

No. 195 | Winter 2022

MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR



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FOR
REAL ALE

Norfolk

NIPS

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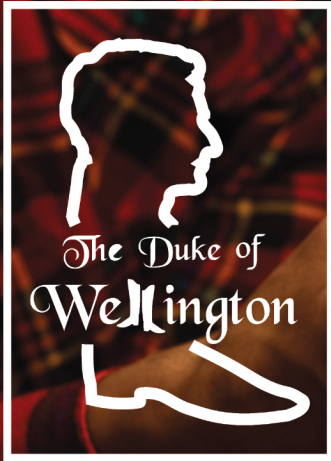
30 years at The Fat Cat!

A crawl around
Kings Lynn

Beer Festival
Memories

Pub and
Brewery News

Magazine of the Norfolk Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale



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Hello from the Editor

Welcome to Norfolk Nips! Our first of 2022

It's been said before, but the past two years have been strange, unsettling and challenging for us all. Pubs and other hospitality venues have had it harder than most, but we're finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

One reason to celebrate is CAMRA 50th Anniversary Golden Awards recognising Pubs, Pints and People who've made a significant contribution to the campaign during the past 50 years. Norfolk has been well represented with awards going to:

Alan "Percy" Edwards

Caroline Jones

Dawn Hopkins

James Woodrow

Jeff Hoyle

Phil Cutter & Dawn Leeder

(Norwich City of Ale)

Warren Wordsworth

(named on the posthumous Roll of Honour)

The Fat Cat, Norwich

Congratulations to them all!

And double congratulations to Colin Keatley at the Fat Cat, who recently celebrated 30 years as landlord. Read more about his time at one of Norwich's favourite pubs on page 32.

Another legendary landlord is Bob Brewster of the Crown Inn, Sheringham, who has retired after 44 years at the helm. In Leaving a

Legacy on page 38, Bob shares his memories of running a true community pub.

One of the ways pubs have adapted is by creating attractive, usable outdoor spaces. In the best examples this usually means a covered outside area, with a roof, (removable) sides, heat, light and comfortable furniture. We've rounded up a few in Outside Inn on page 44.

Our last issue included a Cromer Crawl, with a handy map, which proved to be a popular article. I can confirm the crawl was a lot of fun, as I completed it with a group of friends for my birthday in

November! We've decided to make it a regular feature, visiting a different area in each issue. This time it's the historic West Norfolk port and market town of Kings Lynn. Six pubs are featured, with a bit of history and info on the beers you can expect to find, on page 22.

On page 30 we've got some great photos and stories from the 43rd Norwich Beer Festival, which thankfully was able to go ahead in October, after a year's delay.

Returning for the first time since 2019 is CAMRA's Members Weekend, AGM and Conference, which will take place in Eastbourne from 8-10 April. To find out what's planned and details of how to sign up to attend or volunteer, see page 40.



Lucy Cousins

Editor

editor@norfolkrips.org.uk

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PUB NEWS



Openings, closings and happenings

East Norfolk

In what is proving to be once again to be a challenging period for the hospitality industry, it's sadly getting harder to find good news. So let's get the bad out of the way first...

The roll call of pub closures nationally is being reflected in our local area with the **Gallon Pot** in Great Yarmouth finally converted to an Asian themed supermarket and Indian Restaurant. Although a pub has stood on this site since 1772 the current building dates from 1959. Also in Great Yarmouth there seems to be no sign of the **Star Hotel** opening its doors, meaning the loss of its rather comfortable Nelson's Bar.



Still no sign of **Liberty's** in Great Yarmouth reopening and sadly the **Suspension Bridge**, also in Great Yarmouth has now been reduced to rubble!



Over in Gorleston the **Wheelwrights Arms** closed its doors and looks to be converted to residential use. **The Albion** also in Gorleston has also closed as a pub and will be converted for retail use. The landlord and customers arranged a boozy 'wake' at the end of November with participants from the New Entertainer also attending.

Another pub still trading but facing an uncertain future is the **Decoy Tavern** in Fritton. The pub which dates from 1841 is currently up for sale and would be a great loss to

the village were it to be sold to property developers.

But elsewhere there is some positive news. The **Kings Arms** in Martham has finally reopened which is tremendous news for the village and will no doubt restore the pub's former success as a real ale and cider destination in the local area.

The former **Jolly Farmers** in Ormesby St Margaret has been tastefully refurbished and reopened in December, now simply called The Farmers. There's a new food menu, well kept ales, real cider and lovely staff!

Another recently reopened pub is the **Kings Head** in Hemsby which has been stylishly updated. They have two well kept ales on offer along with a full menu. A different **Kings Head**, this time in Filby, has three well kept ales on offer, but no food at present.

It's good to see the owners of these pubs putting their faith

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in the pub industry and I'm sure they will welcome any support from ale lovers.

Congratulations to Mary and Malcolm George owners of the **Lacon Arms** in Great Yarmouth who are finally set to retire after 19 years. The pub has been sold to experienced licensees who also run the Theatre Tavern in the town.

Anyone wishing to seek out the Grain range of ales can find these on offer at the **Oddfellows** in Gorleston. Please note the **Barking Smack**, which also stocks Grain ales, is closed until the spring.



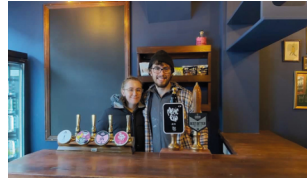
I've noticed the cider offerings in our area have become more diverse since the redefinition of CAMRA guidelines for real cider producers. Amongst those noted for stocking the new approved suppliers are the **Blackfriars Tavern** and **Tombstone Saloon** in Great Yarmouth, the **Farmers** Ormsby St Margaret, the **Kings Arms** Fleggburgh and the **Lion Inn** West Somerton.

And congratulations to the 13 pubs across East Norfolk that feature in the 2022 Good Beer Guide. Well done to all concerned, especially the

pubs featuring for the first time.

Norwich & District

In Norwich, the **Oak Tree** on Ipswich Road has been converted to a managed house by pubco owners Stonegate, and given a refurbishment, and the **Belle Vue** on St Phillips Road reopened in November.



Renovations have just been completed at Norwich's first micropub, the **Malt and Mardle** on Magdalen Street. Improvements include additional beer lines, cooling equipment and seating. Pub owners, Emily and Elliot, said 'we're really excited that we've been able to double our keg offering and make some much needed improvements to the pub. We can't wait to welcome our customers back in and hear what they think of our mini-refurb!'

