries less than a mile away:

- John O'Gaunt Inn, Hungerford (INNformal Brewery)
- Five Bells, Wickham (Wickham Ales)
- White Hart Inn, Hamstead Marshall (Saviour Brewery)
- Taproom & Kitchen, Yattendon (West Berkshire Brewery)
- Ibez Inn, Chaddleworth (Indigenous Brewery)
- Wheatsheaf Inn, Thatcham (Delphic Brewing)



Asked for his thoughts about the campaign now that pubs have reopened, Andy Pinkard, Chair of West Berkshire CAMRA, said

'Britain has a great history of brewing beer and serving it traditionally in pubs. I'm sure that we've all explored the alternatives for beer at home, forced upon us in our collective isolation. Lockdowns reminded us that nothing beats the experience of fresh cask conditioned beer which is only available



Andy Pinkard at the Five Bells, Wickham



in our pubs, clubs and taprooms. Joni Mitchell described it so well in her lyrics for Big Yellow Taxi: 'That you don't know what you've got till it's gone'. Let's all celebrate cask now that it's back, Cheers!

With a limited shelf-life compared to lager from the global beer companies (which is heavily filtered and pasteurised before being put into a keg) cask beer is the freshest beer available and a uniquely British product.

Learn more here: [#CaskIsBack](https://www.caskisback.co.uk)

Read about Chris Dyson's experience of backing cask by returning to the pub and being 'back amongst smiley, happy people' on page 7.

#CheersToBeer

A good opportunity to celebrate Britain's National drink would be at 7pm on Tuesday 15 June, **Beer Day Britain**, when everyone is invited to join in by raising a glass, saying 'Cheers to Beer' and posting a message on social media with the hashtag #CheersToBeer.

This has been an annual occasion since 2015 when it was instigated by Jane Peyton, award winning beer sommelier, author and founder of the School of Booze.



June 15th is significant because the Magna Carta was sealed on that date in 1215. Ale is mentioned in Article 35.

'Let there be throughout our kingdom a single measure for wine and a single measure for ale ...'

- The newburypubwalks.org.uk website has details of over 30 circular walks from pubs near Newbury including linear walks from pubs on the Kennet and Avon canal.

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the fifth online only issue of *Ullage*. With pubs and taprooms open, we hope to produce and distribute printed issues of *Ullage* again in future but this is dependent on obtaining advance payments from advertisers and ideally, a volunteer advertising manager. Please contact me if you would like to support *Ullage* with advertising or voluntary effort.

Where you find text shown in blue, this is for weblinks that provide easy navigation to online information.

Thanks to contributors to this issue which has a theme of returning to normality after pub closures during lockdown.

On page 7, the Boak & Bailey (December) post describes the experience of receiving packaged beer at home with pubs closed. Chris Dyson writes about the pleasure of returning to the sunny outdoor areas of pubs in April.

On page 9, the results of Curmudgeon's Twitter poll to find Britain's Best Seaside Drinking Town are published and the 16 selected towns may provide you with some ideas for summer trips. Si BRAPA Everitt's (April) blog post offers advice on planning your pub trip. Don't forget to take CAMRA's Good Beer Guide!

Local pubs and breweries have had a tough time with lockdowns and restrictions for over a year. When you feel ready to return, please give them your support.

Enjoy reading *Ullage* and please encourage friends and contacts to do the same. Cheers!
Tim Thomas editor@westberksamra.org.uk

Swift halves

Paul Worsley has maintained a useful online list of reopening dates for pubs in West Berkshire and nearby North Hampshire in the Local Pub News section of the westberksamra.org.uk website.



Photo: Richard Marshall

The majority of pubs have now reopened with many having made improvements to their gardens and outside areas since last year. The **Cock Inn** at Shaw has landscaped its garden with fixed seating and an outside bar. The large rear garden at the **Coach and Horses**, Midgham now includes a covered, decked seating area.



Level Crossing, the popular 4.2% ABV best bitter from Thatcham's **Delphic Brewing Co**, is now also available in 440ml cans. Delphic beers are also available in 5 litre mini-kegs.

For All Intensive Purposes is a hazy 4.7% ABV extra pale ale, heavily hopped with Mosaic, Motueka and Mandarin Bavaria and fermented with a New England yeast.

Free weekend delivery is offered within 10 miles of RG19.

www.delphicbrewing.com



In a Facebook post (26 February), Kirsty and Nathan thanked customers and staff of the **Castle Inn**, Cold Ash and advised their leaving date as 16 March. Mary and Paul have taken over and introduced a new menu that includes burgers, omelettes and classic pub dishes.

On Monday 17 May, a Senior Citizens lunch menu was introduced and Quiz Night returned.

