

Ullage

ONLINE ONLY EDITION

THE MAGAZINE OF WEST BERKSHIRE CAMRA

AUTUMN 2021



www.westberkscamra.org.uk



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@WBCAMRA

Beer festivals return

The first beer festival of 2021 in West Berkshire was the festival at the Old London Apprentice, Newbury, organised by Ken Amor.

Fresh cask ale was delivered by local brewers on the morning of Saturday 24 July and racked on stillage, under a gazebo, in the back garden. West Berkshire CAMRA members were amongst the first to arrive and sample cask ales from Butts, Delphic and Indigenous breweries. A range of bottled ciders and perry from Green Shed was also available from an outdoor fridge.

The festival continued on Sunday with mixed weather on both days. Local musicians, including a folk group and The Station, performed from a white-canopied stage on the west side of the pub, managed by Sound Newbury.

The new picket fence and additional outdoor seating at the OLA were financed by a Welcome Back Business Grant from West Berkshire Council.



Although the Great British Beer Festival was cancelled, CAMRA publicised *GBBF At Your Local* (30 July - 8 August) and the White Hart, Hamstead Marshall, participated with a Saviour Brewery beer tasting offer.

After a two year interval, the Hungerford Club beer festival returned for the August Bank Holiday weekend. Organised by Debbie Hutchins, the new Hungerford Club Steward, the free festival featured 13 cask ales, three ciders, a BBQ and entertainment from local musicians and the Talbot Arms Bampton Morris Troop. See below for Debbie's team of helpers and CAMRA supporters.



Ken Amor and Marie McConnon - Old London Apprentice beer festival



Hungerford Club Beer Festival. L to R: Sam Williams, Steve Kelly, Micky Lambourn, Andy Pullen, Georgie Broderick, Gary & Debbie Hutchins, Ken Nisbett, Paul Talbot, Rich Milligan, Tim Thomas, Paul Worsley

**NEWBURY
REAL ALE
FESTIVAL**

Newbury Real Ale Festival, organised by Newbury & Thatcham Hockey Club is back on Saturday 11 September 2021, after two years. The website has links to the tickets page and details of around 140 ales and 100 ciders to be offered. Only advance tickets are on sale with fewer tickets available this year. The Northcroft Fields site has also been redesigned with multiple bars to give people more space. Meet up with CAMRA members at 2pm outside the craft beer tent which is hosted by Wild Weather Ales.

This year the festival is featuring local breweries and proceeds will support Daisy's Dream and Sport In Mind charities.

The **Ascot Beer Festival**, organised by Berkshire South-East CAMRA, returns to Ascot Racecourse

on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 October. There will be over 160 real ales, ciders and perries with a focus on Berkshire and surrounding counties.

As a contact point for meeting others, local CAMRA members should find Andy Pinkard, West Berkshire branch Chair, as a volunteer behind the bar.

Details of other festivals are on page 10 and will be added to the [West Berkshire CAMRA](http://www.westberkscamra.org.uk) website as they become available.



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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the sixth online-only issue of *Ullage*. West Berkshire CAMRA needs advance funding and, ideally, a volunteer advertising manager before we can return to printing *Ullage* again. Please contact me if you would like to support *Ullage* with sponsorship, advertising or voluntary effort.

Read some beer bloggers' reactions to the lifting of many Government restrictions on pubs in July on page 9. Some pub landlords are subject to restrictions imposed by pub companies and page 6 features CAMRA's *A Potted History of the Pubco*.

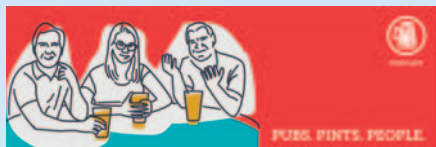
Seaside holidays have been expensive this year but you may find other ideas in *Waterside pubs* on page 7, based on my recent trips and blog posts.

To provide easy navigation to online information, blue text is used to indicate weblinks.

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

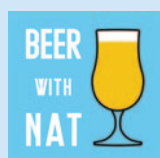
Beer Podcasts

Listening to podcasts has become increasingly popular, especially for people on the move.



■ Ant Fiorillo, Clare Phillips and Matt Bundy, pictured above, have presented three seasons of the CAMRA **Pubs Pints People** podcast which are available via camra.org.uk/podcast. Season Four is due this autumn.

■ Beer writer and broadcaster **Emma Inch**, recently elected as Chair of the British Guild of Beer Writers, offers podcast consultancy and training. The Audio Production link on her [website](http://www.emmainch.co.uk) leads to recent work for CAMRA and her *Fermentation Beer & Brewing Radio* podcasts (2016-2021) which include interviews, features and tastings.



■ In every episode of **Beer with Nat**, Natalya Watson, Beer Sommelier, shares a beer and a chat with women who work in the beer industry.

■ The **Good Beer Hunting** podcasts feature interviews with a wide spectrum of people working in, and around, the international beer industry.

■ 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.

