

CAMRA LIVERPOOL & DISTRICTS

NEWSLETTER - October 2016

EDITORIAL

Thanks to those who have sent news for this bulletin. Should you have pub news, such as a pub new to selling real ale, or now stocking different beer such as local or craft beers, please mail; news@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

Tony

MERSEYALE

The next issue of MerseyAle should be published by 1st December. If anybody wishes to contribute, articles, news or letters to the editor, please send them by early November to merseyale@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

PUB OF THE YEAR

The on-line voting form for the Pub of the Year (POTY) 2017 competition is now live on the branch website and can be reached by following this link:

<http://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/awards/poty-2017/vote-for-poty-2017>

The form will be available until 6.00pm on 29th January 2017.

Full terms and conditions for the competition can be found at:

<http://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/awards/poty-2017>

CITY PLAN

Liverpool City Council are updating their Local Plan. This is the document which will set out the way the council want the city to develop over the next 15 to 20 years. It will be used to make policies for the use of the city centre, management of land and planning issues and which areas of the city are develop for housing and retail development.

The Draft Plan is available to view and comment on until 31st October 2016. There are no

obvious references to pubs or pub preservation, but as it is very easy to convert a pub to other uses, this is something which needs to be brought to the council's attention. There are sections on Convenience Retail Provision (Policy CC 14), The Night Time Economy (Policy CC 15) and Food and Drink Used in the City Centre (Policy CC 16). Take a look and comment if you feel pubs deserve more protection under this Local Plan.

http://consult.liverpool.gov.uk/portal/draft_liverpool_local_plan

CLUBS

Numerous clubs have been added to the What Pub data base, using information provided by the Clubs Advisory Group. A lot of this information appears to be out of date, with many of them now closed.

Should you come across any entries for clubs on What Pub that are not correct, please let us know using the 'Submit Updates' button.

Similarly, should you know a club selling real ale that is not on the database, please email full details, including opening hours, non-member access, beers/cider available, to: whatpub@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

HEADLINE NEWS - RANELAGH TAVERN OPENS

Ranelagh's Tavern, at 15-17 Ranelagh Street, just around the corner from Church Street, has opened and is selling real ale. It currently has three hand pumps, which pub manager, Phil, hopes to have on throughout the week. It is a freehouse and therefore not tied to any particular beers, so the local beers may be stocked in the future. On recent visits, the pub has had beers from Caledonian and Black Sheep, plus Timothy Taylor Landlord. The price of a pint is between £2.00 and £2.45 depending on the ABV. Wi-Fi is available and live sport is shown. There is live entertainment on the weekend.

The pub opens at 11am (noon on Sundays) and closes at 11pm, with extensions to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Twitter: @ranelaghstavern



<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/491/ranelaghs-tavern-liverpool>

OTHER PUB NEWS

City Centre

The Grapes, known as the Little Grapes, at the corner of Roscoe Street and Knight Street, reopened at the beginning of October after a period of major refurbishment. This has included an extension that makes the pub not so little anymore, seen on the right of the photo. There is now a new room to the right of the Roscoe Street door and stairs that lead to a partly sheltered patio area on the roof of the extension.



Three of the nine handpumps were damaged by the contractors so only six ales were available when the pub reopened.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/43/grapes-liverpool>

Thomas Rigby's, on Dale Street, was refurbished during the summer. No structural changes, but there are now six handpumps in the centre of the bar, the same as sister pub **Fly in the Loaf**. Two pumps usually have Okells beers and four are guests. Fiona, who has been the manager here for many years, has been promoted as the manager of all the company's mainland pubs, including new outlets in Yorkshire, as well as the three in Liverpool and the one in Chester. Jim, ex deputy, has taken over as manager at Rigby's.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/19/thomas-rigbys-liverpool>

This means that Fiona is now the boss over her partner Dominic. He may have gained some brownie points with the Fly in the Loaf appearing on the front of the new 2017 Good Beer Guide.

Just around the corner, **Ye Hole in Ye Wall** on Hackins Hey is continuing to regularly stock beers from Hart of Preston.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/51/hole-in-ye-wall-liverpool>

The regular beers at the **Railway** on Tithebarn Street are London Pride and a Robinsons beer, Trooper or Dizzy Blonde. The guest beer has been another nationally known beer recently.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/68/railway-liverpool>

The house beer brewed by Stamps at **The Vernon** on Dale Street has been named Gitan Zarah's Plum Porter. It is 4.6%.