Double-Barrelled Brewery, Elusive Brewing and Siren Craft Brew are Berkshire breweries featured in *Modern British Beer* by Matthew Curtis. See page 6 for book details.



Photo: WBB

West Berkshire Brewery Mister Chubb's is described as a 'balanced session bitter packed with all the spicy, fruity and floral flavours you'd expect from English hops'. At 3.4% ABV, it is less alcoholic than the brewery's flagship 4% ABV best bitter - Good Old Boy. Sainsbury's has recently added Good Old Boy to its range of beers.



Photo: WBB

An expanded covered seating area is now available outside the Taproom & Kitchen. An Airstream trailer, named *Bertha*, has been acquired to serve customers outdoors.

The inaugural **WBB Beer Cup** is designed to create the Seasonal range for 2022. Brewing staff were grouped into eight teams with each brewing a beer on the 100 Litre Pilot Kit which is also used by the WBB Homebrew Club. The Brewers Troop team included Head Brewer Will Twomey and The Legion of Booze team included Assistant Head Brewer Griff Maggs. In Round 1 (Amber Beer), Team 8 were the winners with 30 Seconds to Märzen, closely followed by Brewers Troop with Vanguard IPA. The subsequent three rounds will be themed as Dark beer, Light beer and Uncategorised. For more details and scenes from the brewery, watch the videos, presented by Mike Harrison-Wood (The Green Grizzlies team), on the weblink above. Visitors to the Taproom and Kitchen at the Old Dairy, Yattendon, will be able to taste the trial beers while stocks last.

The popular WBB Quiz is held there on the last Wednesday of the month. www.wbbrew.com

Based at the Old Dairy, Yattendon, **Beacon & Buck** provide a flexible canned beer subscription service offering a choice of three styles. Trial boxes for the 'Fresh & Easy' style have included WBB Detour Pale Ale and Reuben's Brews Hazaelicious brewed at West Berkshire Brewery.



Guess the Pub



Photo: Ullage, Spring 2019

Martin Taylor's Guess the Pub goes to Berkshire contest featured on page 9 of *Ullage* (Spring 2021).

From less obvious photos of parts of the pub, Thatcham resident and CAMRA member Steve Kelly was the first person to identify the **Downgate**, Hungerford.

Martin has posted many other Guess the Pub challenges on his [retiredmartin](http://retiredmartin.com) blog during lockdown including: Hampshire; Surrey; Seaside; 'GBG desert' and 'Bottom of the league'.

To have a go and / or find the answer (in the comments section), enter 'Guess the pub' in the Search box.



Steve Kelly



■ **Wild Weather Ales Storm in a Teacup** was featured by *BeerBods* subscription box as beer of the week on 20 May. The 6% ABV IPA is brewed with US hops and infused with loose Earl Grey tea leaves. Now available in 440ml cans with a new style label, it has become a core beer for the brewery, established by Mike Tempest in 2012.

Posts by Head Brewer JD (Jamie Duffield) on the Wild Weather blog give fascinating details



Photos: Wild Weather Ales

about recent limited release beers including: Cephalopod (12% ABV Heather honey Imperial stout); Strangers When We Meet (4.8% ABV Jara lemon & Sea salt Gose); Cake Batter Batter Swing (6.2% ABV Dark cherry & vanilla Black lager) and The Tropical (6% ABV Fruit smoothie IPA).

The Tropical has changed since it was first brewed in 2017 in collaboration with

Smiley Dave. The latest version includes mango puree as well as dried fruit and the yeast has changed to an English ale strain. In the second of two videos on this blog post featuring JD, Smiley Dave and Iain Clarke, JD mentions that it now has 'more of a natural fruit flavour' and is 'a little bit thicker' as a result of using flaked wheat.



Beers ordered via the webshop can be collected from the brewery at Easter Park, Silchester, on weekdays between 1-5pm.

www.wildweatherales.com

■ **The Weather Station**, Eldon Terrace, Reading, reopened on 20 May serving beers from Wild Weather Ales and guest breweries.

■ Congratulations to **The Woodspeen** and the **Blackbird** at Bagnor for retaining their Michelin stars in 2021.



■ **The Bowlers Arms** has moved to the new Falkland Cricket Club pavilion, accessed from Enborne Street, Wash Common. New outdoor furniture provides comfortable seating with views of the main cricket ground.

Fixtures at Falkland CC

include: 13 June Berkshire v Oxfordshire (NCCA Trophy XI) and 22-24 August Berkshire v Cheshire (NCCA Championship XI).

■ The new team at the **Bunk Inn**, Curridge, is Jonny (General Manager), Grace (Deputy GM) and Didier (Head Chef). The last Wednesday of each month will be a Quiz Night with the winning team choosing the charity to benefit.



