

CAMRA LIVERPOOL & DISTRICTS

NEWSLETTER - September 2016

EDITORIAL

It has been a busy month for a number of people, including those from the Wirral and St Helens, preparing the Autumn edition of MerseyAle. As chair of the MerseyAle group, I thank all involved in producing the magazine in such a short time.

I am disappointed that I am not receiving any news from the wider branch membership. Surely there must be pub or brewery news that I am not aware of! Even news that a pub is now selling a different real ale is of interest. We may then decide to visit that pub.

I would be happy to include any articles on your favourite pub. Should anybody wish to write a Pub Walk, such an article would also be most welcome.

I am also surprised that nobody has told me of any events being organised around our area.

Readers, or the staff of a pub, can send contributions to news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk.

This is the basic version of the newsletter, suitable for emailing to our members using the CAMRA Comms tool. A fuller version, including photos, will appear in due course on the branch's website. Go to www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk and click on the Newsletter tab.

Tony Williams

MERSEYALE

The autumn edition of MerseyAle is now available to read online.

http://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/images/Attachments/Merseyale/Merseyale_Sep_autumn_2016_WEB.pdf

The printed edition will be distributed throughout the region from 9th September.

RESET YOUR CAMRA PASSWOD

CAMRA nationally are requesting that all members reset their password. Most are still using the default postcode password. This has now considered in breach of the data protection act, as people can become aware of a member's number and also know where they live. A scrupulous person could then log onto that member's account and access and possibly change personal data. People receiving this newsletter as an email will already have an email address registered with CAMRA. Others need to log into the national website and register an email address in the *My*

Membership section.

I have just reset my password in a couple of minutes. If you are still using your postcode as your password, please click www.camra.org.uk

Click *Sign In* at the right of the options bar.

After doing so, click on the *My Membership* button.

You will see a blue box in the centre of the screen. Click on the *Reset your password now!* button.

Enter your *Membership Number* and your registered *Email Address* and click on the *Request Password Reset* button.

You will be immediately sent an email, open this, and click on *click here*.

This will direct you to a web page where you can change your password. After doing so you can be directed to the CAMRA home page and then log in with your new password.

HEADLINE NEWS – NEW CITY CENTRE MICRO BAR

Steve Downing reports.

Hard Times and Misery a microbar at bottom of Maryland Street, near Rodney Street, opened on 19th August. Owners Jan and Greig, run it themselves and based the concept on the type of bar they would like to visit themselves. One with not only good real ale but with artisan spirits as well. The real ales are served directly from the cask (on gravity) very much as you see at a beer festival. They have their own pins (36 pint) barrels which local brewers fill for them, which means there is more choice of beer. Firkins which are twice as big are also used. At present there are four or five beers from local brewers, such as Rock the Boat, Melwood, Neptune and Ad Hop are available. Fridges under the bar hold a good range of local bottled ales including some from Mad Hatter. The bar is very small so would be quite full with a dozen in, but there is also an upstairs seating area.

Greig told me, "We'd like to provide an outlet for the little guy shunned by the big distributors; we try to buy direct whenever we can. From really good local real ales, to boss bottled craft beers, to fantastic small batch spirits. All independent. All British. No tv, no sports, no gaming. Just a warm welcome with an atmosphere that is conducive to conversation with complete strangers. We'll always be changing, always trying something new and always listening! If you know of something we should try, please tell us."

I asked Greig about the bar's name. I was told me that during an evening not so long ago, one of our fine distillers was lamenting to us about the bleary 3am bottling sessions and the blisters from hand labelling bottles.

"That's the blood, sweat & tears", I said.

"No", came the reply, "It's hard times & misery".

Please see the What Pub entry for opening times.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/426/hard-times-misery-liverpool>

OTHER PUB NEWS

For some time the Rum Porter brewed by Boggart Hole Clough Brewery had been a popular choice at the **Vernon Arms** on Dale Street. Unfortunately the brewery ceased trading, so the beer is no longer available. To breach the gap a new house beer has been commissioned from the Stamps Brewery, **Rhum Noir**, 4.6%. This joins the pub's first house beer on tap, Johnny Handsome brewed by Liverpool Organic.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/26/vernon-arms-liverpool>

Yates at Queens Square reopened after being refurbished. There are still four hand pumps here, two with national brands and two from breweries such as Titanic.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/308/yates-liverpool>

While visiting Hard Times & Misery I noticed that the **Hope & Anchor** on Maryland Street has not had any cask beer available recently, just craft keg and bottles. Hopefully the real ale will return with the students.