Another pub where space is at a premium is **Sir Toby's Beers** on Norwich Market. They've recently moved things around, creating more space for customers to sit and enjoy a drink while watching the world go by.

On the planning front, approval was given for the **Forge** on Philadelphia Lane to

become a corner shop, whilst another application has been put in to convert the **Windmill** on Knox Road into housing. As is usual we have lodged an objection.

The planning saga of the **Buck** in Thorpe St Andrew continues with the proposal being changed to a proposed partial change of use and alterations which seem to be a catch all, to allow for the new units being proposed to house any number of businesses.

Although Public House and Microbrewery are mentioned as possible uses, the actual plan is still to convert the back part of the pub to flats and the front part to a café. So it does not actually mean it will likely be retained as a pub, even in parts, although one can hope!

The correspondence online shows the Town Council has raised no objection to the plans so, without pre-empting the outcome, it looks likely the plans will be approved and another pub will be lost. If you wish to comment the reference is 20210161 on the Broadland Council Planning website.

In the county, the **Broads Haven** at Potter Heigham has been taken over, renamed the **Norada Tavern** and reopened after six years of closure. There's a big new children's play area, food served lunchtime and evening every day, including Sunday roasts, and two ales from local breweries.



Photo: Lesley George from Humpty Dumpty and Bob Cameron from the Shoulder of Mutton

ACLE WINTER BEER FESTIVAL 4-6 MARCH 2022

In February 2020 a group of real ale enthusiasts put their love of beer to good use by holding a charity beer festival in Acle Church Hall, with all profits going to Acle church roof fund and Acle lands trust.

People came from far and wide to enjoy the festival, making it a huge success. We received great support from Humpty Dumpty Brewery and Ovamill Ltd, who generously sponsored the event. The total raised was £3,650.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions the festival couldn't go ahead last winter, however we all got together one evening in August for the Acle Summer Food Market and ran a pop-up pub raising £304 for Acle pre-school.

The good news is that we plan to be back in the Church Hall over the first weekend of March with more beer, cider, gin, wine, live music, food and soft drinks available all weekend. This time we'll be splitting the profits between Acle beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies and guides. We can't wait to welcome you all back for a great weekend of fun!





Follow Acle Winter Beer Festival on Facebook or Instagram for updates.



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However we also have three closures to report starting with the **Queen's Head** at Thurlton which closed in October. The **Yare** at Brundall closed in November, due to ill health, COVID problems and because the two partners Michael and Paul are both approaching 70. And the **Alby Horse Shoes Inn** at Alby has been closed for a year, since it was sold by Richard and Margaret, who had been at the pub for over 20 years, although the building still retains the pub signs.

Continuing renovation work by the community-owned **White Swan** at Gressenhall means the pub has not yet reopened, but will during the early part of this year.



In Sheringham, the **Crown Inn** is closed for refurbishment until around the end of March. Long time landlord Bob has retired after 44 years, you can read some of his memories of the pub and community on page 38.

The **Two Lifeboats** has also had a recent makeover with a new art-deco cruise ship theme. They're also planning to redecorate their B&B rooms, spruce up the outside with a new terrace covering, wind barriers, outdoor heating

and lighting, and paint the outside of the pub. Work should be completed in time for Easter.

The **Gangway** team have been very busy! Following the success of their original Cromer venue (which has just had a refurb) they opened in Sheringham last October. The new site offers craft beers, cocktails, coffee and snacks in a comfy lounge, as well as take away drinks from The Porthole. Soon they'll open in Overstrand too, after taking on the garden centre cafe, The Potting Shed. The new venture will mainly focus on coffee and cake, but will also serve alcohol.

Following the various lockdowns and with trade unpredictable, many pubs are changing their opening hours regularly, so please check their social media if travelling to visit a pub. And please check that [WhatPub.com](https://www.whatpub.com), [CAMRA's national online pub guide](https://www.camra.org.uk), has the latest opening times - if not, please either use the 'send feedback' option on [WhatPub](https://www.whatpub.com), or email whatpub@norwich.camra.org.uk so we can update the pub's entry.

Mid Anglia

Mid Anglia Camra branch, known as MAC, is based in Diss, with a radius of about 15 miles around. An extremely rural area. Recently our new treasurer was voted in, Des Burgess. We hope his tenure will be long and happy. Of course we thank outgoing

treasurer Chris Aldous for all his years of carefully managing the branch finances.

Given the current COVID considerations, and especially the need to meet outdoors, MAC members have been perusing pub patios and beer gardens. Here's a few of our favourites;

The **Bell Inn**, Wortwell, about 13 miles east of Diss, has a large outdoor seating area with various different sized tables. Some are screened by trellis, climbers, pot plants and evergreens for winter. A selection of well-kept, mainly local ales compliment their eat in and takeaway food offer.

Finningham **White Horse**, 10 miles south-west of Diss, has generally five ales on offer, all kept extremely well. Staples such as Adnams Southwold and Greene King Abbot plus offerings from Mighty Oak, Lacons and many others. Autumn is a great time to visit (a way off now, but diarize for 2022) because there is a massive walnut tree just outside the rear doors and customers can feast on the windfalls. Publican Lorna and bar associate Glen know their stuff.

Two miles west of Diss at Roydon, the **White Hart** has a large pub garden with purpose-made kids play equipment, coming off a well-constructed marquee with two (yes two) woodburners, keeping the space cosy.



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Adnams Southwold and Earl Soham Victoria are just two of the well-kept and regularly rotating offerings.

In the picturesque village of Laxfield, 16 miles south west of Diss, there are two pubs, and both have outdoor seating areas and serve good real ales. The famous 16th century thatched **Kings Head** or "Low House" has a large area to the rear with four to five brews, some local, straight from the cellar. **The Royal Oak** has tables and seating on the front patio overlooking the pretty church and old Guildhall.

There's outside seating at "The Cap" **Cardinal's Hat** in Harleston, which serves beers from Ampersand, a craft brewery which recently relocated to Diss. Always three or four casks especially Cap Bitter.

A large garden area at the **Falcon** in Pulham Market has additional seats at the front. Newly reopened is **Billingford Horseshoes**, with a lot of seating at the front plus a garden. Handy for those on the A143 between Scole/Diss and Harleston.