■ **The Lion**, West Street, Newbury, reopened on 17 May with a range of six real ales from Wadworth and guest breweries. The kitchen has been improved and a Tex-Mex menu including Chilli, burritos and quesadillas is offered from Thursday to Sunday. Kieran's Thursday night pub quiz has restarted, with table booking recommended.

This view of the Lion's courtyard may be changing as planning application



21/01056/ FUL has been lodged with West Berkshire Council to remove the timber framed smoking shelter and replace it with a grey metal framed, slatted flat roof gazebo.

■ **The Catherine Wheel**, Newbury raised over £555 for Macmillan Cancer Support with a clearance sale of old bottled and canned beer from 15 May. **Dollhouse Arts** presented live acoustic music in the courtyard on 21/22 May for the reopening weekend. Inside, the pub's floorboards have been freshly sanded.



Five Bells, Wickham - brewery (left) and stretch tent

■ **The Five Bells**, Wickham, has a Saturday morning market, from 9am to 12 noon, with local honey, produce and baked goods.

Strength is a new beer brewed in the Wickham Ales building on the edge of the pub's large garden. This 6.5% ABV IPA now joins the previously brewed Fortitude, a malty 3.5% ABV bitter and local guest ales, on the bar.

On Monday 17 May, as pubs in England opened indoors, CAMRA National Chairman Nik Antona said:



"**Pubs matter** and are a vital part of our communities up and down the country. As we mark the next milestone in the lifting of lockdown, I'm urging everyone who can to get back down to their local pub, social club or brewery taproom.

"People are really looking forward to socialising safely without being subject to notorious British weather, as well as enjoying all the social and wellbeing benefits of having a pint at the local.

"It is also vital that we give as much support as possible to local breweries and cider producers as well as to our pubs so that they can survive and thrive after an exceptionally difficult year.

"For those going back to the pub today please to be patient and courteous with pub staff who are doing their jobs in difficult circumstances and with a few extra rules than we are used to when we visit our local.

"Whilst indoor opening today is a significant step in the right direction, many pubs will still struggle to make ends meet due to restrictions on the amount of customers they can serve. We are urging the Government to commit to lifting all remaining restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so ...

"If further restrictions aren't lifted on 21st June then the Government must provide more financial support until our pubs can trade without restrictions. CAMRA is also calling on the Treasury to cut tax on draught beer served in pubs to help encourage pub-going and give our locals a better chance to compete with cheaper supermarket alcohol in the months and years ahead."

#PubsMatter is a campaign to get people talking about why pubs and social clubs across the UK are a force for good. Everyone should know why pubs matter to people and communities. You can surround your profile picture with a frame on Facebook or a Twibbon on Twitter to show you're supporting **#PubsMatter** and going back to the pub. Learn more at: <https://whypubsmatter.org.uk/>



include: 13 June Berkshire v Oxfordshire (NCCA Trophy XI) and 22-24 August Berkshire v Cheshire (NCCA Championship XI).



Social Media

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@WBCAMRA
@UllageBeer
@BerkshirePubs
@CAMRA_Official



West Berkshire Campaign for Real Ale:
@WBCAMRA
(National) CAMRA:
@campaignforrealeale



■ A planning application (21/00207/FUL) for redevelopment of the **Travellers Friend** at Crookham Common to provide accommodation for people with autism and learning disabilities was recently approved.



■ The summer issue of **Beer** magazine, a CAMRA membership benefit, includes features by Pete Brown (Beer label design p6), Jeff Evans (Jaipur IPA p34) and Matthew Curtis (Bread beer p38).

■ On Sunday 18 April, the 2021 **CAMRA AGM** and Members' Weekend was held virtually, instead of at Sheffield as originally planned. Tribute was paid to members whose lives were lost including Dave Mc Kerchar and John Robinson (Reading CAMRA) and pub walks author Bob Steel. After debate, motions were passed to increase CAMRA membership prices by £2 for single members and £5 for joint members from 1 July 2021. See page 8 for membership form or join [online](#).

WHAT'S BREWING

Motion 5, to continue printing *What's Brewing* CAMRA's monthly newspaper, for members who request it, was narrowly defeated. From Autumn 2021, *Beer* magazine will include a *What's Brewing* section. *What's Brewing* is now published digitally on an [online platform](#).

The next AGM and Members' Weekend will be held in Eastbourne (8-10 April 2022).



■ As featured in the Spring *Ullage*, **Berkshire Beer Box** delivers a changing selection of eight different beers from Berkshire breweries exclusively to Berkshire customers.