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

Now that the students are back, the **Dough Bar** on Skelthorpe Street has two beers on tap. Peerless Pale and Mobberley Elysium accompanied my Pizza on my last visit.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/404/dough-bar-liverpool>

New Moon, the company operating the **Old Blind School** on Hardman Street ceased trading late in September. However, a new company Charnwood Catering, has taken over five outlets, including the OBS. Beers from the Mobberley Brewhouse were available early in October.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/399/old-blind-school-liverpool>

Not far away, the **Kabinett**, a cellar bar under the former Home For Destitute Children on Myrtle Street, is selling Liverpool Craft Love Lane, in keg version.

Baltic Triangle

On my last couple of visits, **Constellations** on Freeland Street has had Neptune Abyss stout was available.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/414/constellations-liverpool>

Old Swan

Cask Liverpool Micropub has increased choice with 5 beers on a Thursday and 7 beers from Friday. To maintain quality there will just be the usual 4 early in the week. To facilitate this increase the 3 ciders are now served chilled gravity fed from the bar wall which has freed up hand pumps.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/402/cask-liverpool>

The sign outside **The Alehouse**, on Prescot Road invites people to '*Come inside, you may like it*'. We hope drinkers who do not normally drink real ale, will do so, with the rest of us knowing we will. Five out of the six pumps are now serving beer. The cider on the sixth is complemented by up to three more kept in the cellar. Owner, Lee Cook (apologies to him that I mistyped his name previously) is now offering a three thirds tasting paddle for £3.50. Lee is also now giving CAMRA members a discount.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/422/ale-house-liverpool>

Wavertree

Smithdown Road welcomed back the students on 24th September with live music in numerous venues, including those that serve real ale.

Frank's was serving Liverpool Organic 24 Carat, alongside Wainwright. I enjoyed drinking here, listening to a good young band and watching Chelsea lose!

Kelly's Dispensary just up the road, had two guests on tap, alongside their two regular JW Lees beers. Both guests were from North Wales, where the landlord regularly sources his beers, Purple Moose Dark Side of the Moon and Heavy Industries Collaboration.

Finally, the **Willow Bank** had the largest number of beers. I chose ales from Otter and Red Star. I did see a few younger people choosing the cask beer. Hopefully more will do so in future.

Aigburth

I have been told that the **Belgrave**, on Brynaston Road in Aigburth, which has been closed for a few years, has been bought by a local businessman who has other interests in the Lark Lane area.

The architecture of this three story building is impressive, so it will be good if it the pub can be brought back into use.



With hundreds of dwellings within a five minute walk of the pub, the pub could a viable business. Real Ale was not served when it was last open, but the other pubs in the area selling cask beer show that the demand is there.

Garston

The Masonic on Gladstone Road in Garston has relaunched its Tuesday evening club. From 6.00pm, on payment of £5.00 you get tokens to drink four pints of cask beer. This makes the beer even cheaper than the £2.00 a pint pub members' deal offered at other times and the regular discounted price for a pint of cask beer of £2.30.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/360/masonic-liverpool>

Speke

The Wetherspoon Express, airside at Liverpool Airport, has been offering two beers on the hand pumps this summer. One is normally Peerless Pale. The other has often another Peerless beer, but as I type this, I am enjoying Liverpool Craft Toast. This makes flying out of my local airport even more enjoyable.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/235/express-liverpool>

Crosby

The Northern Club is a private, members-only sports club situated on Elm Avenue in Crosby and is not normally accessible to CAMRA members. But, due to successful negotiations between members of the local branch committee and those of the club, card-carrying CAMRA members can now enjoy a pint or two at the club bar EVERY WEDNESDAY from 5.00pm until close. The bar has three hand pulls and, until the end of the year, will be dispensing Wainwright, Hawkshead Bitter and one beer from Rock the Boat Brewery, brewed less than 1 ½ miles away.

Northern Club, Elm Avenue, Moor Park, Crosby, L23 2SX
<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/419/northern-club-crosby>

The **Livin' Bar & Grill**, 4A Carnegie Avenue, Crosby, L23 3BR, is selling one cask beer, usually from a local micro. Beers from Liverpool Craft Beer Co. have been appearing, with Quokka (3.9%) on recently. LCB Co. bottled beers are also available. It is primarily a cafe bar/restaurant, but drinkers are welcome, although space may be limited on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Edge Hill

Demolition signs appeared around the Mount Vernon pub during August. Up to now work has only been carried out around the pub. Hopefully this classic 'flat iron' building will be preserved, like happened at the Royal on Smithdown Road that was also converted to student accommodation.