Both the **Fox Inn** at Garboldisham and the **Starwing Brewery** in Redgrave have outside drinking facilities in the forms of generous marquees. Both are definitely worth a visit as the Fox is MAC's Cider Pub of the Year and Starwing Brewery Tap is Pub of the Year.

For a picturesque view, the **Waterfront** in the middle of Diss is hard to beat. It's Greene King through and through, with IPA, Abbot, Speckled Hen and the usuals. At the pub's rear are several layers of decking with lovely views over Diss Mere (the large lake), receiving the afternoon and evening sun when the clouds have gone away.

West Norfolk

After weathering the early days of the pandemic quite well it was a touch worrying to see several large pubs in and around Kings Lynn closed. **The Winch** at West Winch and the **Deer's Leap** at South Wootton are advertised as being either for sale or to let, but they are both looking rather unkempt and overgrown.

Better news at the **Wildfowler** in Gaywood, which reopened under new management before Christmas and is once again selling cask beer. The **Woolpack**, close to the college, seems to have changed hands and looks in good order, but signs have appeared on the wall outside advertising the place as a kebab and pizza house, though we've not seen any application for a change of use.

Planning permission has been granted to convert the **Five Bells** in Upwell into a holiday let, while permission is being sought to turn the **Elme Hall Hotel** on Wisbech bypass into

a House of Multiple Occupancy.

It is not all doom and gloom. The work at the **Blue Bell** in Stoke Ferry is proceeding rapidly, though there has been a lot to do. Over 70 volunteers have been involved, expertly coordinated by Jim, and the team were the proud recipients of the annual Rural Community Business Award for Volunteering from the Plunkett Foundation. This was presented by Prue Leith in an awards ceremony at St Martin's in the Field on Trafalgar Square in London in November. In December, this was followed up by being named as the winner of CAMRA's national Pub Saving Award. Congratulations to all those involved and we hope to see the pub open for business maybe around March.



The **Warehouse Taproom** at Beers of Europe has gradually been increasing their opening hours and has had some live music events at weekends.

Good news also for the **White Hart** at Foulden, where the change of use application appeal has been dismissed, meaning the new owner is not able to turn it into a residential dwelling. It was interesting to see the CAMRA 'pub viability

test' quoted in the judgement and it's hoped that the community benefit society formed to buy and reopen the pub can now begin their work in earnest.

Plans have been submitted to develop the old **Post Office** site on Baxter's Plain in Lynn, a development that would include a bar. Objections have been raised to the amount of disturbance that this will create for the residents in the flats upstairs and the lack of parking provision, so don't hold your breath.

It looks like major changes are proposed for the **Stag** at West Acre and a number of public meetings have been

held with concern expressed over the future of the pub, and of Paul and Serena who have been running it for many years.

The **Ostrich** at Castle Acre is open once again after a joint investment by pub owners Greene King Pub Partners and business partners Aoife Halliday and Ant Ciavarella.

West Norfolk branch decided to run their Pub of the Year competition despite the problems in 2021 and were rewarded by what could be the highest quality shortlist ever. You can read more and find out the winners on page 36.

It was also good to welcome a few new entries to the 2022 Good Beer Guide from the area. The **Foldgate** at Stradsett and **White Hart Free House** at Ashill make their debut while the **Wennis Chop and Ale House** in Lynn and the **Ffolkes** at Hillington are listed for the first time in a generation. Congratulations to them all.



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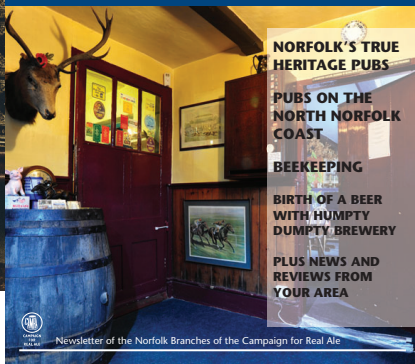
NORFOLK NIPS

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No. 148 Spring 2009

BIGGER AND BETTER!



A bit of (recent) history

It was the height of the global financial crisis, the last year we had a Labour government, social media wasn't really a thing... and the pub scene in Norwich and Norfolk certainly looked a bit different.

Something notable which happened in 2009 was the coming together of **Norfolk Nips** and **Cask Force**, to create a combined CAMRA publication for the Norfolk branches. Back

Cast your mind back 13 years... it's not that long ago, but for most of us life has probably changed quite a lot.

then there were only 2 - Norwich & Norfolk (N&N) and West Norfolk (WN). Mid Anglia and East Norfolk branches were established a few years later.

I took a look back at the first issue and have found a few gems to share with you!

The magazine begins with a welcome from the Chairs of N&N Des O'Brien, and WN Tim

You can find the Spring 2009 issue (no. 148) and all subsequent issues of Norfolk Nips & Cask Force at issuu.com/norwichcamra

To receive the next four editions of Norfolk Nips by post, please send either 10 first class stamps or a cheque for £8.50 payable to West Norfolk CAMRA to: Norfolk Nips, 91 Tennyson Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5NG.

Norfolk and this is the first of a series of articles to bring these special and rare pub interiors to the attention of Norfolk Nips readers. We aim to point out the reasons for inclusion and hope you will visit them and see for yourselves the features we highlight.

The focus is entirely on interiors and what is authentically old. To be included the pub should retain a reasonable amount of genuinely historic internal fabric and/or sufficient of the layout for the historic plan-form to be appreciated and understood. The emphasis is on pre-1939 interiors, although post-war examples might occasionally be considered if they have particular merit or quality fittings. The interior should be little altered in the past 40 years.

Gate House, Norwich
This issue we are featuring the Gate House, 391 Dereham Road, Norwich NR5 8QJ. It is situated just off the outer ring road. It was re-built by Morgans Brewery in 1934 in a distinct Mock Tudor style with a round tower-like section on the left. Look for the stone



Exterior of the Gate House, with its distinctive tower-like section, multi-coloured windows featuring stained glass roundels, with various symbols relating to the Bayeux Tapestry. As was

popular with the higher quality built pubs of the 1930s the interior is panelled throughout. The main Baronial Hall-style bar retains the original counter, bar back with old till drawer, and a cigar cabinet with leaded windows. The original brick fireplace remains; in the mid 1980s panels were removed from either side of it to make access to the room easier.



Above: The Baronial Hall-style main bar of the Gate House, Norwich. Opposite: The 1930s fireplace and decorative frieze.