May's box included Lodestone Mild from Hermitage Brewery. Mellow Velo (dark mild) from Bond Brews was the limited bonus beer for early orders.

Two Cocks Brewery 1643 Viscount, a **Muse on Booze** favourite, was included in the April 2021 box.



■ Matt Bundy, Clare Phillips and Ant Fiorillo, pictured above, present the CAMRA Pubs Pints People podcast, now in its third season. Guests and topics include: Tom Oliver, James Finch and Adam Wells on Cider (3.7) and Pete Brown on Beer by Design (3.8). 20 episodes from season 1 and 7 episodes from season 2 are also available via camra.org.uk/podcast.



■ Describing themselves as 'a couple of nerds', brewers Mike Harrison-Wood and Cal Noble chat about beer in their **By the Mash Tun** podcast. The Season 1 Finale

(No. 50) was released in May on **Kaiju FM**, an independent podcast network. Several episodes have been based at Berkshire breweries including Elusive (8), Double-Barrelled (14), Wild Weather (26), Siren (33) and West Berkshire (34).



■ Short for Aromas over Tongham, A over T was virtually judged the winner of the CAMRA 2020 Champion Bottled Beer of Britain. Brewed in Tongham, the 9% ABV deep tawny beer is Hogs Back brewery's only bottle-conditioned beer. Hopped with Kent Goldings and Bramling Cross, it has flavours of sultanas, orange peel and plums. Temptation, Durham Brewery's 10% ABV Imperial Russian Stout won silver and third place went to Harvey's Brewery Imperial Extra Double Stout (9% ABV).

Hogsback Brewery A Over T		Durham Brewery Temptation		Harvey's Brewery Imperial Extra Double Stout	
Crouch Vale Brewery Takima Gold		Stubborn Mule Brewery Single Hop IPA		Mersea Island Brewery Island Oyster	

While stocks remain, a box of the six finalist bottles for a virtual tasting session hosted by Christine Cryne at 4pm on 4 July, can be ordered via the CAMRA [online tastings webpage](#). Join CAMRA for a £5 discount!

Beer Festival News

■ Summer CAMRA beer and cider festivals until mid-August, including the Great British Beer Festival (GBBF) in London, have been cancelled. However, details of several independent beer festivals have been announced.

25 / 26 June – **Twyford Beer Festival** at Stanlake Meadow, Twyford RG10 0AB. Entry by advance ticket only.



17 July – **Bond Brews** 6th anniversary Beer Festival at Gardeners Green Farm, near Wokingham RG40 3AS.



Photo: OLA

24 / 25 July – **The Old London Apprentice**, Newbury, beer festival with live music and cask ale from smaller local breweries including

Butts brewery and Indigenous brewery.

30 July – 8 August – 'GBBF in the Pub'. Local pub events supported by CAMRA.

28-30 August – **Wokingham Festival** with beer festival bar and live music on two stages. Advance tickets available.

29 August – **Bracknell Ale & Cider Festival** at Bracknell RFC. Advance tickets available (CAMRA members half price).

3 / 4 September – **Windsor Beer Festival** at Windsor & Eton Brewery. Sessions will be: Friday 5-9pm, Saturday 12-4pm & 5-9pm.



LocAle

There are now 40 LocAle pubs in our branch serving beer from breweries within 25 miles.

Pubs shown in bold serve beer brewed onsite or within one mile.

pubsofficer@westberks.camra.org.uk

See also the LocAle Pubs page on www.westberks.camra.org.uk

LocAle Pubs - WEST of A34

The Blackbird	Bagnor
The Downgate	Hungerford
The Eastbury Plough	Eastbury
The Five Bells	Wickham
The Fox at Peasemore	Peasemore
The Great Shefford	Great Shefford
The Ibx Inn	Chaddleworth
The John O'Gaunt Inn	Hungerford
The Queens Arms	East Garston
The Red House	Marsh Benham
The Tally Ho!	Hungerford Newtown
The Three Swans Hotel	Hungerford
The White Hart	Hamstead Marshall

Cider & Perry

■ Based in Newbury, Dave Bailey has a Green Shed cider stall at Newbury Farmers' Market on the first Sunday of the month. It is also available at Inn at Home, the Catherine Wheel, the Spare Wheel and the Cow & Cask in Newbury.

Get Yourself A Green Shed



New to the range, Green Shed Perry (6.3% ABV) was pressed in 2019 and bottled in 2021. This still perry is made from a variety of traditional Herefordshire perry pears. Naturally fermented and matured, the result is a mellow, full flavoured perry which has retained a natural sweetness.

www.greenschedcider.co.uk



■ At the strong end of the wide **Tutts Clump Cider** range, Tutts Clumper is an 8.5% ABV medium dry cider available in bottles and cans.