BREWERY NEWS

The latest trial beer from **Liverpool Craft** is Half Nelson. I enjoyed a pint at the Refinery during September.

Rock the Boat Brewery (Little Crosby) is producing a small number of bottled beers. They are all bottle conditioned (Real Ale in A Bottle) and are held for at least a month in cold storage to condition. They have been selling well, in the Crosby Bottle Beer Shop, College Road, Crosby, and are also available in the Blackburne House Cafe Bistro in Liverpool.

Big Bog Brewery

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 by Saturday 15th October, to ensure there is enough beer! contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk

You can read about the brewery on page 7 of latest edition of MerseyAle
<http://www.liverpoolcamra.org.uk/index.php/merseyale/merseyale-2016/item/723-merseyale-september>

Big Bog Brewing Company Ltd, Unit 74, Venture Point West, Evans Road, Speke, L24 9PB
<http://www.bigbog.co.uk/home.html>

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. There could be a need to change date or venue, so if you intend to attend, please check by emailing; contact@liverpoolcamra.org.uk to check.

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

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>

Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th October - Ales from the Crypt. St Anthony's Church Scotland Road. The last to be organised here by Father Graeme. Tickets from Eventbrite.

Saturday 15th October – CAMRA regional meeting, The Cricketers, Chapel Street, Ormskirk, L39 4QF. 1.00pm start.

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.

Wednesday 2nd November – Branch Committee Meeting at Hard Times & Misery, 7.30pm.

Tuesday 8th November – Autumn Dark Ale pub walk led by Andre. Meet 7.00pm at the Baltic Fleet or 8.00pm at the Lime Kiln.

Thursday 10th November to Sunday 13th – Wirral Beer Festival organised by the Ship & Mitre at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. See <http://www.theshipandmitre.com/festivals/>

Saturday 12th November – Coach trip to Leek and Macclesfield.

Wednesday 16th November – Branch Get Together. New members especially are invited. Meet 8.00pm at Mackenzies. We will later visit nearby pubs following the pub walk below in reverse.

Saturday 10th December – Advance notice of the Branch's Christmas party. Full details next month.

Credits for other news: Andre Fu, Michelle Fleming, Steve Downing, Steve Berks, Tony Morgan.

Copy date for the next Newsletter 24th October.

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 6 – Leece Street area

The four pubs on this month's pub walk are all of such quality that it could prove difficult to visit all four on one walk. Each one is worth spending some time in. Although I have called it the Leece Street area, none of the pubs are actually on this street.

First stop is the **Dispensary**, a short walk along Renshaw Street from the Adelphi Hotel. Dave, the publican here, only selects the best beers to stock and then takes pride serving them in top condition. The locale here is Mark's Mild, named after the barman who sadly passed away a few years ago. With six other beers available, you may find it difficult to leave here.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/1/dispensary-liverpool>



Should you manage do so, walk up Oldham Street, turn right onto Roscoe Street you will find the **Roscoe Head**. This is one of the Famous Five Pubs that have appeared in every issue of the Good Beer Guide and has been run by the same family for over many years. Good conversation is the order of the day here, in any of the three small rooms. The pub was sold in 2015 to a property company although licensee, Carol, would have liked to buy it. Despite the tie, Carol always has a good selection of beers available.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/4/roscoe-head-liverpool>



The next pub is further along Roscoe Street, the other side of Leece Street and past the back of the Bombed Out Church. **The Grapes**, on the corner of Knight Street, was refurbished and extended during the summer of 2016. There is now more seating and a first floor, partly sheltered, patio area. Nine handpulls serve eight beers from smaller, often local, breweries and a cider, One of the best choices in the city.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/43/grapes-liverpool>



Retracing your steps and then turning right onto Leece Street. On the other side of the road, on the corner with Rodney Street, is **Mackenzie's Whisky Bar**. There are usually four real ales on the hand pumps here, often locales. On Monday to Thursday evenings these are currently sold at £2.00 a pint. This is a good last stop, as you can move on to try some whisky after the beer.

<https://whatpub.com/pubs/MER/403/mackenzies-liverpool>



From here there are nearby buses to the south end of Liverpool, or it is a short walk back into town.