

# Ey Up!! Wigan CAMRA Newsletter

July 2016

Welcome to the July edition of our monthly newsletter.

If you have anything you would like to be included in the newsletter, please contact Jo on the email below and to include it in the next edition. As always, we welcome your feedback about this newsletter as we still need to decide whether we continue with it in the current format throughout 2016. Please send any pub information or feedback to [young@wigancamra.org.uk](mailto:young@wigancamra.org.uk)

## LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

**ALLGATES BREWERY:** still waiting for the Brewing Licence for the Hallgate venue from the Council though the premises licence has been granted. Meanwhile Allgates beers are being brewed under the supervision of Jon Provost at Dunsar Bridge and Sandiway though on a limited scale (Seven Feet, Wigan Junction and Half Devil being amongst the range). Allgates are taking on the new Haigh Hall brewery, bar and shop at the old stables building and plans are progressing well with consideration being taken of whether they should transfer some of the existing equipment to the Haigh site rather than building a new brewery. Allgates have also now acquired the Horse Box Bar – a mobile which can be hired for use at functions. Planning and a licence now obtained for the storage unit by the canal at the Pier to include a bar.

**HOPHURST BREWERY:** Cosmati (4.2) American Pale Ale has been picked for GBBF 2016 – thanks to BLO Darrell for his support to achieve this. Evolve number 1 has been really popular and Evolve number 2 will be brewed in the next 2 weeks. A cold room has been set up in the new unit and works are on-going to make room for new fermenters. The Premise License was refused for 35 Hallgate so the brewery is actively seeking alternative premises.

**MARTLAND MILL BREWERY:** After the great response to the Chocolate and Oatmeal Stout Arctic Convoy, latest beer Bomber's Blonde was launched in mid June. Again this has proved to be a fantastic success and the feedback has been very positive. They are now working on the next three beers in the core range, with many potential names being put forward for consideration. The Brewery will be providing the Beers and a bar for the First Annual Parbold Ukulele Festival being held at the beginning of August and are looking to make this an annual undertaking.

**MAYFLOWER:** Now in full production in Docherty's. Alan Brannigan now has a business partner who owns Cheeky Beers in Bolton and the partners son assists in the brewing and markets the beers. Core range are Douglas Valley, Lancashire Stout (which will be available at the forthcoming Left Bank festival in Manchester) and Wigan Bier (a previous popular beer now brewed using a different hop strain). Alan will be brewing an amber, more traditional bitter later this week. Alan also plans a couple of new recipes – details to be provided soon !

**PROBLEM CHILD BREWERY:** Making slow and steady progress and hoping to brew a strong beer of around 9% ABV for the Bolton Iron Man.

**PROSPECT BREWERY:** Bottled beers are selling well at Booths and Prospect are now brewing especially for them. Nutty Slack will be at GBBF. The brewery collected awards from the Lancashire Cup event with Cascade Blonde winning champion in the bitter category and then coming in silver position for supreme champion.

**WILY FOX BREWERY:** sales are exceeding expectations. Special beer for June, Spirit of '66, sold out by 15<sup>th</sup> June. Their beers have been on at Cuerden Beer Festival where the Blonde Vixen was the first beer to sell out and the Crafty Fox was third. Crafty Fox was also first beer to sell out at the Pendle Forest Beer Festival. The brewery are very happy with the positive feedback they are getting on their beers. Their latest beer Molten Gold a 4.3% quadruple hopped summer beer is doing very well and by popular demand will be brewed again.

## LOCAL PUB NEWS

**The Railway in Parbold** was voted as Pub of the Season (Summer 2016) at the last branch meeting. Congratulations to the team! Presentation Date to be confirmed.

**The Royal Oak, Standishgate** has undergone a full refurbishment and opened on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The theme of the pub is in-keeping with the Fifteens style pub décor and it has 5 handpulls serving Real Ales.

**Moon Under Water, Wigan** has reopened after a refurb.

**Tap and Barrel** has hosted its first Beer, Cider and Sausage Festival in July and which has proved to be a great success. Following on from this they intend to host other such events throughout the year.

**Wigan Central** has been voted the Regional Cider Pub of the Year for 2016. They are overjoyed by the result and want to invite all CAMRA members to the presentation which will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 2:30pm. They also hosted their 1st Beer and Cider Festival over the weekend of 8-10<sup>th</sup> July and wanted to thank all their customers for a fabulous weekend.

**The Silver Tally** tenancy has been taken over by Alison who was the long standing manager whilst it was part of Prospect Inns. Business as usual same manager, same commitment to real ale, still selling plenty of Prospect Beers with the only difference being Prospect no longer pay the rent.