Swift halves



■ To celebrate CAMRA's 50th anniversary in 2021, **The Bell Inn**, Aldworth was one of 32 pubs selected for a Golden Award. The British Lion, Devizes; the Prince of Wales, Farnborough and the Square & Compass, Worth Matravers were also chosen.

CAMRA's Awards Director Gary Timmins said *'These pubs have been chosen for their successes in standing the test of time; for being convivial, characterful and community-focused, and of course for consistently pouring great pints. I applaud them for their dedication, for being community stalwarts and campaigning heroes.'*



■ The **Bowler's Arms** at Falkland Cricket Club, Wash Common, opened in the new pavilion on 19 July. Outside areas include front and side patios and a roof terrace.

■ Andy Pinkard, West Berkshire CAMRA Chair, will give an open talk about CAMRA, local breweries and real ale to the **The Monday Meet** at the Bowler's Arms on 15 November. The group meets monthly at 8pm with talks usually starting by 8.30pm and guests are welcome.



■ Meet up with CAMRA members at 1pm on Saturday 13 November while the **Cow & Cask** celebrates its 7th anniversary. The running count on the blackboard will show that Ian Batho has served over 700 different beers at Newbury's micropub since 2014.



■ **I Like The Way You Murk** It is the first New England IPA from Thatcham's **Delphic Brewing**. Available in 440ml cans and 5 litre mini kegs, the hazy 5.3% ABV NEIPA is dry hopped with mostly Galaxy and Idaho-7, 'bringing loads of citrus, pineapple and peach notes, followed by a whack of coconut character'. Free weekend delivery is offered within 10 miles of RG19.



■ **Wild Weather Ales** collaborated with Leviathan Brewing of Sutton Coldfield and Newbury's Spare Wheel bar to brew **Orange Lazarus**. The 6.6% ABV Orange Smoothie Lactose IPA is 'thick and sweet, filled with fresh orange zest and puree'. **Hath No Fury** is a 4.4% Munich style Helles Lager 'with subtle notes of honey, bread and a touch of carefully balanced bitterness in the background'.

The brewery has two bars in Reading: **The Weather Station**, Eldon Terrace and **the Weather Station**, at the back of **Honest Burgers** (Thursday - Sunday).



The brewery, near Padworth Common, is now open to walk in customers for beer tastings, growler fills and can sales. wildweatherales.com



■ **Berkshire Beer Box** recently introduced a subscription option for the monthly scheme which started in November 2020. The one time purchase option is still available but costs £2 more. The service for Berkshire residents includes free delivery for a box of eight beers in cans or bottles, all freshly sourced from breweries in Berkshire.

The June box (photo) included **Butts Green** Beer lager, **Two Cocks** 1643 Flintlock IPA and **Indigenous** Summer Solstice pale ale. A box can be ordered from the website which also has delivery dates and details of beers included in past boxes.

■ **Two Cocks Brewery** 1643 Musket was recently reviewed by Jymi and Sammy for **Muse on Booze**.

■ Sian and Nathan are the new publicans at the **Starting Gate**, Speen. The first Tuesday of each month is (Motor) Bike Night with a prize for the best bike at 7pm.

- Quizzes have started up again at pubs including:

Globe, Newbury

Lion, Newbury

Plough on the Green, Newbury

Plume, Hungerford

Spotted Dog, Cold Ash

Tally Ho, Hungerford Newtown

West Berkshire Taproom, Yattendon

White Hart, Hamstead Marshall

White Hart, Hampstead Norreys

White Horse, Hermitage

Woodpecker, Wash Water

Further details can be found on the [West Berkshire Quizzes](#) public group on Facebook.

- Live music is also returning to pubs including:

Angel, Woolhampton

Document House, Newbury

Fox Inn, Hermitage

Lock Stock and Barrel, Newbury

Monument, Newbury

The Newbury, Newbury



Check the [@SoundNewbury](#) Facebook page each week for details of live music in our area.

LocAle

There are now 38 LocAle pubs in our branch serving beer from breweries within 25 miles.

