

# Ey Up!! Christmas Edition

## Wigan CAMRA Newsletter

December 2016

Welcome to the Christmas 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:** Work continues apace at the new Haigh Hall brewery site. The popular Boston Plum Porter should be available very shortly with Patchcroft, Dry Bones and Pretoria present core beers. The "horse-box" mobile bar is still popular especially at the Haydock racecourse meetings.

**HOPHURST:** The Christmas beer is now available (Antler 4.5 Christmas Spiced Bitter). They have also brewed Evolve 3 with El Dorado and Chinook hops and will be ready next week. Their Best Bitter 'Carmen' is also available this week. They will pause brewing for a couple of weeks at the beginning of January for essential works that will enable an increase in capacity moving forward.

**MARTLAND MILL:** Sales are continuing to do well and are getting into numerous different outlets, with positive feedback on the beers. A new beer added to the range Knocker Upper has been well received in all outlets sold to so far. Four of the range have now been bottled, Spinner's Gold, ChonkinFleckle, Lancashire Loom and Bomber's Blonde. Sales and feedback have been good. A new apprentice has been taken on at the brewery. Santa's Tipple will be available at the Tap and at other outlets week ending 9th December. The Tap continues to do well and Sunday live music afternoons continue to be popular.

**MAYFLOWER:** Currently racking an old ale (Christmas special called Brewdolphi), a 4.6% amber ale with notes of spice and sherry. A warming beer. Douglas Valley, Swinley Gold, Pie PA and Lancashire Stout are all available in bottle versions and can be bought from the pub.

**PROBLEM CHILD:** various festive activities planned at the pub/brewery running up to Christmas

**PROSPECT:** New brewery progressing slowly!! Whatever Next 4.0% launched at the Wigan Central Beer Festival where it joined the 4hr cask club – i.e. Sold out in under 4 hours. The Beer Festival hugely successful, thanks to all the staff, volunteers and customers. Clementine now out and ready for Christmas in bottles and cask. Minikegs now in stock for Christmas and available to pre-order from Wigan Central.

**WILY FOX:** We are bottling Mutiny our 5% IPA, which will be ready for sale before Christmas. We have also gone into kegging The Fox Hat, which is ready now and is doing well. Snow Vixen has flown out and has exceeded our expectations, second brew is ready tomorrow and most of it has already been pre sold. Really happy with how things are going, the final touches are being made to the recipe for our special beer for January, will let you know more about that for your next meeting. All at Wily Fox would like to wish you and all the CAMRA crew a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**WINDMILL BREWERY:** They now have 50 stockists and an encouraging start to bottle sales.

New stockists in Wigan are The Raven, Harrys Bar and No. 15. Liverpool Porter 4.5% is now available and a lager was brewed on the 7<sup>th</sup> November which should be out in December but in keg form.

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## LOCAL PUB NEWS and XMAS EVENTS

**The Albion Ale House, Standish** is usually closed on Mondays, however they will be opening the last two Mondays in December and have some extended opening hours over the Christmas period.

**Ben Johnson, Marus Bridge** has now been sold, although we have not received confirmation yet as to any plans for the pub, rumours are circulating that the pub must remain open for at least 12 months after sale.

**The Black Bull, Hardybutts** has requested a change of licence from pub to convenience store.

**Doc's Symposium** have extended their opening days and times during the Xmas period. Alongside their normal opening hours, they will be open: Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Wed 28<sup>th</sup> December 12.00-23.00 and Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 14.00-23.00. Then closed until re-opening on Thursday 19 January from 12.00.

**The Caledonian, Ashton** has been confirmed to have been sold to Tommy Barton, it is understood that there will be no major changes to the pub for the moment and service continues as normal.

**The Cornerhouse, Wroughtington** is hosting a Vintage and Classic Car meeting on New Year's Day starting around 10.30am, with bacon rolls, charcoal-grilled burgers and minute steak. Tea and coffee, plus bar open from 11.00am.

**Crooke Hall Inn, Crooke Village** was awarded the **Autumn Pub of the Season**. The presentation takes place during the Twixmas Crawl on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm.

**Chris and June Docherty** were presented with the Award for Outstanding Commitment to Real Ale after 30 years in the industry. They have also been invited to open the 30<sup>th</sup> Wigan Beer Festival in March 2017.

**The Fleece, Ashton** is pending appeal after its licence was revoked by the council. Wigan Today confirmed there is local support to keep the popular Rock Pub open and the owner has expressed his determination to bring the pub back up to standard. It has not been confirmed if this will include the serving of Real Ale.

**Gerrard Arms, Aspull & Lychgate, Standish**, both of Pat Gallagher's pubs have been confirmed to be up for sale. The Lychgate has now been sold to Joseph Holt's.

**Northern Beer Temple, Standishgate** are currently hosting tasting evenings in the shop, planned as a monthly event to assess demand but extra openings for Xmas. [Check out their Facebook page for upcoming dates.](#)

**The Railway in Parbold** has applied for planning permission to build 2 houses on the rear car park but it is not expected this will impact directly on the pub.