Six different fruit flavoured medium sweet ciders (4% ABV) including Blackberry and Cranberry are popular in summer. Tutts Clump Rhubarb won Cider of the Festival at Wantage Beer and Cider festival in 2019 and 2020. The award was presented to Tim Wale at the Bell Inn, Aldworth on 23 April 2021. Another local outlet is the Old Boot Inn, Stanford Dingley. Retail outlets include Waitrose and Inn at Home, Newbury.

www.tuttsclumpcider.co.uk



CAMRA campaigns for real cider and perry



Campaign for Real Ale



Real cider and perry grows on trees

Real cider is made from fresh apple juice, and real perry is made from fresh pear juice. Naturally fermented and free from concentrate or artificial processing.

Visit www.whatpub.com to find real cider and perry pubs

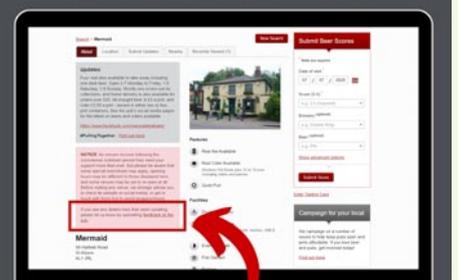


■ Nick Edwards produces **Ciderniks** cider in Kintbury. All ciders are available in 500ml or 750ml bottles and larger volumes in Bags in Box. Ciderniks cider is made from pure apple juice with no sulphites or added sweetener.

If a sweeter taste is preferred, a dry cider can be sweetened by adding a small amount of sugar, honey, apple juice or even lemonade, after pouring. www.ciderniks.com



Help us power WhatPub



Things are a little different right now. Help CAMRA keep WhatPub up to date by using the feedback form to let us know about any changes at the pub: www.whatpub.com



Meet the (Hermitage) Brewer: Richard Marshall



Richard Marshall virtually welcomed visitors to Hermitage Brewery on Thursday 8 April, facilitated by Zoom. After an introduction by Andy Pinkard, West Berkshire CAMRA Chair, over a dozen viewers were able to watch Richard describe his career in brewing, framed by a Hermitage Brewery backdrop.

With over 20 years of home brewing experience 'a very enjoyable hobby', Richard purchased the brewery vessels and started brewing on a commercial basis as Hermitage Brewery in 2012. He described his setup as a nano brewery, able to brew enough to fill two firkin casks (144 pints) and said 'I have a pico kit'.

A notable occasion was a visit in 2017 by a [Crookham Travel](#) group of brewery enthusiasts on a 'West Berks Wanderer' Rail Ale Ramble.

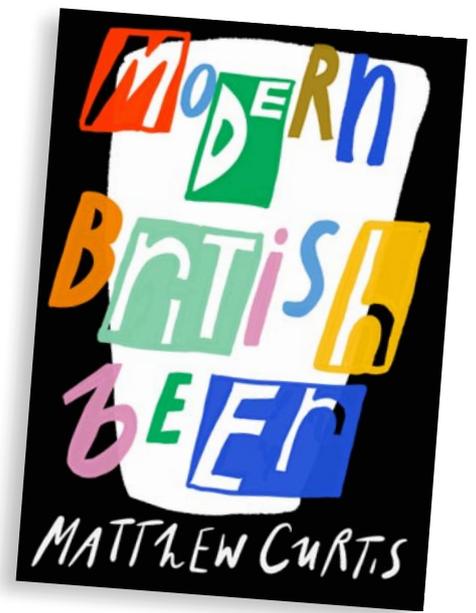
Three bottled beers had been suggested to complement the event with Hermitage Blonde as the first for participants to sample and comment on. Wellhouse IPA and Lodestone Mild would provide contrasting styles for later that evening. Richard talked about the origins of their names

and the ingredients for these beers. Malts are sourced from the traditional premises of Warminster Maltings and leaf hops from Charles Faram in Worcestershire.



Richard is unsure about future expansion. The brewery is currently profitable allowing reinvestment in items like a pH meter, beer chiller and Tilt hydrometers. He said 'I want to go on brewing as long as I can. I don't have room to expand here.'

Cask ale outlets include the Cow & Cask in Newbury, the Spotted Dog in Cold Ash and the Fox at Peasemore. More information about Hermitage Brewery beers and outlets can be found on Facebook ([@hermitagebrewery](#)). Further coverage of this event is at [westberkscamra.org.uk/mtb-hermitage-brewery](#)



Publishing books on beer since 1972, CAMRA has partnered with beer writer and photographer Matthew Curtis to produce an insightful and varied look at today's British beer scene.