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

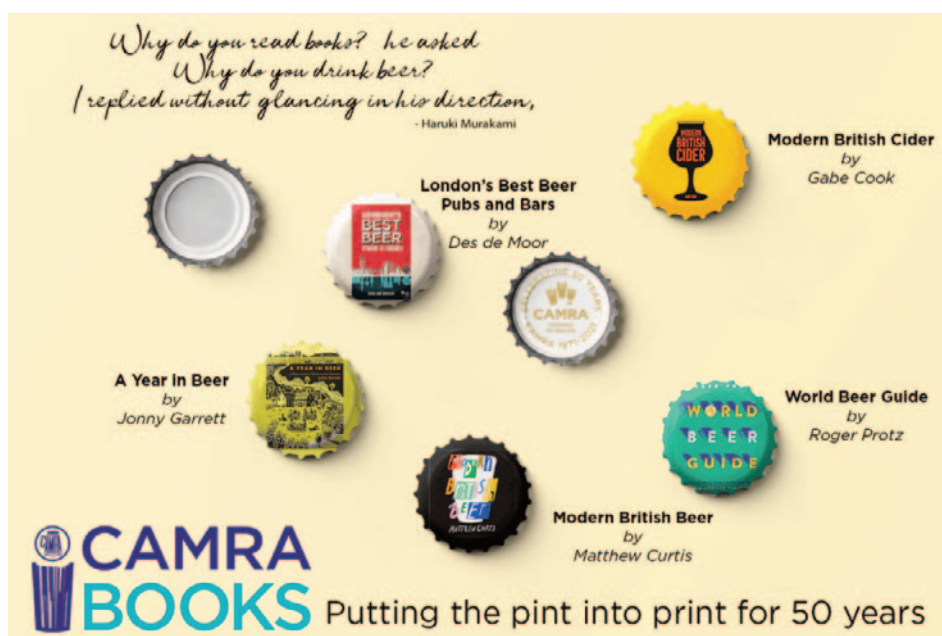
pubsofficer@westberks.camra.org.uk

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

LocAle Pubs - EAST of A34

The Bell Inn	Aldworth
The Bladebone Inn	Chapel Row
The Bull Inn	Stanford Dingley
The Castle Inn	Cold Ash
The Castle	Donnington
The Catherine Wheel	Newbury
The Coopers Arms	Newbury
The Cow & Cask	Newbury
The Cottage Inn	Upper Bucklebury
The Fox & Hounds	Donnington
The Fox Inn	Hermitage
The Hatchet Inn	Newbury
The King Charles Tavern	Newbury
The Old Boot Inn	Stanford Dingley
The Pot Kiln	Frilsham
The Rowbarge	Woolhampton
The Royal Oak	Yattendon
The Six Bells	Beenham
West Berkshire Brewery Taproom	Yattendon
The Wheatsheaf Inn	Thatcham
The Woodpecker	Wash Water

Locally Brewed Real Ale



- Four **West Berkshire Brewery** beers, those pictured above and Solo Pale Ale (silver), won medals in the European Beer Challenge 2021.

The WBB Taproom hosts OktoberWest on Saturday 18 September featuring Bavarian beer, real ale, live music and street food. Extra tickets were released in mid August and the event usually sells out in advance.

Tickets for the monthly quiz, held on the last Wednesday of each month, can also be booked on the Shop page of the [WBB website](#).



Gold Star is a 4.1% ABV Golden Ale recently added to the core range after 'over a year carefully designing, taste testing and perfecting the brew'. The description

mentions 'aromas of stone fruit and orange with a bright citrus finish'.

It's a London Ting and Loud in the Crowd were produced as seasonal beers in collaboration with Warrington's Twisted Wheel Brew Co and first released at the Brew//LDN21 event at Printworks, London.

David Bruce, WBB Chairman, was awarded an OBE for his charitable work with [The Bruce Trust](#) and the Bruce Branch of the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.



- **The Club** (5 Cheap Street, Newbury) has reopened after refurbishment. Open to non-members, initial cask ales were Wadworth 6X and Arkell's Wiltshire Gold.

- The **Tally Ho**, Hungerford Newtown has appointed Kain Cook as manager. He is returning to his local area from Bristol with his partner Kirsty who will assist at the pub. The new chef, Ovidiu Clota, has gained experience in Scotland, Brighton and Italy. A wall of the community pub is decorated with a beer mat collection from the 1980s. Thursday night is games night with a wide selection available including Scrabble, Chess and Cribbage. www.thetallyhohungerford.co.uk



- **AGM** - The Branch's Annual General Meeting will be held in the back snooker room of The Old London Apprentice, Newbury, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22 September.

Nominations for committee posts can be accepted at or before the meeting. Branch Chair, Andy Pinkard, encourages all branch members to attend and meet others interested in volunteer roles that will help shape the Branch's future. Any offer to assist existing officers in their roles would also be most welcome.

Please contact Chair or Secretary (refer page 10) for further details.

Volunteering opportunities

What CAMRA volunteers say ...

"Fantastic friendships and CAMRA camaraderie"

"Acquiring new skills and becoming more knowledgeable about beer"

Ways you can get more involved with CAMRA ...

- Edit magazines
- Manage advertising
- Brewery liaison
- Survey pubs
- Campaigning & Lobbying
- Taste & score beer
- Festival bar work
- Social media
- & many more ...

camra.org.uk/volunteer





■ The **John O'Gaunt** won the Public House category of the Hungerford in Bloom 2021 awards. On Facebook, the pub posted 'Very proud to have been awarded 1st place ... A little splash of colour ... in our little oasis just off Bridge Street'.

Joining the Tiki Bar in the beer garden, the Tiki Tucker Street Food Kitchen is open 12 to 9pm, Thursday - Sunday, in addition to the freehouse's main kitchen. john-o-gaunt-hungerford.co.uk



■ The **Globe**, Newbury, won the Muddy Stilletoes 2021 Berkshire Best Bar award. The Globe Indoor Garden, next door, is used by the pub from Friday to Sunday and for **Educafe**, a community cafe, on Wednesdays.