Wavertree

Frank's on Smithdown Road now has a third hand pump fitted and there are now usually two beers on tap. Marston's Wainwright has been joined by Liverpool Organic 24 Carat.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/390/franks-liverpool>

Not far away, the **Willow Bank**, has been refurbished and now has been painted and signed in the green colours of latest owner Greene King. Up to ten cask beers can be available at the busiest times. The brewery's own beers, including house beer Salix, and one from Castle Rock are regularly available. Guest beers tend to be from the more established breweries.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/84/willow-bank-liverpool>

Allerton

After the coach trip to Derby, I changed buses on Allerton Road, using the bus stop outside the **Blackburne Eatery**. There was just enough time to go inside to sup a glass of Rock the Boat Mussel Wreck. It was good to see real ale back on here after dispense problems have been sorted.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/415/blackburne-eatery-liverpool>

West Derby

The **Hare & Hounds** in West Derby village has had six hand pulls installed. Currently Greene King IPA and Bombardier are available.

Crosby

For information, the Corner Post will be closed from Monday 12th September to Wednesday 21st September. The micro pub will reopen on Thursday 22nd September.

BREWERY NEWS

Andy from **Ad Hop Brewery** has told me that he intends half of each of their future brews to be cask ale. The remainder will be sold as key keg or bottled. Advances in canning equipment could mean this method of packaging being used soon. Most of us probably have not drunk a canned beer recently. Andy reports a good beer in a can, is as good as, if not better than, one in the bottle.

The position of CAMRA Brwery Liaison Officer for Ad Hop is available. If you are interested please email chair@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

The **Ship & Mitre** is now brewing, using the Stamps brewery.

Joe Murphy brews at weekends and has his own fermenters.

Beers are:

Sublime, a 3.8% Citrus beer

Level, a 4.2% Bitter

Silhouette, a 4.5% Stout

Radiant, a 5.0% Light stronger ale

One or two of these are normally available at the bar.

Ben reports different beers will be brewed for their Wirral Beer Festival.

The outside of the Ship has been repainted and with new signage looks smart.

Big Bog Brewery held an open day at their brewery on the Sunday of the recent bank holiday weekend. Similar events will be held again in the future. The branch has been invited to visit their brewery in Speke for our October Get Together on the evening of Wednesday the 19th.

People can travel on the 1910 train from Waterloo which calls at Central at 1929, arriving at Hunts Cross at 1947. The brewery is about a ten minute walk from the station. Alternatively, people can use the 89 bus from Huyton, Belle Vale or Woolton alighting on Woodend Avenue. The 82 Arriva bus from the City Centre, or the 81 from Bootle, both stop on Speke Boulevard. People intending to come should email branch contact Sue, to ensure there is enough beer!

contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

DIARY

Here is a list of branch events and other real ale events known to the branch. Should you know of any real ale events that should be included in a future newsletter please email details to news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Members can attend committee meetings. Please email contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk for details.

For information regarding coach trips please email social@liverpoolcamra.org.uk or phone Ian on 07521 741 586.

Tuesday 6th September – Committee meeting.

Sunday 11th September – Sunday Lunch Meet Up will be the second Sunday this month. Meet in the Jawbone Tavern, Litherland Road, Bootle from 1.00pm. After eating we will tour other pubs in the area as detailed in July's Pub Walk.

Sunday 18th September – Ferry Across the Mersey and our annual walk from Seacombe to New Brighton via a few pubs. Meet at the Pier Head Ferry Terminal in time for the 12 noon ferry.

Thursday 22nd September – Monthly meeting on a Thursday for a change. Meet the Rock the Boat Brewer. Augustus John, Peach Street, Liverpool University. 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th September – Beer festival at the Masonic Pub Garston. See advert on page 18 of MerseyAle.