Taking a regional approach, looking closely at the people behind over 80 beers, Matthew's narrative explores how beer and brewing contributes to British culture and communities.

In advance of publication on 12 August, there are pre-order offers including signed editions, t-shirts and a beer box. To view all of the Early Bird offers and a video featuring Matthew, visit [camra.org.uk/modern-british-beer/](#)

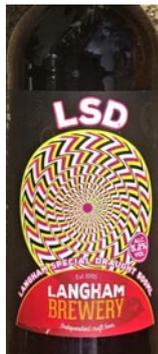
Langham Brewery

#FollowTheSwallow

Based in an 18th century granary barn near Lodsworth on the Cowdray estate, Langham Brewery was established in 2005.

Visitors to the brewery shop (photo below) and taproom behind can enjoy rural views in the South Downs National Park and a range of award-winning cask and keg beers that includes Arapaho (APA), Hip Hop (Blonde), Rocket Juice (NEIPA), Lodsteiner Lager and LSD (Langham Special Draught).

The hallucinogenic Op art style label for LSD is the work of Gianni A. Sarcone. LSD is a strong



Lesley Foulkes, Langham Brewery

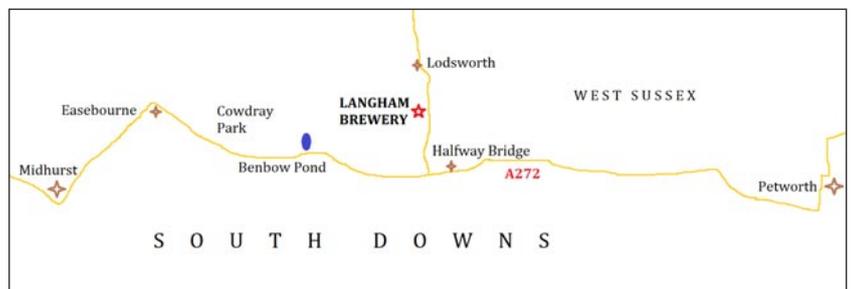


(5.2%) auburn beer with sweet maltiness and Bramling Cross fruit notes.

The original brewery kit, sourced from Wickwar Brewery, has recently been augmented with stainless steel Fermenting Vessels from China.

The Taproom reopened in 12 April 2021 with a large gazebo in the sheltered courtyard. Additional outside tables are available in the courtyard with views of nearby fields and woods.

For further details and photos see the recent Langham Brewery [Beer Europe](#) blog post by Tim Thomas





Find our national campaigns here



Find West Berkshire CAMRA

camra.org.uk/join

Campaigning for Pubs, Pints & People since 1971



Boak & Bailey

Heavy Lifting (30/12/2020)

Beer is working hard these days

When every day feels the same, when the only way to tell one week from the next is the curve on a graph, it's how we mark the coming of evening and discern the ghostly outline of our weekends. Beer as anchor to reality.

The presence of bottles, cans and glasses is how you tell whether the Zoom call you're in is for work or pleasure. It makes quizzes and frustrating can-you-hear-me, you're-on-mute, no-you-go-first conversations just about bearable. It enables the seance.

It's memory. Cask ale from a bag in a box to recall the Drapers Arms; mixed cases of cans as a faint reminder of turning up at a strange bar in a strange town and exploring strange breweries; bottles of Augustiner or Westmalle on the sofa standing in for train journeys, hotels, warm beer garden evenings.

We expect it to distract us, too. To be something we can talk about that doesn't hurt or scare us. To provide new experiences when those are a rare commodity. Little presents to ourselves that arrive in the post.

And it's what we're looking forward to – the end point that will tell us we've made it through, the whole family around the pub table, thinking about nothing but the cards in our hands or whatever trivial question we've decided to half argue over.

We're Boak and Bailey

We write under the names Jessica Boak and Ray Bailey, and live in Bristol. We've been blogging about beer since 2007, covering real ale, craft beer, pubs and British beer history.

www.boakandbailey.com

Real Ale, Real Music

Returning to the roost...

Chris Dyson
April 21, 2021



Sunny weather, smiles, and much relief have been very much in evidence as pubs opened their doors - or garden gates - to let customers on to their premises for the first time in months. It is not a complete return to normality, but this first step has unleashed a collective sense of pleasure at being able to meet up with others once again....

Last weekend around these parts, we had had snow and low temperatures which did not bode well for the outside opening of the first pubs last

Monday, 12th April. Fortune was to smile though on the brave pub goer, and whilst it was not particularly warm, the sun was shining and inviting. Tables were waiting in yards and beer gardens, car parks and anticipation, marquees and gazebos on stand-by, bunting hung, staff primed and ready to go. It has been a desperately hard time for the hospitality sector and those that could were determined to make the most of the chance to re-open.