■ The **Royal Oak**, Yattendon, was awarded 'Berkshire Dining Pub of the Year' by the Good Pub Guide for the second year running.



■ On 15 June, Stella Coulthurst and the team at the **White Hart**, Hamstead Marshall, posted an open letter to local residents on Facebook mentioning 'The inn has a rich history and its future is in your hands. To be frank, if you want a local pub, you need to use it'.

Ramblers can pick up a Hamstead Park walking map with a 3.5 mile circular route starting from the inn or download it from saviourwhitehart.co.uk.

■ The **Blackbird**, Bagnor, closed and will reopen as Restaurant Renaissance By Dom Robinson and team on 10 September. Situated in the side garden, with a heated marquee, **Pizza Paloma** is open at weekends from 17 September.

@WBCAMRACider
@WBCAMRA
@UllageBeer
@BerkshirePubs
@CAMRA_Official

Social Media

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

■ In August, the **Great Shefford** welcomed Sam Cary as Head Chef and introduced his new menu. The experienced chef has previously worked in Sydney and at Tom Kerridge's Hand and Flowers gastropub in Marlow.



■ The **Old Bell**, Wash Common, last closed in December 2018. Subsequently, the freehold was sold and the pub has been boarded up and fenced off. A director of Pets Corner has applied to West Berkshire Council for planning permission to renovate and extend the Old Bell with change of use to veterinary practice and to accommodate a retail store and dog grooming salon (21/01998/FUL).

■ CAMRA's best selling **Good Beer Guide 2022** is published on Thursday 11 November 2021. The Branch will have limited copies of the Guide for sale direct to members for £11 at events after this date. It can also be ordered directly from **CAMRA Books**.



■ Visit Cask Marque's **Cask Ale Week** website events (23 September - 3 October 2021) and resources / ideas for pubs and breweries to promote their #PubFreshBeer.



■ The cross-industry #StandUpForCask social media campaign, launched on 19 July to coincide with lockdown measures in England being relaxed, has been extended to include Cask Ale Week.

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
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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/>

Graphic adapted with kind permission of CAMRA - Deal, Dover, Sandwich & District



■ A benefit of CAMRA membership, **Beer** magazine now includes an eight page *What's Brewing* section containing news and views. The main section of the autumn issue includes features by: Will Hawkes (Community spirit supporting local pubs, with cover illustration by Jem Milton); Hollie Stephens (Canalside pubs); James Dowdeswell (Fictional on-screen pubs) and Jeff Evans (Harvey's Stout).

■ The **Outhouse Brewery** and tap room opened in Wokingham on 10 July, bringing brewing back to the town centre for the first time since the Wellington Brewery closed in 1928.



The first beers brewed have included: First Attempt blonde, Choc-oat porter and 4 Hops IPA.

The brewery website highlights 'Fresh beer crafted without compromise - our beer is all about being fresh ... not filtered ... not pasteurised'.

The Autumn 2021 issue of **Mad Cow**, the Berkshire South-East CAMRA magazine, advises that the tap room of the 'very compact' unit closes on Mondays and Tuesdays while 'beer is brewed on the premises, using a 300 litre (1.8 bbl) plant'.



■ Andy Parker, owner and head brewer at **Elusive Brewing**, shows how to brew 'Level Up' at home, in five videos filmed by the Craft Beer Channel at the Malt Miller in Swindon, for the CAMRA **Learn & Discover** resource. The recipe for the American red ale is also included in CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing reference book. A kit with all the ingredients can be obtained from the Malt Miller. The book and videos explain what equipment is needed to brew at home. Watching the videos is a good way to learn about the brewing process even if you do not intend to brew at home.



Real Cider & Perry

CAMRA defines real Cider or Perry as being fermented from the whole juice of fresh pressed apples or pears, without the use of concentrated or chaptalised juices.

(The word 'chaptalised' as used in the definition refers to a process where the alcohol level in a cider or perry is increased by the addition of sugar to an unnatural level for storage, before it is diluted with water to the desired alcohol content for sale.)



Emphasised by #NotFromConcentrate, the new definition replaces the previous complex definition split into ingredients and processes.

Many of the most widely available brands of cider and perry do not meet the CAMRA definition of 'real'. This includes products like Bulmers, Westons, Thatchers and Magners – which are either made from concentrated juice or chaptalised.

■ The new [promoting real cider and perry](#) page of the CAMRA website collates over 340 producers of real cider and perry on an interactive map and an alphabetical list. The list includes West Berkshire's: Ciderniks; Green Shed Cider; Pang Valley Cider and Tutts Clump Cider.

October is a CAMRA Cider and Perry Month, a month when cider makers are busy pressing the new season's apples and pears.



■ Based in Tilehurst, Andrew Williams has produced Reading Press, the first release for **Seventeen Trees Cider**. The 6.8% ABV dry still cider is made with a mix of local and cider apples.