**Docherty's** has been accredited with the Locale Award 2016. The presentation will take place at the branch meeting in Docherty's on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**Crown at Worthington** – As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Crown has closed its doors for good and there are plans to demolish it. Locals have arranged a petition to save this historic and community central pub and are looking for signatures. Links to the petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-crown-at-worthington>

## BRANCH SOCIAL TRIPS

There are no branch social trips currently in the diary – however, watch this space for upcoming information on coach trips or days out.

If you would like to book on one of our social trips please email Roy at [social@wigancamra.org.uk](mailto:social@wigancamra.org.uk), Roy will be taking deposits at the Branch Meetings or you can contact him to arrange to drop off a deposit elsewhere.

## LOCAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

The next branch meeting will be **Tuesday 16th August at Docherty's, Wigan**. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and we encourage you to join us to discuss the events happening in the Real Ale industry. You'll get an insight into how the breweries are doing and what new beers might be available at your local soon. What's happening in the pubs and bars around town and you can have your say on which pubs should be considered for awards and recognition. We're a friendly bunch who welcome new faces and hope to see you there. The following branch meeting is yet to be confirmed.

October is cider month and the branch is hoping to plan a cider pub crawl and possibly some other activities to commemorate the event. We think we know which pubs in the Wigan branch area sell real cider but we can't get around to all our pubs regularly so if YOUR local sells a real cider please contact Carol Worthington at [cider@wigancamra.org.uk](mailto:cider@wigancamra.org.uk) to advise, including listing what cider(s) are sold. Also please let us know if you have any innovative ideas on what we can do to celebrate cider month.

## BEER FESTIVALS (AND OTHER BEERY EVENTS)

May and June promises to be two great months of festivals across the country. There is a full Beer Festival calendar available on the CAMRA website.

Thu 21<sup>st</sup> – Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July: **Summer Festival @ Hawkshead Brewery Beer Hall, Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria**

Thu 28<sup>th</sup> – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July: **Left Bank Beer Festival, People's History Museum (Engine Hall), Left Bank, Spinningfields**

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> August: **Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, London**

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> – Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> September: **Ulverston Charter Beer Festival, Coronation Hall, Ulverston**

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> – Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> September: **Elsecar-by-the-Sea Beer Festival, Milton Hall S Yorkshire, Fitzwilliam St, Barnsley**

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> – Sun 11<sup>th</sup> September: **Crewe Rail Ale Festival, Crewe Railway Heritage Centre, Vernon Way, Crewe**

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sat 24<sup>th</sup> September: **Calderdale Beer & Cider Festival 2016, Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Saint Georges St, Hebden Bridge**

Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sat 24<sup>th</sup> September: **4th Ashbourne Beer Festival, Ashbourne Town Hall, Market Place, Ashbourne**

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> – Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> October: **7th Amber Valley CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival, The Strutts, Derby Rd, Belper**

## GBBF VOLUNTEERS

The Great British Beer Festival 2016 takes place from 9th-13th August. GBBF Staffing are now looking for volunteers for the event, including set up and take down, between 6th-14th August. If you would like to take part in this thoroughly enjoyable event, meet new like-minded people and experience a whole other level of beer festival then you can apply via

<http://volunteer.gbbf.org.uk/volunteer/index.asp>

You will need your Camra login to apply. For those people living outside London, they provide either free accommodation in student residences or offer a subsidy so you can book your own hotel, subject to minimum hours work at the festival.

## SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

For some time now Wigan CAMRA has had a presence on Twitter (@wigancamra) and with over 2600 followers it's proving to be one most popular CAMRA sites in the North West.

Despite having a Facebook page for Wigan Beer Festival, it may come as a surprise that, unlike many other local CAMRA branches, Wigan CAMRA has not had a presence of Facebook. However, this has now been rectified so check out our brand new Facebook page at **[www.facebook.com/wigancamra](http://www.facebook.com/wigancamra)** next time you go online.

We'll be keeping it updated with details of CAMRA, and non-CAMRA, related news and events across our branch area and further afield. This will include pub news, brewery news, local beer festivals, branch meetings, social trips, etc. We hope this will be seen as a welcome addition to the real ale scene on social media.

There are currently two independent 'local' Facebook groups that are also well worthy of a visit :- SLANG (South Lancashire Ale News Group) and RAW (Real Ale in Wigan). The latter has no affiliation to CAMRA and is a 'closed group' which means that you will need to request an invitation to participate in the group.