And the pubs rose to the occasion. Splendidly. Glad to see customers again, glad to be back in service, glad for the chance to earn a living. And for their part, the customers returned in their droves, like birds returning home to their roosts, some having booked the day or even the week off work. It had been a long time a-coming, there were thirsts to be satisfied, friends to meet, connections to restore. After months and months of winter gloom, frustration, restrictions, and in some cases isolation, it was just great to be back, back amongst smiley, happy people. The sun

shone all week. It was like the start of the holidays, the first day of a new term, Christmas Day, VE Day, and everyone's birthday rolled into one. And of course, it being April, the evening temperatures dropped sharply, but it soon became a case of adding another layer and zipping up that coat as the next round was ordered. ...

At times, there has been an almost a swaggering confidence, unlike the return last July after the first lockdown. Yes, many people have had jabs, but there is a wider sense of defiance in the air. Having had a taste of the old days, there is a feeling abroad that no way are we going back to the depths of lockdown. ...

An excerpt from Chris Dyson's recent post on his Real Ale, Real Music blog

<http://chrisdyson55.blogspot.com>

Based in West Yorkshire, his Twitter account @realalemusic features beer, pubs, music, people, places, and a bit of sport.



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Or enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and save £2 on your membership subscription

Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinup, or call **01727 798440**. * All forms should be addressed to Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

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Under 26 Membership	£20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£22.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Concessionary rates are available only for Under 26 Memberships. I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association which can be found on our website.

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title Surname
 Forename(s)
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Signed
 Date Applications will be processed within 21 days.

Direct Debit Instruction

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW
 Email: membership@camra.org.uk Telephone: 01727 867201

Name(s) of Account Holder

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Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Postcode _____

Payments will show as CAMRA Membership on your bank statement.

I understand that CAMRA has partnered with Stripe, who collects Direct Debits on behalf of CAMRA and confirm that I am the account holder and the only person required to authorize debits from this account.

Signature _____



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

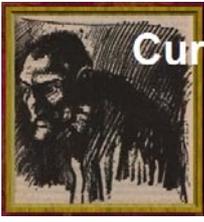
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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us. Setup of Direct Debit Instruction with Stripe on behalf of CAMRA.



Campaign
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Real Ale

[†]Price of single membership when paying by Direct Debit. ^{*}Calls from landlines charged at standard national rates, cost may vary from mobile phones. New Direct Debit members will receive a 12 month supply of vouchers in their first 15 months of membership. The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. ^{**}Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers.



Curmudgeon

Poll: Britain's Best Seaside Drinking Town

On 22 February, Curmudgeon hosted a poll from his Twitter account to find Britain's best seaside drinking town, after inviting nominations from his followers. Eight groups were arranged in strict clockwise order around the coast.



The Dolphin, Hastings (2015)



The winners of these rounds (shown in colour above) were split into two semi-final groups. On 24 February, after 196 votes (Group 1) and 166 votes (Group 2) the top two from each group went into the Grand Final.

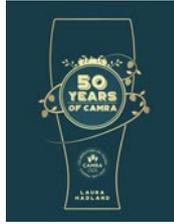
On 26 February, after 272 votes, the results of the Grand Final were announced on Twitter (numbered above).

Curmudgeon later tweeted 'Final result - a decisive and well-deserved victory for Whitby. And the top two both in Yorkshire. Hopefully this will give you some holiday ideas if we're ever let out.'

The Pub Curmudgeon blog posts, including 'Will Covid Kill Cask?' and 'Death of the Premium Bottled Ale', can be read on pubcurmudgeon.blogspot.com
Comments can be viewed and left on the blog.

BRAPA: Pub Tickers Guide to planning your pub trip

... The seven key planning steps ... for a week long extravaganza relying on public transport.



1. **Book the Time Off** - (n/a if you are one of these lucky 'retired' pub tickers, or 'completist' as I'm now going to start calling myself, as per page 164 of CAMRA's wonderful 50th anniversary book ...).

2. **Accommodation / Staying Down** - You ... need a city/town with good transport links, definitely rail, and a good bus service ... Placing yourself fairly centrally within the county is often a good plan ...

Top Tip - Experience has taught me Travelodges and Premier Inns work much better than B&B's, which can be nose-y, judge-y, over friendly, standing over you while you eat breakfast, and have awkward key mechanisms / weird rules ... Save your 'being sociable' for chatting to pub oddballs, make your downtime as anonymous and private as possible.

3. **Transport** - Get those trains booked ASAP ... Look up local bus services. Can you get day/weekly savers? Chat to bus drivers...