■ Tim Wale enjoyed a Quality Control opportunity for Ridgeway, a new **Tutts Clump Cider**, outside the Bell Inn, Aldworth. The medium sweet cider has a strength of 4% ABV and has proved popular on trial.

The Ridgeway National Trail connects Avebury with Ivinghoe Beacon via Streatley, passing about a mile to the north of the award-winning pub.

Find the most comprehensive list of real cider and perry in the UK

Is your cider #NotFromConcentrate?



Visit camra.org.uk/cider

■ The Winter 2020 issue of *CAMRAngle*, the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead CAMRA magazine, featured Ciderniks Nick Edwards on pages 16/17.

An excerpt mentions: 'Nick is passionate that his cider is additive free, rejecting the use of sulphites, artificial flavourings, sweeteners and added water. ... "All I have in my cider is 100% apple juice." ciderniks.com

■ **Pang Valley Cider** is taking a break. The website shows: 'On 31 July we depart the lovely Broad View Farm for pastures yet unknown. Meanwhile you will find our products at ... West Berkshire Brewery Shop ... Catherine Wheel, Newbury or directly from ourselves with free (local) delivery or collection from ... Cold Ash.'



■ Inviting contact from interested persons, **Greenham Fallout Cider** announced on Twitter: 'My days of cidermaking are at an end and all my lovely kit must go ...'



■ **Green Shed Cider** donate 50p to the [Growing 2Gether](#) project for every bottle sold of the limited edition 'Pyder' made using apples and pears sourced from their community orchard, near Kingsclere. It's described as 'Medium and has a nice sparkle'. www.greenshedcider.co.uk



Pub Companies – Who they are and what they do

The CAMRA Pub and Club Campaigns Committee felt that many readers would find it helpful to have more information about the companies that control many of our pubs. This is the first in a series of articles that will provide the facts on pub company practices and operations, explaining in particular how their business models work and what this means for both licensees and, ultimately, us as customers. The aim is to let readers make up their own minds about the effects of these practices on our pubs and the folk who run them.

1. A Potted History of the Pubco

Fifty years ago, when CAMRA was formed, the pub landscape looked very different. For a start, there were many more of them – some 75000 against around 47500 now. The majority of pubs (52000 or so) were owned by breweries. The 89 small and regional breweries had 13800 of them and the rest were in the hands of the 'Big Six' – Bass Charrington, Allied, Whitbread, Scottish & Newcastle, Watney/Grand Metropolitan and Courage/Imperial.

Most of the other 23000 pubs were free houses (in name anyway – many tied their beer supplies to a big brewer in return for loans and discounts). Companies that just owned pubs were few and far between – the likes of Sir John Fitzgerald in the north-east and Heavitree in the south west (though they tied themselves to Bass).

Just about every pub-owning brewery rigorously imposed a supply tie on its own products. As late as the mid-1980s, I remember a Greene King Director recoiling in horror at my suggestion that they allow a few guest beers in their pubs. As a result, new breweries found outlets hard to come by and we customers were hardly spoilt for choice, as a glance at a Good Beer Guide of that era will reveal.



Then, in 1989, along came the Beer Orders. The story of this epochal legislation (for better or worse) is superbly told in Laura Hadland's recent Fifty Years of CAMRA book but, in essence, the government acknowledged the stranglehold on the industry exercised by the Big Six and, among other things, capped their pub ownership at 2000.

By now, because of closures and sell-offs, the Big Six owned fewer pubs between them but the Orders still meant around 11000 pubs coming onto the market. We, of course, dreamed of a new golden age of multi-handpumped free houses galore, but the reality was sadly different. Companies were quickly established, usually with close links to the Big Six, to Hoover up these pubs in big batches then negotiate supply deals, invariably with the company who previously owned the place. Enterprise Inns, for instance, started off with the purchase of 368 pubs from Bass, and that's where they bought the beer from.

In the years that followed, wheeling and dealing saw companies variously grow, collapse, merge, acquire, dispose – it was very difficult to keep up with who owned what. Some companies concentrated on managed pubs, some on tenancies, a few on a mixed model. Behemoths emerged – by 2004, Punch Taverns and Enterprise each owned more than 8000 pubs, though both had accumulated so much debt that they ran into trouble come the financial crash and subsequently retrenched. We'll have a closer look at the current pub company scene in the next article.

A brief history of Punch Taverns illustrates the volatility surrounding pubcos from the 1990s onwards. Punch formed in 1997, purchasing a tranche of pubs from Bass. Two years later, they bought Inn Business (mostly former Whitbread pubs) and then the rump of the Allied estate. The managed pubs were spun off into a separate division called Spirit. In 2003, they acquired their 3100-strong rival Pubmaster plus a couple of smaller companies. Next, Scottish & Newcastle's managed pubs were snapped up and added to Spirit. By 2011 the impact of the crash was being felt, calling for a 'strategic review'. Spirit was demerged and, in 2015, sold to Greene King. Come 2016, a takeover bid totalling £403m (plus the taking on of a billion pounds of debt) was accepted; 1900 pubs went to Heineken with the remaining 1300 residing with Patron Capital, though the Punch brand has been retained.

