

Ey Up!! Wigan CAMRA Newsletter

June 2016

Welcome to the June 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

LOCAL BREWERY NEWS

ALLGATES BREWERY: They are still brewing although they have scaled back production to twice weekly at Dunscair Bridge. The brewery is awaiting a Brewing Duty Licence which take nine weeks, so there are two weeks to go. Brewery tours are still undertaken.

HOPHURST BREWERY: The first of a series of hop forward pale ales will be released in June, named Evolve and they will use Topaz Hops. It will be the 100th brew soon and they will release a special beer to celebrate. It is hoped to keg a few more beer after the success of Cosmati.

The micro bar Twisted Vine has been objected to by the council on the basis of Cumulative Impact and Stuart will make further representations on the 1st June.

MARTLAND MILL BREWERY: There are five to six days brewing at present, and they are looking at an additional cold room, with plans in place. They are looking for a rep to cover the East Lancs. area. They are hoping to have a 4.5% Blonde Beer out soon called Bomber's Blonde. The Tap 'N' Barrel continues to do very well. There will be a beer/cider and sausage festival to coincide with the Wigan Jazz Festival.

MAYFLOWER BREWERY : Yes, Mayflower are now back brewing in Wigan at Dochertys pub Upper Dicconson Street. Alan Branagan and his new assistant brewer James have already produced old favourites Douglas Valley and Lancashire Stout as well as a new (as yet un-named) beer using American Azacca hops. The brewery is working in collaboration with Bolton based Cheeky Beers and the official launch was on 24th June

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: Patsy & John have reluctantly given notice to Thwaites to end their tenancy of the Silver Tally, the pub will remain free of tie on cask but the pub will not be closing. The Slevins will run the pub until the new tenant is found and staff will be transferred under TUPE.

Bottles of Silver Tally and Nutty Slack have been delivered to Booth's supermarkets, with Blinding Light to follow this month and Nutty Slack will feature in their Christmas catalogue.

A pallet of Nutty Slack was stolen from Morrow Packaging along with thirty eight others. Police are investigating, please be vigilant if offered from an unusual source.

Ginger Stinger made with honey and fresh root ginger has proved very popular in May and Oresome will return this month. Wigan Central is having their first beer and cider festival over the weekend of 8-10th July 2016.

WILY FOX BREWERY: Wily Fox is now brewing, the Hoot at Standish is showcasing all four beers for those of you who have yet to try them.

Out of area brewery news: Dunscair Bridge have confirmed they now have ex Moorhouses brewer Peter Curran – keep a look out for some of their new range.

LOCAL PUB NEWS

The Royal Oak, Standishgate has been reopened following extensive refurbishment . They now offer 5 real ales and food is served from 9am to 6pm.

The Rok Box, Wigan (King Street) has been confirmed to be serving Real Ale. The last report confirmed three casks were set up in a chiller cabinet but only one was tapped and being served (via gravity) - Jennings Cumberland which was reported to be in good condition and at a very reasonable £2 per pint (£1 per half).

Moon Under Water, Wigan has been closed for refurbishment since 25 May with initial plans being to re-open in mid June which were not met. We have been advised that the re-opening will be early July after what has appeared, from glimpses through the windows, to have been significant work on the bar.

Downtown Crofters has now been confirmed closed, the closing night was Sunday 17 April. There is no suggestion as to what will happen to the building as of yet.

The Railway in Parbold was presented with the LocAle Accreditation Award on 21st April. On the same night (21st April), a well-attended social trip went to the CAMRA preview night of the Beer, Pie and Chilli Festival at **The Ship Inn in Latham**.

Tap and Barrel has announced their 1st Beer, Cider and Sausage Festival will run from Thu 7th – Sun 10th July with an open mic night on the opening night.

Wigan Central has announced their 1st Beer and Cider Festival will run from Fri 8th- Sun 10th July and is awaiting confirmation from breweries before releasing a list of beers. They are also hoping to arrange some street food out of the front of the pub during the festival weekend.