Friday 23rd September – Afternoon get together at the Masonic beer festival. Take the 1329 train from Central to South Parkway or make your own way to the pub.

Thursday 29th September to Saturday 1st October. Real Ale Events beer festival at St Georges Hall. See advert on back page of MerseyAle.

Saturday 1st October – Coach trip to Broughton-in-Furness pubs beer festival.

Wednesday 5th October – Committee meeting

Friday 7th to Saturday 8th October – Beer, Cider & Gin Festival at Liverpool Cricket Club, Aigburth Road. See <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/liverpoolcc>

Wednesday 12th to Sunday 23rd October – Wetherspoon Autumn Beer Festival. See <https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/real-ale-festival>

Wednesday 19th October – Branch get together at the Big Bog Brewery Speke. See piece in brewery news above.

Thursday 20th to Monday 24th October – Autumn Beer Festival at the Cricketers pub St Helens.

Credits for other news: Ian Rayner & Tony Morgan

Copy date for the next Newsletter 30th September.

Send pub news via whatpub@liverpoolcamra.org.uk or news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Send diary items or articles also to news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

PUB WALK number 5 - Woolton

Numerous bus routes serve the centre of Woolton. The 75, 76 & 78 services operate from the City Centre to Halewood through Woolton via different routes, the 81 is from Bootle to Speke

and the 89 is from St Helens to Speke. The Garston Circular routes, 166, 188, 266 & 288, serving a lot of south Liverpool, also pass through Woolton. Daytime service 173 comes from Belle Vale to Woolton and on to Sefton Park, with every other bus continuing to the City Centre.

There are two real ale pubs in the centre of Woolton.

One is the **White Horse** on Acrefield Road that has four handpulls. London Pride is a regular, but the other beers rotate. Recently beers from the Clark Brewery in Wakefield have been regularly available.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/7/white-horse-liverpool>

Diagonally opposite, although actually the first building on Woolton Street, is the **Elephant Pub and Bakery**. Food might dominate here, but drinkers are still welcome. There are five handpulls here, four are tied so dispense national beers, but the middle pump is free of tie. Recently, due to popular demand, this has served a beer from Tiny Rebel.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/82/elephant-pub-bakehouse-liverpool>

Unfortunately, the other pub on Woolton Street, the Coffee House, has not served real ale recently, but is now selling keg Caledonian Coast to Coast.

Cross the road and walk down Allerton Road. The Loft (actually at street level!) is on the left and also serves the same Caledonian keg beer as the Coffee House. Once it has warmed to the correct temperature this is a drinkable beer, perhaps better than a mediocally dispensed real ale, However, those pubs in Woolton serving cask ale do offer a good product.

The Grapes on the corner of Quarry Street has only serve mass produced keg beers for decades.

Walk up Quarry Street and you will come to **the Victoria**. This pub only opens from 4.00pm on weekdays. so if you are earlier you should return here later. It is worth stopping here, as one of the regular beers is Weetwood Cheshire Cat, a beer rarely available elsewhere in Liverpool. The other beer here is London Pride. There is live music here six days a week (not Thursday that is normally darts night) from 9.00pm.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/112/victoria-liverpool>

Continue up (literally) Quarry Street you will find **the Cobden**. There are four well used handpumps here, one serving Peerless Pale. Licensee Jackie had been reluctant to change her regular ales as they were all popular, but recently she has served a guest ale. Beers from small breweries that she found on a recent break in the Lake District have proved popular.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/105/cobden-liverpool>

Just a bit further up Quarry Street is Gladstone Street. Walk down this street and you will find **the Gardners Arms** on Vale Road. This pub is not open early in the afternoon. Here there are six beers available, three are national tied beers, but the others are for rotating guest beers. A weekly beer is chosen from the LWC Cask Club list. Recently another beer has been a Timothy Taylor beer and there often is a beer directly delivered beer from Cwrw lal in Wales.



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/33/gardeners-arms-liverpool>

You can walk past the flats opposite the Gardners to catch the half-hourly route 76 bus on Menlove Avenue, or retrace the way you came to Woolton village.