In the meantime, the treatment of their tenants by many of the Pubcos had become a major issue and, after years of campaigning, the Government was persuaded, in 2014, to announce a statutory Pubs Code aimed at regulating their practices and ensuring fair treatment for tenants. We'll return to the Code in a future article. In this context, though, it needs mentioning that the currently accepted definition of a pub company embraces breweries that own pubs – and nowadays most such companies have separate management structures for their pub and brewing operations.

Final comments. Pub companies are here to stay. There is nothing wrong with the basic model and, indeed, there are some excellent companies (mostly smaller ones) who treat their licensees well and clearly see their pubs as more than just property assets. It would, though, be difficult to argue that the ways in which some companies operate raise many issues around their custodianship of what aren't just piles of bricks-and-mortar but, in most cases, precious and valued community assets. We'll examine those issues in due course.

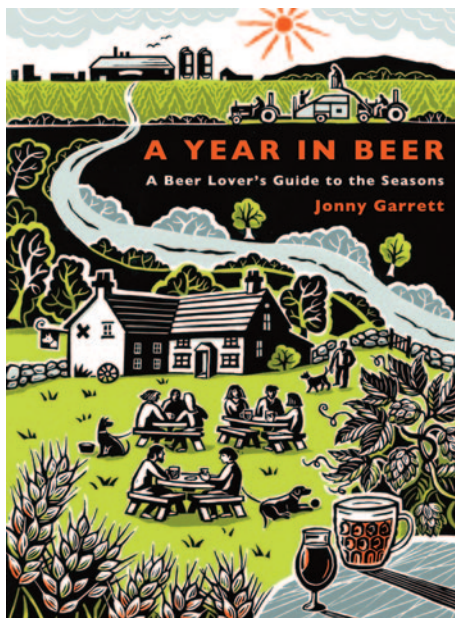
A Year in Beer – Jonny Garrett

CAMRA Books publish A Year in Beer – A Beer Lover's Guide to the Seasons by Jonny Garrett on 27 September 2021. The 256 page book is fully illustrated in colour throughout.

Jonny Garrett was awarded UK Beer Writer of the Year 2019 by the British Guild of Beer Writers. He is a founder and presenter of YouTube's Craft Beer Channel making 'mini-documentaries about amazing breweries, beers and places'.

A Year in Beer suggests beer and food matching ideas based on the seasons. The book also includes cooking-with-beer recipes.

An autumn extract: 'With Guy Fawkes Night at the start of the month smoke is also on my mind: so roasted chestnuts, hot smoked salmon, brisket and pork butts are fitting too, especially with a Rauchbier. If there's lots of apples leftover then you can't beat a wintery crumble either – amazing with a Kriek or Frambois.'



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

CAMRA Campaign for Real Ale

Waterside pubs

With additional costs, restrictions and uncertainties for foreign holidays and the high cost of seaside holiday accommodation in most parts of the UK during the summer of 2021, people looked at alternative holiday ideas including camping or exploring their local area.

Tim and Meg Thomas booked short Travelodge stays in London Docklands, Kidderminster and Bristol taking advantage of cheap rates and flexible booking terms. These destinations were also chosen as ideal bases for walks by the waterside – docks, harbours, canals and rivers. The choices were also influenced by looking in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide to establish that there were nearby pubs with outside space where locally brewed cask ale could be enjoyed. CAMRA's WhatPub website was also useful for this research.

