

Ey Up!! Wigan CAMRA Newsletter

October 2016

Welcome to the October 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: A new beer is in the pipeline. Marshmallow Stout which at 4.5% will be a nice sweetish Autumnal beer and also Allgates have taken delivery of a batch of Jarryllo hops from the US so expect another new name to be added shortly. Still decisions to be made about the old brewery. The brewing licence has yet to be obtained but this is due to the amount of activity which is to take place at the Wigan location. It is possible that a couple of vessels will remain with a view to maintaining a small activity there. The main brewing kit will be transferred to the Haigh Hall site with hopefully opening a bar around mid-October. Keys to the site will be available next week and David & co will be working alongside the people carrying out the work. Mobile "horse box" bar still doing well and will be at Haydock Park for next week's race meeting.

HOPHURST: Hophurst Brewery was represented recently at the Reet Good Beer Festival in Wigan. There were 7 beers available with the most popular being 50 Gyle which was one of the first to sell out.

MARTLAND MILL: The brewery continues to do well and sales are soaring and have now taken on two new members of staff, a brewery sales rep and a van driver. Martland Mill will shortly be introducing the next new beer in their range, Knocker Upper a 3.9% ABV light ale.

MAYFLOWER: No update.

PROBLEM CHILD: Since signing a distribution deal with Flying Firkin, Problem Child beers have been getting further afield. Scallywag is particularly well traveled featuring at the Huddersfield CAMRA Oktoberfest and at the 28th CAMRA Jersey Beer & Cider Festival. Jonny has been experimenting with smoked malts for his latest brew hence the name, "Arsonist" and will go down well around bonfire night.

PROSPECT: No update.

WILY FOX: Wily Fox hosted a small brewery tour for CAMRA members last Tuesday and their hospitality and beer selection was well received.

WINDMILL BREWERY: No update.

OTHER BREWERY NEWS

MOOR BEER COMPANY: Although we don't usually share info on breweries outside our area. This bit of news is definitely worth mentioning. Moor Beer Co, based in Bristol are pleased to announce that after CAMRA carried out tests on their canned ales at the recent Great British Beer Festival, it was concluded that as they contained live yeast and any carbonation was the result of natural secondary fermentation. They can indeed be termed as 'Real Ales' and will be able to affix the symbol 'CAMRA says this is Real Ale' to their cans in the future.

LOCAL PUB NEWS

Bath Springs, Bryn have been confirmed to be serving one real ale as a regular feature on their bar.

Ben Johnson, Marus Bridge has now been sold, although we have not received confirmation yet as to any plans for the pub.

Crooke Hall Inn recently hosted their first charity beer festival since new manager Dean McDonald took the reins. Their chosen charity was L2A, Latics to Amsterdam in aid of Prostate Cancer. A fantastic weekend brought in over £1300 for the charity. Well done!

Gerrard Arms, Aspull & Lychgate, Standish, both of Pat Gallagher's pubs have been confirmed to be up for sale.

Work is now under way to convert **Harts Bar** into 18 bed-sits.

Hophurst seems to have found a premise for their micro-bar. They have put in an application for a premises licence for the Twisted Vine Alehouse in Ashton-in-Makerfield. Good luck Stuart, we hope to hear good news from you soon.

Tap n Barrel will play host to the second beer & sausage festival over the Halloween weekend, on the bar will be 9 plus guest ales running along side the Martland Mill range. They are also really proud of the Tap's inclusion in the Good Beer Guide 2017.

Victoria, Aspull has new tenants Shaun and Andrea White. We welcome them to their new position.

Wigan Central will be hosting their 2nd Beer & Cider Festival, Fri 11th-Sun 13th November. Showcasing over 40 casks and 20 craft and ciders throughout the weekend. They also wanted to thank everyone who voted for them to go through to the Regional Pub of the Year competition, and although they did not win, were over the moon to even have been included.

GOOD BEER GUIDE

The Good Beer Guide 2017 has now been released and we would like to congratulate the 15 Greater Manchester and 5 Lancashire nominations from the Wigan branch as competition for entries is very stiff. A particular 'Well Done' goes to this year's new entries - Blundells Cafe Bar, the Hare & Hounds in Billinge, and the Tap N' Barrel. Wigan CAMRA would like to thank all the entries for their continuing commitment to Real Ale.

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.

LOCAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

The next branch meeting will be at **8pm** on **Tuesday 18th October** at **Doc's Symposium**.