Originally on the right there was a panelled passageway from the front door leading to a small counter which was the original off-sales. In the 1970s the wall separating the off-sales and the snug on the left was removed. To the left of the main bar a wall was removed, also in the early 1970s, to link it with what is now a games room in the splendid circular tower-like section on the left of the building – look for its original entrance to the room on the left side. You will notice a small alcove just past the dividing

the panelling in all the rooms. The back door leads to an external staircase, and at the bottom there is a loggia (a covered patio) and extensive gardens down to the banks of the River Wensum. There is a Garden Bar, added in the 1990s, which can be brought into use. All the alterations have been handled in a sympathetic manner – even the porch on the front of the pub that was added in the 1970s is in the style of the original building.

Reprinted from *Norfolk & Norwich* 119

Spitzer, who have remained active CAMRA members. This was before social media had taken off, but the branches have their websites, email addresses and phone numbers listed for people to get in touch, as well as a yahoo group!

Pub news wasn't much different from now, with a few closures, new openings and planning applications. I was interested to see the **Rosary** being reopened by Enterprise, although it sadly closed for good the following year and is still much missed. There was also an application to demolish the **Admiral Seymour** in Great Yarmouth to build houses - this was my dad's local for many years and I recently found out he met my mum there, as she was working behind the bar.

There was also a column on 'Recession busters' with Wetherspoons 99p pints getting a mention and the **Mariners Compass** in Gorleston selling ale at £1.50 and rolls for 99p.

Brewery news was much more concise than today, but when you think about it many of our prominent Norfolk breweries didn't exist

then. Poppyland, Moon Gazer, Lacons, Wildcraft, All Day, Duration and many others are all noticeably absent. **Humpty Dumpty** was featured, with the launch of the Easter ale Bad Egg and a homebrew recipe for anyone who fancied recreating it.

The Birth of a New Beer: Hatching 'Bad Egg'

I had the privilege of being invited to write the foreword to the book 'Bad Egg' by the author, Chris, who is a member of the Norfolk Beer & Cider Society. The book is a collection of recipes for various beers and ciders, and is a very readable and informative book. It is a must-read for anyone interested in homebrewing.

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Whin Hill Cider

I was a member of the Norfolk Beer & Cider Society and was invited to write the foreword to the book 'Whin Hill Cider' by the author, Chris, who is a member of the Norfolk Beer & Cider Society. The book is a collection of recipes for various ciders, and is a very readable and informative book. It is a must-read for anyone interested in homebrewing.

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The book is a collection of recipes for various ciders, and is a very readable and informative book. It is a must-read for anyone interested in homebrewing.



The harvest and pressing of the apples used to make Whin Hill Cider. The cider is then bottled and ready for sale.

Feature articles in this edition include Norfolk's True Heritage Pubs, a focus on **Whin Hill Cider** and a tour of pubs in North Norfolk. Pub of the Year winners were the **Artichoke** at Broome and the **Union Jack** in Roydon, near Kings Lynn.

Lucy Cousins

BREWERY NEWS



Who and what's brewing?

From **Oli Fernandez**

The 43rd Norwich Beer Festival in October saw our breweries once again showcasing their great brews.

It was lovely to see all the brewers and publicans together again after a very turbulent year. Let's hope we see them flourishing in 2022 and getting the stability everyone is hoping for.

Grain have introduced a Click and Collect service through their website, it allows you to order and pay for beer (including casks) and collect it either from the brewery in Alburgh or from the Plough pub on St Benedicts Street in Norwich. They are also working with Click it Local, which is a next-day delivery service, run through their website. This lets customers order bottles, mini kegs and beer boxes delivered to you in Norwich, parts of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Poppyland had a very busy summer and autumn after the long lockdown, they had several new beers produced

and a couple of old favourites, Sweet Chestnut Ale and Bert's Dark Ale were re-brewed. The last few months had a few disruptions to brewing time but despite that they have a new beer to launch in early 2022, Fuggles 150 is a light amber beer 5.7% abv, to celebrate the 150th year of the famous hop.

Poppyland were really pleased to be awarded a bronze medal for their Empress Vienna Lager in the 2021 International Beer Challenge, competing with breweries like Sharps, which was a great achievement for them. The brewery will be celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2022 and they are hoping to brew a special beer with Martin Warren, the founder of the brewery.

They are also hoping to supply pubs in Norwich with cask beer, they have an exciting programme of brewing pencilled in for the next six months, starting with a beer incorporating Crisp Maltings 'Small Batch Rich

Smoky' and 'Roasted No 6 Smooth Coffee' which should be interesting. They also want to thank everyone who bought and drank Poppyland beer in 2021, as without your continued support they couldn't survive.

Moon Gazer have been busy creating a charity ale, scooping regional awards and planning new brews for 2022. Moon Gazer is another business celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2022 and they'll be brewing a number of beers to celebrate the occasion. Following the success in 2021 of Bob's Tale





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The Cock has become a live music hot spot with blues, country and soul bands performing every Sunday.

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barley wine, it was decided to brew Lurker, a 10% ruby ale using 10 hops and 10 malts for a complex finish.

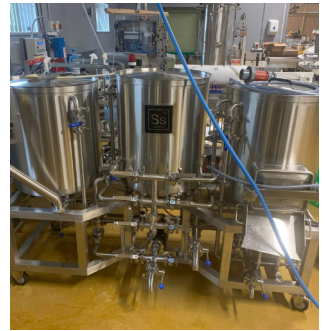


They are also relaunching their charity ale, Tobi's Tipple, in support of local cancer charity It's On the Ball. This year the brewery is ringing the changes by launching not one, but two new brews, both to support pubs in the quieter winter months and give the charity a much needed boost. The two ales are Get Checking, a light amber ale with British hops, and Keep Checking, a light golden ale with American hops giving a fruity finish. Both are 3.9% and they are hoping to help raise awareness of testicular cancer, as well as raising money.



The brewery is celebrating being awarded two bronze medals in the East of England Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) awards. They were particularly pleased that they got a bronze for their all-new milk stout Skidaddler, as well as for Dew Hopper craft lager. They have also launched their first can-conditioned ale Hazy Hare, which is now available and will be the start of a number of can- and bottle-conditioned seasonal specials. Plans are also afoot for the first Moon Gazer cider in collaboration with nearby neighbours Whin Hill, creating a lightly sparkling Norfolk cider.