Arch 2 Queen St opened as 'The Platform' on Sunday 29th May with Beware of the Pig playing their first gig there. The presentation for Spring Pub of the Season 2016 and LocAle Accreditation 2016 was awarded to them on the same day and two presentations for Nutty Slack were awarded to Prospect Brewery.

The Colliers Arms New Springs is up for sale following the retirement of the current licensees. Local residents are concerned for the future of the property as a pub and are looking to propose the premises as an Asset of Community Value – more info shortly.

BRANCH SOCIAL TRIPS

Saturday 2nd July – a trip to Peakender 2016, a festival of beer arranged by Thornbridge Brewery in the grounds of Thornbridge Hall near to Bakewell. A tour of Thornbridge brewery may also be on the cards. (see <http://www.thornbridgebrewery.co.uk/festivalofbeer.php>).

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

We also plan a trip by public transport to Horwich on 23rd July to visit a couple of the local pubs and to present an award for Beer Of The Wigan Festival 2016 to Blackedge Brewery. More details available soon.

LOCAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

The next branch meeting will be **Tuesday 12th July at the Fox & Goose**, Wigan Lane, 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. We meet every month – details of the August meeting to be confirmed.

On Saturday 20th August at 2:30pm there will be a presentation of the Greater Manchester Regional Cider Pub Of The Year to Wigan Central Bar, all welcome.

LOCAL BRANCH NEWS

A change to Pub of the Season(POTS) nominations has been adopted by Wigan Branch, meaning that if a pub is selected as a POTS it is ineligible for selection for the next three POTS voting e.g. selected for POTS Spring 2016 ineligible for selection until Spring 2017.

BEER FESTIVALS (AND OTHER BEERY EVENTS)

Many more festivals are listed in What's Brewing and there is a full Beer Festival calendar available on the CAMRA website. Below are some of the local ones we are highlighting

Fri 1st – Sun 3rd July: **Peakender @ Thornbridge Brewery**, Buxton Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire

Thu 7th – Sun 10th July: **Tap N' Barrel's 1st Beer, Cider and Sausage Festival**, Jaxon's Court, Wigan

Fri 8th – Sun 10th July: **Wigan Central's 1st Beer and Cider Festival**, Arch 1&2, Queen Street, Wigan

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

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

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.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are still required for the Left Bank Festival to be held in the People History Museum Manchester from Thursday 28th to Saturday 30th July. The event is a major one for the newly formed Central Manchester CAMRA branch with the majority of beers featured being locally brewed. More information including a link to the staffing form can be found at <http://centralmanchestercamra.org.uk/left-bank-beer-festival>

SIA training for festival volunteers. Increasingly CAMRA branches are finding that potential festival venues require licensed SIA (Security industry authority licensed) door staff which is a hefty cost to the branch and can make holding some smaller events financial unviable. CAMRA does organise and fund training for SIA staff with the caviat that, once trained, these staff commit to working a number of festivals during the first 3 years after qualifying. The SIA qualification itself

can be beneficial to individuals' work prospects as SIA staff are in generally high demand BUT individuals need to be aware that whilst working they cannot drink alcohol. The Greater Manchester region is trying to recruit enough volunteer SIA staff to get a training event in the region to get enough staff for the Manchester Beer and Cider Festival next January. If you are interested in finding out more details please contact Carol Worthington on prospect@wigancamra.org.uk"

LOCALE PUBS

This is a means of identifying pubs in the branch which offer a locally produced beer consistently in excellent condition. Pubs are awarded a certificate, window sticker and poster which lets both regulars and visitors to the area know they can expect a good pint. Awards are made following **self nomination by the licensee**. If you think your local could qualify then please ask your landlord to contact our LocAle Co-Ordinator on wiganlocale@gmail.com for more information.

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 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.