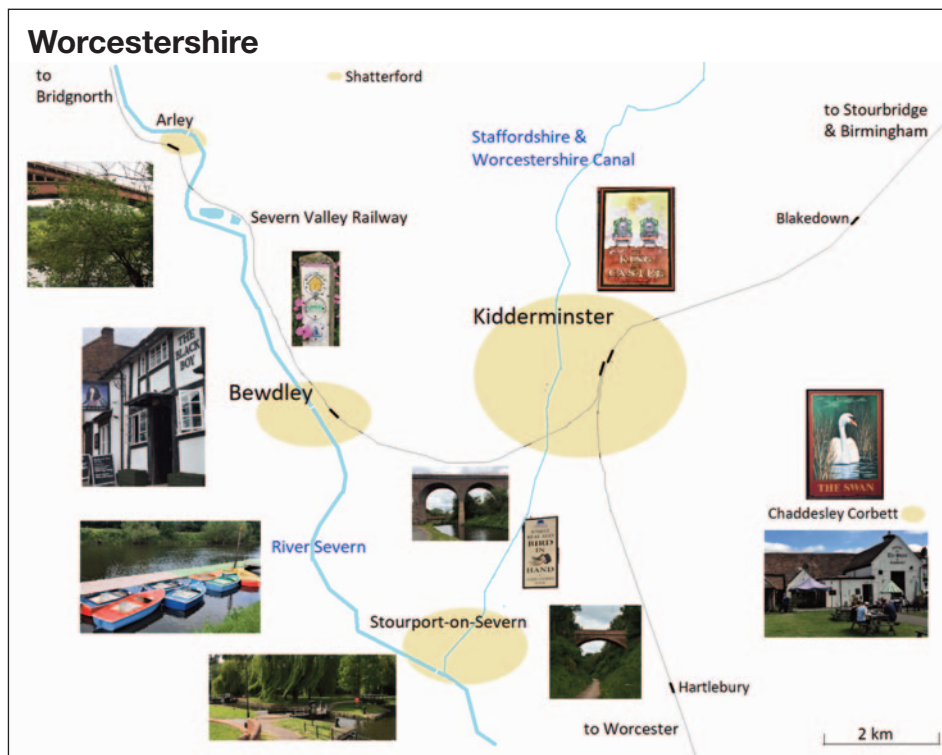


In Worcestershire, Tim and Meg walked along the Warwickshire & Staffordshire canal towpath to Stourport-on-Severn and along the Severn Way to Bewdley. Local cask ales enjoyed were from Bathams, Bewdley, Enville, Hobsons, Three Tuns, Woodcote and

Wye Valley breweries with the slightly sweet extra pale ales proving consistently good.

In the Docklands of East London, they walked from Canary Wharf to Greenwich via the Isle of Dogs, Folly House Beach and the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Before continuing to North Greenwich, Young's (Ordinary) Bitter gave welcome refreshment at the riverside terrace of the Cutty Sark pub.

That Friday evening, Adnams Ghost Ship accompanied Fish and Chips at a reserved table in



the historic Grapes pub, on the north bank of the Thames at Limehouse.

Bristol is now better served by trains from Newbury with convenient connections at Westbury and reasonable off peak fares.

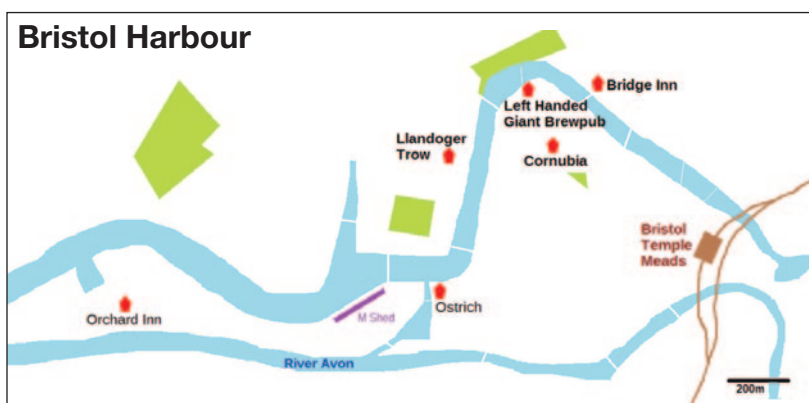
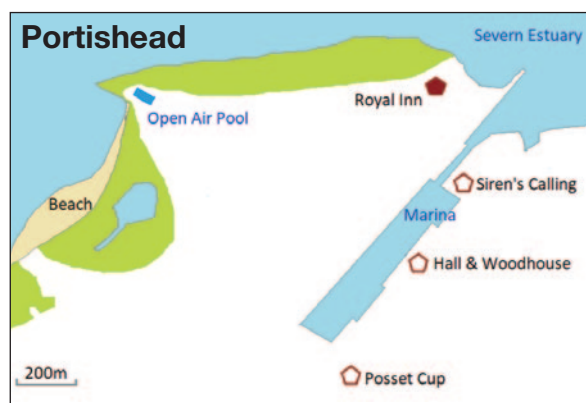
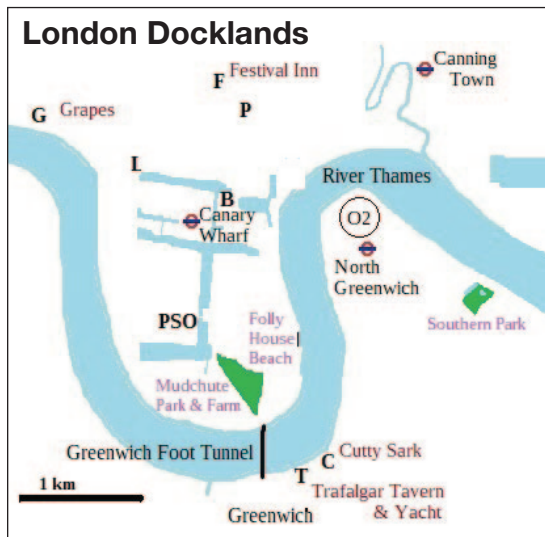
The Cornubia, tucked away on Temple Street, not far from Temple Meads station, was visited twice, to allow their interesting range of cask ales to be sampled. A range of ciders is also offered. Harbourside walks provided views of Brunel's SS Great Britain, a replica of The Matthew and a visit to the Left Handed Giant Brewpub at Finzels Reach.