Golden Triangle has done a collaboration with **Green Dragon** brewery in Bungay called All Leaves, a 3.6% English style Bitter hopped with English Fuggles and Bramble Cross hops, the beer will be ready to sample in the New Year.



Last year **Ampersand** celebrated the successful opening of their purpose built taproom and brewery in Diss. Their aim now is simple... keep putting out quality well made beers and continue to grow after a sterling 2021.

In the next couple of months, collaboration beers with amazing breweries Emperors, Pastore and Three Hills are all in the works. March/April will see the launch of Mixed Fermentation beers, including number 3 & 4 of their acclaimed Orchard Series with **All Day Brewing**.



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Branch Meeting and Pub Quiz

Norwich & District branch held their first Branch Meeting of 2022 at The Rose Inn, Queens Road on 18 January. A big thanks to Dawn Hopkins and the team for taking care of everyone so well.

As well as the pub's fantastic keg and cask ale selection 'Pizza Rosa' serves delicious handmade pizzas, so lots of members were looking forward to the visit. The meeting covered recent branch updates and a look ahead, plus a chance for members to chat to our committee.

Then it was time for a fun (and challenging) quiz hosted by Bob Didwell. Below is a summary version, just 10 questions not all 60, if you fancy having a go. All of the questions are beer related of course and *answers are on page 41*.

For keen trivia fans, the Rose has a weekly quiz at 8pm each Thursday, hosted by Dawn, with last orders for pizza at 7pm!

ROUND 1

Drink pot luck

- 1 This Somerset brewery names its beer after birds. eg: Buzzard and Barn Owl
- 2 Name the beer that appeared on Everton's football shirt in 2004
- 3 What brand of beer does Homer Simpson drink?
- 4 What company produces the popular cider Old Rosie?
- 5 In which country did San Miguel beers originate?

ROUND 2

Symbols on beer labels

- 1 What symbol appears on Bass Brewery labels?
- 2 What symbol is on Stella Artois labels?
- 3 What animal appears on Norfolk Brew House Moon Gazer labels?
- 4 What animal is on Rolling Rock Extra Pale labels?
- 5 A crow and what metal object appears on the St. Peter's Brewery logo?

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dates for your diary

February

Friday 4th

First Friday Five Norwich Lollards Pit, Red Lion, Castle, Cottage and Leopard. Arrive 7pm to 8pm.

Thursday 10th

Lunchtime Coach

Trip Depart Norwich Castle Meadow at 11.30am.

Wednesday 16th

Lunchtime Stroll

Norwich - Bell, Murderers, Woolpack, Pig & Whistle and Trafford Arms. Start 12 noon.

Thursday 24th

Evening Coach Trip

Depart Norwich Castle Meadow at 7.15pm.

March

Friday 4th to

Sunday 6th

Acle Winter Beer Festival

Thursday 24th

Norwich & District

branch AGM at Fat Percy 7.30pm.

Saturday 26th

Saturday Seven

Norwich Rose Inn, Murderers, Louis Marchesi, Ribs Of Beef, Wig & Pen, Kings Head and Plasterers. From 12 noon.

April

Friday 1st

First Friday Five

Norwich Duke of Wellington, Angel Gardens, Rosebery, Stanley and Artichoke. Arrive 7pm to 8pm.

Friday 1st

Tap takeover at

Carleton Rode Social Club.

Thursday 7th

Lunchtime Coach Trip

Depart Norwich Castle Meadow at 11.30am.

Friday 8th to

Sunday 10th

CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference in Eastbourne see page 40.

Friday 15th

Good Friday Stroll

Norwich Fat Cat and Canary, Coach & Horses, Jubilee, Lollards Pit, Red Lion and Adam & Eve. From 12 noon.

Wednesday 20th

Lunchtime Stroll

Norwich Rose Tavern, York, Unthank, Eaton Cottage and Beehive. From 12 noon.

Friday 29th

Evening Coach Trip

Depart Norwich Castle Meadow at 7.15pm.

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A crawl around Kings Lynn



Kings Lynn was once home to many historic pubs, but the past few years have sadly seen many closures. Most of the remaining pubs are located in the town centre or slightly to the south. The pubs we've chosen below reflect the variety of venues remaining, as much as the beer, and keen visitors may wish to check out some of the other local establishments.



■ London Porterhouse

A small pub on London Road, close to the South Gates. It has been extended slightly over the years and there is now seating in what was a corridor, a covered smoking area en-route to the toilets and a small garden. Lots of events take place here including regular quiz evenings and live music. It is well used by the rugby club so expect to see

important games on the TV. Beers are mostly well-known brands such as Landlord and Doom Bar, and are advertised on the board outside.



■ Live and Let Live

The archetypal street corner local which has a very small bar at the side and a larger one through the Windsor Road entrance. Spruced up during lock down, when it provided an invaluable service to the local community. There is a good selection of around half a dozen beers usually available and several ciders all keenly

priced. Many of these are from small breweries and it has been the deserved recipient of the branch Cider Pub of the Year on more than one occasion. There is always something going on from Sunday raffles to street parties for special events. It might not be the place to go to impress your partner on a first date, but the hard-core real ale enthusiasts love it. Good Beer Guide listed.



■ Stuart House Hotel

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A148



Kings Lynn Station

A148

Bread Walk

Wick Walk

Mount Walk

Bread Walk

A148



Live & Let Live

Windsor Rd



Stuart House

Goodwins Rd



The London Porter House

Checker St

Windsor Terrace

Goodwins Rd

find this cosy hotel bar which has been listed in the Good Beer Guide for around 25 years. Non-residents are made very welcome and can sit in the bar in winter with its real fire or head for the large garden when the weather is better. The last weekend of July has featured a beer festival which coincides with the town's music and art festival. The number of beers varies according to the time of year, but expect to find a couple from the larger regionals such as Wolf, Adnams or Woodfordes. Note that it is closed at lunchtimes and opens from 5pm unless by special arrangement.

summer's day when you can sit at the outside tables on the quayside. Good Beer Guide listed.



■ The Bank House

If you are looking for a place for a first date, this Georgian merchant's house and later Gurney's Bank could be the perfect choice. Located in the historic heart of the town by the river and close to the iconic Custom House, it offers what may be the best food in town. Eat in the stylish bar, the brasserie restaurant or the small walled garden. Wash it down with a pint or two of the well-known cask beers, maybe London Pride. If that is too much, it is open all day for coffee and cakes or just ale. There are also 12 stylish bedrooms for guests and a warren of tunnels under the square which are sometimes open on Heritage Day. The statue over the door is Charles I (before he lost his head).