**Also in Parbold the Stocks Tavern** has a new manager

**Twisted Vine Alehouse**, currently has a planning in for 11 Bolton Road, Ashton in Makerfield, for a change of use. Hopefully this will be granted soon and if all goes to plan then will aim for an opening of February next year.

**Tap n Barrel** was awarded the **Winter Pub of the Season** at the last branch meeting. Presentation date to be confirmed.

**Wigan Central** was forced to close for one day after the wall collapse along the arches. They reopened the next day after full safety checks and are pleased to confirm there has been no damage to the pub or the beer.

## BRANCH SOCIAL TRIPS

The Annual **Twixtmas crawl** will take place on **Tuesday 27th December** at **2pm**. Starting at Crooke Hall with the presentation of **Autumn Pub of the Season**. We have very kindly been offered a discount on beer and food on production of CAMRA cards. After a couple of hours at the Crooke we will take the crawl into Wigan centre. You do not need to book on this event, the more the beerier.

The **Wigan Beer Festival Thank You** trip will take place on **Saturday 25th March** and is expected to be visiting the Hawkshead Brewery in Staveley . More details to follow.

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.

## BRANCH EVENTS THIS MONTH

**The Branch AGM** takes place on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017** at **The Brocket Arms**. It will be a prompt start at **7:30pm**. During the meeting, there will be the opportunity to put yourself forward for positions within the branch. Nominations can also be made by email to the branch chair to arrive for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January [chair@wigancamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@wigancamra.org.uk). All positions are up for re-election or appointment every year but we are aware of imminent vacancies for chair, vice chair, secretary, membership secretary, young members officer, and Swiggin editor. The AGM will also consider motions to amend the branch constitution or bye-laws and voting for the branch Pub Of The Year, Cider Pub of The Year, Club of The Year and Best New Cask Outlet for 2016

The next branch meeting following our AGM is on 15<sup>th</sup> February in the Platform Bar at Wigan Central 8pm start prompt. The meeting will cover routine branch business plus 2018 GBG nominations.

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.

## SWIGGIN IN WIGGIN

Sharp-eyed members will already have realised that it is now almost 5 months since our last 'quarterly' edition of Swiggin in Wiggin was distributed in our pubs.

The Autumn edition did go to our publishers in early October but despite a lot of chasing by our editor it is yet to appear in print due to a variety of problems with the publishers Capital Media who we understand have had significant staffing issues. We understand that delivery of the Swiggin is imminent.

Our editors Roy & Christine had already given notice that the autumn edition was to be their last as they were standing down from the AGM in January so we will be looking for a new editor to take forward publications (probably with a new publishing company ) from 2017. Anyone interested in taking up the role can do so at the AGM.

## BEER FESTIVALS (AND OTHER BEERY EVENTS)

February and March play host to our two local Beer Festivals – **Bent ‘n Bongs Beer Bash** and **Wigan Beer Festival**. If you’re looking for something to fill the gap between the two, here’s what else is on offer.

Wed 18th – Sat 21st January 2017: **Manchester Beer and Cider Festival**, *Manchester Central, Windmill Street, Petersfield, M2 3GX*

Thu 2nd – Sat 4th February 2017: **13th Pendle Beer Festival**, *Colne Municipal Hall, Albert Road, Colne, BB8 0AE*

Thu 2nd – Sat 4th February 2017: **28th Bent ‘n Bongs Beer Bash**, *Atherton Roller Rink, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ*

Thu 9th – Sat 11th February 2017: **35th Fleetwood Beer Festival**, *Marine Hall, The Esplanade, Fleetwood, FY7 6HF*

Wed 15th – Sat 18th February 2017: **Liverpool Beer Festival**, *Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt, Cathedral House Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ*

Tues 21st – Sat 25th February 2017: **National Winter Ales Festival @ Norwich**, *The Halls, St Andrews Plain, Norwich, NR3 1AU*

Thu 2nd – Sat 4th March 2017: **30th Wigan Beer Festival**, *Robin Park Indoor Sports Centre, Loire Drive, Wigan, WN5 0UH*

Fri 17th – Sun 19th March 2017: **SIBA Beer X @ Sheffield**, *IceSheffield, Coleridge Road, Sheffield, S9 5DA*

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> - Sun 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017: **Spring Beer Festival @ Hawkshead Brewery Beer Hall**, *Hawkshead Brewery, Mill Yard, Staveley, Cumbria, LA8 9LR*

## WIGAN BEER FESTIVAL

Wigan Beer Festival may have only been in March, but we are already well into planning 2017. This year it’s our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. There is a lot of work involved so we are looking to lighten the load and involve more members who are interesting in taking up roles in the planning 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 9<sup>th</sup> January in the Platform Bar at Wigan Central

## IT’S CHRISTMAS TIME

It’s the most wonderful time for a beer. I’m sure all of you will get the chance to enjoy the festive season. With us all being fans of Real Ale, great beers and ciders, I hope you all find something you enjoy drinking throughout the holidays. Alongside the fun to be had, remember to drink responsibly and to keep yourself, your friends and your family safe.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM WIGAN CAMRA