A bus ride away, Portishead Marina with its Hall & Woodhouse pub (a 2013

CAMRA design winner) was the end of a walk starting near Portishead beach with a stop for Butcombe Original (Bitter) at the Royal Inn.

See also page 9 for an excerpt from a Boak & Bailey blog post featuring Butcombe Bitter.

For more details, maps and photos, visit Tim's [Beer Europe](#) blog and search for posts using *Kidderminster, Bewdley pubs, Docklands, Bristol Harbour* or *Portishead*.



Love beer?



Love pubs?



Campaign
for
Real Ale

From
as little as
£28.50[†]
a year. That's less
than a pint a
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Bloggers back to the bar at the pub

In England, the Government rules about signing in, table service and wearing a face mask indoors at the pub were dropped on Monday 19 July 2021.

Ending these restrictions, introduced to curb the spread of coronavirus, led to a variety of posts by pub and beer bloggers.

Here are a few extracts – click on the links to read the full posts.

Tandleman's Beer Blog [Normality. Of a Sort](#) (Greater Manchester) ‘... my return to the Tandle Hill Tavern ... Our table was full enough, and it was a pleasure just to be there with friends. Going up to the bar for drinks and mixing with others seemed so natural again. It was so good to be back to normal and thankfully ... it just felt ‘right’ after that first visit to the bar.’

Retired Martin [Back to the Bar](#) (Sheffield) ‘... ‘my local’ ... the Blind Monkey ... Now where do I start in listing the joys of service at the bar.’

Well, being able to see the beers on offer is low down the list. You get to say ‘Hello, nice weather’ to the Landlord and their lovely team. It might be the only social contact you have ... You get to stare around aimlessly, taking in the pub tat. And you get to carry your pint back to a table of your choosing without the fear that you might walk off without paying ... May I never ever hear ‘Would you like me to set up a tab?’ ever again. It was life-affirming ... And, yes, I did wear my mask up to the bar.’

Boak & Bailey

[The beginning of the end: back at The Drapers](#)

2 August 2021 (Bristol) ‘On Saturday we did something we’ve been dreaming about for months – we sat at our favourite table at the Drapers Arms and drank a few pints. Like a lot of things these days, it was both highly emotional and completely normal. Our brains couldn’t quite cope: did we do this a week or so ago, or is it a brand new experience?’

Boak & Bailey

Pubs and beer all spick and span (23/5/2021)

With a week off work we finally managed to make it to a few pubs the week before last – and, more importantly, get our hands on some cask ale served as it should be. The experience has given us reason to feel optimistic.

The Butcombe Bitter at The Colston Arms was always reliably decent but, a couple of Saturdays ago, tasted like the showroom display pint with all the optional extras. Leafy hop character, cracker-crust malt, a hint of rustic

mystery from the yeast...

A great way to break the cask fast. ...

On our final Friday off work we took a train to Bath and walked for a

few hours over the hills that look down on the city, re-entering via Lansdown and The Hare & Hounds. There, with a view of what felt like most of England, we came back to Butcombe Bitter. And, again, it was to exhibition standard – and certainly the right beer for that place, at that time. ...



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



Find our national campaigns here



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Advertising in 'online only' Ullage has been suspended.

Advertising opportunities may be available in future issues - please contact editor@westberkscamra.org.uk with any advertising proposals.

Diary Dates 2021

The following is a list of all forthcoming meetings of the West Berkshire branch of CAMRA. Some are 'social' meetings, lively and friendly occasions where we enjoy a few beers; others are 'branch' meetings, which are slightly more formal and where we discuss beer and pubs issues. Unless stated, our meetings are open to all-comers - and new members are particularly welcome!

Saturday 11 September
Newbury Real Ale Festival social
Details: page 1 1pm

Wednesday 22 September
Branch Annual General Meeting
Old London Apprentice
Details: page 3 7.30pm



23 September - 3 October
Cask Ale Week
Details: page 4
www.caskaleweek.com

Saturday 13 November
Cow & Cask 7th anniversary social
Newbury 1pm
Details: page 2

Monday 15 November
Talk on CAMRA by Andy Pinkard
Bowler's Arms, Wash Common
Details: page 2 8pm

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

West Berkshire CAMRA



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Local Trading Standards office: Tel 0345 404 0506
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www.westberkscamra.org.uk

Beer Festival News

See page 1 for more beer festival news

Newbury Real Ale Festival
11 September
www.newburyrealale.co.uk



Burghfest,
Burghfield Common
24-25 September
www.burghfest.org.uk



Choko Beer Festival, Cholsey
25 September www.chokobeerfestival.org.uk

Ascot Racecourse
Beer Festival
1-2 October
www.ascotbeerfest.org.uk



Hampshire's OctoberFest - cancelled

CAMRA Oxford Beer & Cider Festival - cancelled

CAMRA Swindon Beer Festival - cancelled

Pig's Ear Beer & Cider Festival, Hackney
(TBC) 30 Nov-4 Dec www.pigsear.org.uk

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