■ Marriott's Warehouse

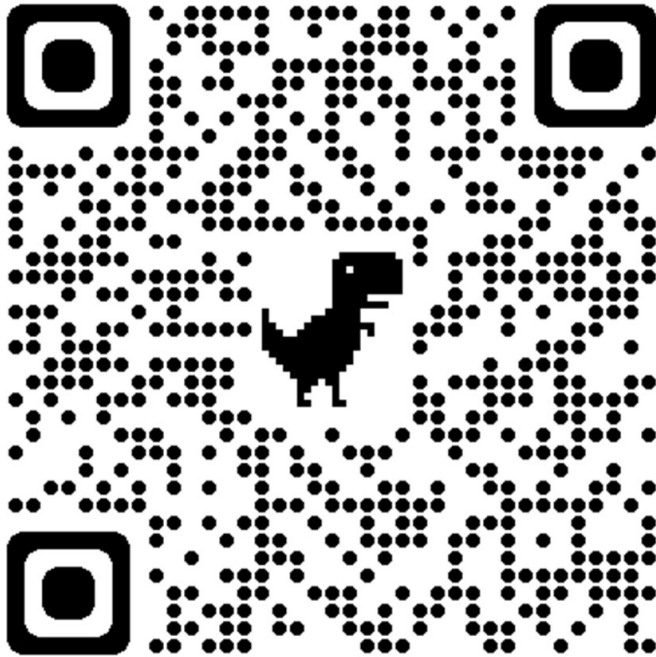
This 16th century warehouse has a Grade II* listing and is the location of a café, bar and restaurant. The middle floor includes a model exhibition featuring buildings and townscapes created by a local artist. Most people come here to dine, but there are tables outside and some comfortable seating on the middle floor for those just wishing to try the choice of two or three cask beers, one of which is usually from Moon Gazer. Perhaps the best time to visit is on a

■ The Wenn's Chop and Ale House

A large and recently refurbished pub on the corner of the High Street and Saturday Market Place, where there is some outside seating. Beers usually include at least one from Ely's Three Blind Mice brewery alongside more mainstream offerings, such as Pedigree for those less willing to experiment. Despite its name chops are not a main feature of the menu, but excellent pub fare is, while many opt for the coffee and cakes, ideal for sitting outside on a summer day. There are a number of high-quality letting rooms available and it is making a welcome return to the Good Beer Guide for the first time in many years.



The Murderers Norwich

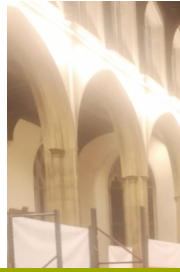


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Stories

From the 43rd Norwich Beer Festival



Hunter Payne, aged 18, joined the stewarding team of Norwich Beer Festival for the first time this year, working alongside his grandad, Dodge Colman-Whaley.



Dodge and Hunter



We caught up with **Hunter** during the festival last October to ask him a few questions.

What made you decide to volunteer? Hunter: When my grandad suggested lending a hand, I thought it would be interesting and it's been really enjoyable.

Was it what you expected? Definitely not what I expected, a lot more interesting! I've met some lovely people, everyone on the team has welcomed me really well and been nice to me and I didn't expect that. All the customers are really lovely also!

Would you recommend for other young people to come to the festival? Yes, a hundred percent, I would recommend coming and volunteering, it's been an amazing experience!

Should young people volunteer as stewards or behind the bar? I haven't tried working behind the bar personally, maybe next year, the first day here I tried the stewarding team and it suits me.

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Hunter's grandad **Dodge** started coming to Norwich Beer Festival in 2001.

How did you get involved in the festival?

Dodge: I'd already volunteered at other CAMRA beer festivals in Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely, and I first volunteered at Norwich Beer Festival in 2007. In 2008 I joined the stewarding team, known fondly as 'Team Tango' due to our orange shirts, and I've been stewarding every year at the festival ever since!

What advice would you offer to new volunteers? If you're going to volunteer as a young person, you should get experience of every part of the festival. From working behind the bar, to stewarding, to the products and glasses stands and the World Beer Bar. If you try everything, you'll find what you like most and discover the best way you can contribute to supporting real ale.



We also met **Tom Maquire** who had travelled from Dublin especially for the festival.

Is this your first time here? Tom: I've never been to Norwich Beer Festival before but I've been to a good few CAMRA beer festivals in the UK.

What drew you to Norwich Beer Festival? The attraction for Norwich was the great choice of beers and it was the first major beer festival that was on after we were allowed to travel.

What do you think of Norwich? I like it. It's a lovely city, very comfortable to walk around and it's compact. There's a lot of lovely old buildings, very attractive and very enjoyable to visit.

What do you think of The Halls? Beautiful piece of architecture, great venue.

What has been a standout for you? The great thing is the choice of beer available, the quality is very high and for the most part it's from small breweries. I'm really pleased with the branded half pint glass and the fact that you can order beers in thirds.



Remembering GrOmmet

- The Balloon Wyzzyrd -

David Trinder, 63, better known as GrOmmet, Grom or The Balloon Wyzzyrd sadly passed away after his battle with Covid on 17 November 2021.

Grom was originally from Hampshire but moved to Cheshire in 1989 where he attended Crewe and Alsager College. He was involved with the YFM radio station and this sparked his career in entertainment.

He would regularly be seen busking on the streets of Crewe entertaining children and adults alike with his twiddling of balloons.

He was part of the entertainment group The Balloon Platoon, taking part in beer festivals across the country, including in London, Reading and of course Norwich.

He had been a regular at Norwich Beer Festival over the years. Entertaining our customers and volunteers alike with his balloon antics, characters and costumes. I mean who doesn't love a balloon hat! Especially when it's made while telling you a joke, with a twinkle in his eye and a cheeky wink! His partner Anni said "He just gave and oozed love. He was so unique, so honest and open. What you saw was what you got."



The night before he died, Grom was asked by staff at Leighton Hospital if there was anything he wanted and he asked for a beer, which they got for him. A can of Anti Establishment IPA from Aldi.