4. **Pub Opening Hours** - ... Open the Good Beer Guide (GBG) at the relevant county ... Get a notepad and jot down the places and pub names you have left to do ... Whatpub.com is a good starting point. Unlike the modern GBG, it lists opening hours. ... Facebook and pub official websites are even more likely to be updated, so if these are linked on Whatpub, pay more attention to these times. Write these down in your little notepad.

5. **Local Geography** - ... Jot a few notes on how to actually get to the place ...

Top Tip - Google Maps is an invaluable resource. ... Zoom in enough and it shows bus stops which you can click on for times and routes. Use this in conjunction with the wonderful bustimes.org and exciting upstart busatlas.uk ...

6. **The Final Touches** - ... Jot out a little schedule of what you want to achieve (roughly) each day...

First draft - It's all in the planning, and believe me, once you are in the swing of a weeks ticking, it is seriously hectic and the last thing you want is waking up with a banging head, knowing you've got to work out today's agenda...

Top Tip - Try and be done for 7pm, 8pm latest if you are also ticking the following day...

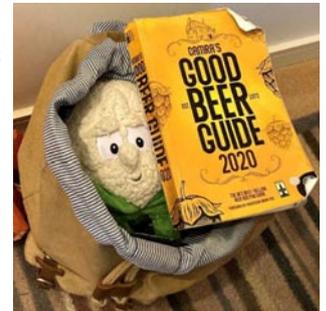
Top Top Tip - If a pubman / pubwoman / Twitter follower offers to help you transport wise, definitely take them up on it ... Do NOT confuse this with 'inviting' someone along though, you need to remain as independent and single-minded as possible.

7. **Packing** - ... Your master ticking spreadsheet / database / csv file should have an 'overnight' checklist.

Fluffy Cauliflower , GBG , Notepad with all your jottings , Pen and back up pen , Highlighter pen of green , Mini Cheddars for the week , Spare underpants ... ! And plenty more ... Earphones essential. ... No point taking your new novel. You've got the GBG anyway (a cracking read) ... Oh phone chargers, back up phone chargers ... Don't forget your smartphone. ...

Top Tip - Squash everything ... into a huge holdall / giant rucksack, but with a mini canvas bag concealed within ... to swing over your shoulder for your daily jaunts ... You can buy food and mini toiletries when you are down there ...

Squash it all down. Sit on it if it needs be. Don't be shy. ...



The British Real Ale Pub Adventure of York-based **Si BRAPA Everitt** involves visiting every current GBG pub (25 mins per pub and one pint minimum).

Heavily edited for *Ullage*, completists can find the full illustrated version of the Pub Tickers Guide in the 6 April 2021 post on his BRAPA blog.



10 great reasons to join CAMRA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 CAMPAIGN
for great beer, cider and perry | 2 Become a BEER EXPERT |
| 3 Enjoy CAMRA BEER FESTIVALS
in front of or behind the bar | 4 GET INVOLVED
and make new friends |
| 5 Save YOUR LOCAL | 6 Find the BEST PUBS IN BRITAIN |
| 7 Get great VALUE FOR MONEY | 8 DISCOVER
pub heritage and the great outdoors |
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Advertisements in 'online only' *Ullage* have now been suspended.
Advertising opportunities may be available in future issues - please contact editor@westberkscamra.org.uk with any advertising proposals.

Diary Dates 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAMRA meetings and events have been cancelled three months ahead with extensions on a rolling basis every two weeks until further notice.

Beer Day Britain
Tuesday 15 June 7pm
See page 1 for details



Branch Meetings
Wednesday 23 June 8pm
Wednesday 21 July 8pm
Telephone conference call - details TBA

Members can opt in to get branch emails by updating preferences online:
Login at camra.org.uk
Members area
Edit Membership details
'Preferences' tab
'Edit' button
'I wish to be contacted by my local branch on local events and activities.' > Yes
'Save' button

Late additions, amendments & further details on our website: www.westberkscamra.org.uk

Beer Festival News

- 28-30 August Hungerford Club Beer Festival
 - 17 July Bond Brews, near Wokingham
 - 24/25 July Old London Apprentice, Newbury
 - 30 July-8 August 'GBBF in the pub'
 - 28-30 August Wokingham Festival
 - 29 August Bracknell Ale & Cider Festival
 - 3/4 September Windsor Beer Festival
- See page 4 for further details

Why Your Beer Scores Count!

		
Not enough scores Not enough scorers NOT a GBG Candidate	Enough scores Enough scorers A GBG Candidate	Your Pub Needs Your Beer Scores

Your beer scores decide which pubs go into the CAMRA Good Beer Guide and become candidates for West Berkshire CAMRA Pub of the Year
<https://westberkscamra.org.uk/beer-scores/>

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