Business will include voting for the *Autumn Pub of the Season* and all intending to vote are advised to review the nominated pubs before the meeting.

The nominees, as suggested at the previous branch meeting, are:

- The Crooke Hall, Crooke Village
- The Hoot, Standish
- The Masons Arms, Billinge

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.

Our November meeting is on 17th at Standish Unity Club

CIDER STUFF

October is **CIDER MONTH** and the branch has planned a crawl around the town centre cider pubs (but participants do not have to drink cider !) to commemorate the event.

The crawl is planned for **Friday 28th October** the route and approximate timings are :

- Dochertys in Upper Dicconson Street at 5:30pm
- Anvil in Hallgate 6:15pm
- Tap n' Barrel Jaxons Court 7pm (it is also their beer festival so we plan a longer stay here)
- Moon Under Water (if they have a real cider on at the time) 8:15pm
- Raven Wallgate 8:45pm (possibly earlier if Spoons do not have cider)
- Wigan Central 9:30pm (possibly earlier if Spoons do not have cider)

Although not strictly cider month Shaun at Wigan Central is considering making his November tasting night a cider event previewing some of the ciders which will feature at the beer festival. This is yet to be confirmed but if it goes ahead it will be on Tuesday 8th November starting at 7:30pm until 9:30pm. Cost will be £17.50 and at least 10 ciders will be sampled.

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 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.

WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL

Wigan Beer Festival may have only been in March, but the time has come to begin planning 2017. This year it's our 30th Birthday. We are looking for members who are interesting in taking up roles in the planning stages of the festival. Anyone who might be interested in becoming an active part of Wigan Beer Festivals planning should attend our next meeting on **Monday 28th November, 8pm** at **Wigan Central**.

BEER FESTIVALS (AND OTHER BEERY EVENTS)

October & November promises to be two great months of festivals across the country. There is a full Beer Festival calendar available on the CAMRA website.

Thu 13th – Sat 15th October: **Warrington Oktoberfest**, *Parr Hall, Palmyra Square South, Warrington*

Thu 20th – Sat 22nd October: **36th Stoke Beer & Cider Festival**, *Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Rd, Fenton Stoke-on-Trent*

Thu 20th – Sat 22nd October: **Salford Independent Beer Festival**, *St Sebastions Community Centre, Douglas Green, Salford.*

Thu 27th – Sat 29th October: **Lytham Beer Festival**, *Fylde Rugby Club, Woodlands Memorial Ground Blackpool Rd, Lytham Saint Annes*

Fri 28th – Sun 30th October: **Tap 'n' Barrel's Halloween Beer, Cider & Sausage Festival**, *Jaxon's Court, Hallgate, Wigan*

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

Thu 10th – Sat 12th November: **2nd Rochdale Beer Festival**, *Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale*

Fri 11th – Sun 13th November: **Wigan Central's Beer & Cider Festival**, *Arches 1&2, Queen Street, Wigan*

Fri 11th – Sat 12th November: **Cheshire Beer Festival**, *Chester Racecourse, Watergate St, Chester*

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

We have recently revamped our Wigan CAMRA website. Nothing fancy, just a bit of a facelift. We hope you like the new format and colour scheme. Of course, your feedback is always welcome whether it be good, bad or indifferent. Check it out at www.branch.wigancamra.org.uk.

Of course, we remain to have a presence on Twitter (@wigancamra) and with over 2700 followers it's proving to be one most popular CAMRA sites in the North West. We also have a Facebook group at www.facebook.com/wigancamra.

The 30th Wigan CAMRA Beer Festival is fast approaching and, like last year, the festival has its own standalone website. Although it contains very little information at the moment, keep checking www.beerfestival.wigancamra.org.uk nearer to time for festival updates.

CHAMPION BEER OF BRITAIN VOTES

All CAMRA members have a say in which beers are eventually chosen to be the Champion Beer of Britain (CBOB) by casting their votes for their favourite beers from their region. Beers are shown in 11 categories based on beer styles and those which get the most votes then feature in regional competitions. From these competitions winners and runners up eventually feature in the national competition held at the Great British Beer Festival.

Online voting began on 1st September and closes on 1st November. Figures provided from the CBOB co-ordinator show there has been a very poor vote so far – less than 1% of Wigan members have cast their vote. So if you want to support our local breweries get your finger out and vote now – it is not difficult ! To vote see www.cbobvoting.org.uk