GrOmmet considered Norwich as his second home. He loved travelling to our city and seeing our customers, both new and returning faces. He was always up for a challenge when it came to his balloon sculpting. He loved designing obscure hats including a legendary "hat off" where The Balloon

Platoon were challenged by customers to keep making their hats bigger! So much so they had to duck to get them out of the doors of The Halls. His son, Frank Peter, has asked fellow Balloon Platoon member Captain Garlic to teach him the ways of the Balloon, so he can take his dad's place when he is old enough to join us. I hope when that time comes you will all give him a warm welcome and show him why his dad loved Norwich so much.

The celebration of his life was held on 8 December in Crewe. It was attended by people from all areas of his life. It's not often you attend a funeral full of colour and surrounded by Father Christmas, Circus Freaks and Stewards all with one man bringing them together, and leaving with cake and balloon models.

GrOmmet was a truly beautiful soul. He was kind and generous and was always there for everyone. Be it an ear to listen, some wise words of advice or one of his amazing hugs.

Be More Grom.

30

The Fat Cat Norwich was opened in December 1991 by Colin and Marjie Keatley. 30 years on the pub has become a local landmark and pilgrimage for real ale enthusiasts the world over. When asked about the secret of its success, landlord Colin Keatley replied “It’s no secret, we just serve good beer. Lots of good beer. Well-kept and reasonably priced. We make sure the place is clean and tidy and don’t try to over complicate things”.

A BIG YEAR FOR THE FAT CAT

Cheers for 30 years!



Regularly serving up to 30+ real ales on handpump and gravity from breweries across the UK, the Fat Cat has been described as ‘A real ale lovers’ paradise’ by Roger Protz, Beer Writer and Editor of CAMRA’s Good Beer Guide. Over the last 30 years the pub scene in Norwich (and the UK) has drastically changed which, in a strange way, has made the Fat Cat even more unique. With its walls adorned with enamel and hand painted signs and numerous other bits of breweriana the Fat Cat now looks as much like a beer museum as a modern pub.

There are many things the Fat Cat does well, but the pub is also well-known for the things it does not do. There are no quizzes, live music, sports, fruit machines, and up until recently the only food available was the freshly made

filled rolls or pork pies. Simply put, the Fat Cat is a beer pub for beer drinkers. Obviously other beverages are available. In fact, the pub was a pioneer in selling imported European lagers and specialist Belgian fruit beers years before it was the norm.

“Back in the early 90’s it was very difficult to get hold of interesting products. You had to go out of your way to be able to serve drinks that weren’t available anywhere else. I would regularly drive across the country and fill my van up with new and interesting brews directly from the breweries. Nowadays I can pick up the phone and have access to thousands of beers from hundreds of different breweries, delivered in a matter of days.” Colin explains.

Asked of his greatest Fat Cat memory Colin

Vegan
Real Ales
from Norfolk




Queen of Hops (3.7%)

Three Tails Bitter (3.9%) 

Golden Torc (4.3%)

The Red Queen (4.5%)

Spiral Stout (4.6%)

Prast's Porter (5.2%)

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said "In the 30 years running the Fat Cat being crowned CAMRA National Pub of the Year 1998 has to stand out as our greatest achievement. It really meant a lot to be acknowledged at a national level". The pub went on to win this award again in 2004. Other accolades include being The Good Pub Guide - 'Beer Pub of the Year' a record 11 times. And most recently a CAMRA Gold Award for Outstanding Achievement, awarded to mark CAMRA's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"Winning awards is always nice, but the best part of the job for me is forming relationships and friendships with hundreds, if not thousands, of amazing people who have regularly used the pub over the years. Without them there would be no Fat Cat"

The last two years have been especially hard for everyone in the hospitality industry. The C-Word has affected everything and the Fat Cat was no exception. However rather than shut the doors and wait for government handouts Colin, and the Fat Cat team, took a different approach. "Our first step was to sell everything

we had tapped in the cellars. I can't bear to pour beer down the drain". Colin explained.

So they started selling 17 pint tappits via their social media. Within 2 days everything had gone. The next phase was to create a take-away Beer Hatch, serving beer in 2 and 4 pint reusable take-away containers. This proved hugely successful and by mid-May 2020 the Fat Cat Beer Hatch was so popular they were ordering in pallets of beer from breweries such as Crouch Vale and Titanic just to cope with demand.



After further restrictions came into place take-away beer was outlawed so the "Catmobile" hit the road. Delivering beer twice a day, seven days a week, across Norwich. It wasn't just about getting rid of stock or trying to make money for Colin though. "Keeping contact with our regulars was the most important part of the lockdown for us. We have a really loyal customer base and it was essential they felt we were doing everything we could to try and continue to serve them in some form or other. We may have even collected a few new customers along the way, which was a bonus". Table service, track and trace, rule of 6, 1 metre plus etc all followed and to be honest Colin said he was too bored of it to even make a comment. "I'm just glad it's over... for now. It's been a very tricky couple of years, but I feel like we never gave up and we can now look forward to the future. Here's to the next 30 years, I'll be 101. Cheers!"



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WEST NORFOLK PUB AWARDS



Nominations were requested for the West Norfolk Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year competitions. Seven pubs were judged by branch members, five for the Pub of the Year competition and two for the Cider Pub of the Year. The judges were impressed by all the pubs, which were judged for their excellent real ale and/or cider, and also for their commitment to good service and for serving and supporting their community.

The five pubs judged for the Pub of the Year competition were the White Hart Free House at Ashill, Coach and Horses at Dersingham, Wellington at Feltwell, Angel at Larling and the Union Jack at Roydon.



Andrew Stammers (left) receives his award from Jeff Hoyle

The Angel Inn at Larling was judged to be the winner. Run by three generations of the same family it offers a range of high-quality ales, both local and from more distant parts of the UK. During judging, the pub was commended for its warm welcome and its menu choices for food, as well as

the range and quality of its beer. Landlord Andrew Stammers said "We are delighted to receive this award, which recognises our commitment to excellent customer service and well-kept real ales". He also highlighted the support of his regular drinkers, and mentioned the additional outdoor seating areas which offer visitors greater choice. The two pubs in contention for the Cider Pub of the Year were the Blackstone Engine Bar at Denver and the Live and Let Live in King's Lynn.

It was a close competition with the Live and Let Live taking the branch title for 2021. The Live and Let Live is a pub at the heart of the local community, and in recent times made considerable efforts to support its regular customers, providing deliveries of beer and cider as well as fundraising for various good causes.



Oli Haynes from Live and Let Live (left) receives the award from Andrea Briers

The landlady, Rozi Woods, is especially keen to promote locally produced products, including ciders and perries.

West Norfolk CAMRA congratulates both winners and urges people to support these and all pubs and clubs as they make their way out of difficult times. The What Pub section of the CAMRA website has details of pubs all over the country. It is suggested that you contact a pub before visiting, as opening hours and arrangements are liable to change.



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After 44 years as landlord of the Crown Inn, Sheringham, Bob Brewster retired in January. Bob is something of a north Norfolk legend, so we couldn't miss the chance to mark the occasion and have a chat with him.



Leaving a legacy

The Crown has long been an important part of life in Sheringham, supporting local events, raising money for charity and building a wonderful community of customers, neighbours and friends.

What's next for the Crown after Bob retires? The pub will be closed for refurbishment until around the end of March after which it'll reopen for another busy summer.

Bob has shared his thoughts on his time at The Crown, how things have changed over the years and some of his favourite memories.

I arrived in Sheringham in 1974, first as landlord of The Windham Arms, and since 1977 as the Landlord here at The Crown. I was immediately made to feel at home. What could be better than living in a thriving seaside town on the wonderful north Norfolk coast!



However, after nearly 50 years in the pub trade, the time has come to pull my final pint.

I've seen many changes over the years and have adapted accordingly. In the early days pubs had to close in the afternoon. Now with licensing laws relaxed food is available all day and customers take advantage of this. When we had to close at 11pm it was often difficult to get customers to leave, but people's habits have changed. Unless there is entertainment, most country pubs are empty before 11pm.

Live music has always been very popular. For well over 30 years bands performed here on a Wednesday night. Being midweek, popular bands such as Lee Vasey, Pure Passion, Agent Orange, Floating Greyhounds and countless more were available to play, as most of their other bookings were for weekends. I have had so many customers over the years tell me how they have looked forward to Wednesday gigs, many of them travelling from far and wide to see their favourite bands.

In recent years, live music has been more concentrated on the summer months, performing on our outside stage overlooking the sea. Various bands have entertained during summer afternoons, with customers enjoying a meal and drinks with their families whilst taking in the sun and sea views.

Sheringham has so many dedicated volunteers who help promote our town, and make it the popular destination it has become. From February's Viking weekend, to the Crab and Lobster festival, Potty Morris dancing weekend in July, to the Sheringham Carnival in August - Sheringham always has something going on! September is when we hold our 1940's weekend which has become huge. We are invaded by thousands in 1940's themed outfits, soldiers, land girls, evacuees, spivs and many more. Always a wonderful experience with entertainment provided. Due to the generosity of my customers money is raised each year for charities. We

"I have also employed hundreds of fantastic, loyal, dedicated people. My staff have been the backbone of the business and without their hard work I would not be where I am today. Thank you to you all!"



first bought walkie talkie phones for the lifeboats, then supplied four guide dogs for the blind, funds for Air Ambulance, E.A.C.H, Cancer Research and many more. At present we raise around £3,000 per year for charities.

Running a pub is a rewarding way of life, I have met so many people with interesting stories to tell and had many fascinating conversations. I've seen generations of families come through the door and made a great many friends along the way.

I have also employed hundreds of fantastic, loyal, dedicated people. My staff have been the backbone of the business and

without their hard work I would not be where I am today. Thank you to you all!

I would also like to take this moment to sincerely thank my wife, Debbie for all her constructive guidance and help over the years and help operating our business. Thank you all for your loyalty and support over so many years.

So, for me, it is time to take things a little easier and I hope that our paths will cross again.

Thank you for so many wonderful memories.

Bob Brewster



Fancy a beer-lover's break by the sea?

Photo credit: VisitEastbourne

Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference 8-10 April 2022

CAMRA's Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference is where members from all over the UK get together to take part in the AGM and vote on conference motions, as well as explore the local pub scene.

Our Sussex Branches are hosting this year's event in the south coast resort of Eastbourne. Already over 800 members have registered to attend, and are looking forward to sampling some of Sussex's best beer, cider and perries.

With some 20 pubs and bars offering real ale in Eastbourne alone, there's a pint to suit every taste.

The weekend is also a chance for members to socialise, attend the AGM, vote on motions and take part in some organised trips and activities.

There will be trips to breweries including Harvey's, tastings and plenty of time to meet up in the dedicated Members' Bar.



Volunteer Join Team Eastbourne!

We're already building our team of volunteers to help make the weekend a success. So why not come on board? No experience required just enthusiasm and friendliness! There's a range of things to do - you could help on the bar, with counting votes, assisting with activities and more. All volunteers receive an event t-shirt and access to their own Volunteers' Staffing area.

To find out more, register to attend or sign up to volunteer please visit camra.org.uk or email membersweekend@camra.org.uk You'll need your membership number to register.

What else happens during the Members' Weekend?

The AGM and Conference is where the official business takes place and is open to all CAMRA members. The primary purpose to debate motions to steer the Campaign and to elect the board of directors, known as the National Executive.

What happened last year?

As we weren't able to get together in person, the last CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM & Conference took place virtually on 18 April 2021.



AWARD WINNERS

Usually the Members' Weekend includes the presentation of various awards to CAMRA members and branches. These were done slightly differently for the past two years, and the latest award recipients are below.

Campaigner of the Year

2021 Winner: Paul Ainsworth

Branch Website of the Year

2020 winner: South Hertfordshire CAMRA branch

Branch Magazine of the Year

2020 Winner: Norfolk Nips (Yes, it's us!)

PUB QUIZ ANSWERS

ROUND 1: Cotleigh / 2: Chang / 3: Duff Beer / 4: Weston's / 5: The Philippines (1890) Spain from 1946 **ROUND 2:** 1: A red triangle / 2: A horn 3: A hare / 4: A race horse / 5: A key

Explore Eastbourne and beyond

There's plenty to do away from the conference hall, as there are four Good Beer Guide (GBG) pubs in the town plus others which have also scored well in the National Beer Scoring System. Topping the scores is the Hurst Arms, a Harvey's tied house and currently Branch LocAle Pub of the Year, closely followed by the nearby Crown which is the Branch Community Pub of the Year.

If you wish to travel beyond the town for beer and cider by public transport, it is easiest along the coast. Bexhill (12 miles east) has the Albatross RAFA Club, multiple branch Club of the Year winner and national champion in 2016. Nearby is the Brickmaker's Alehouse micropub, a national CAMRA design award winner. Both are close to the station.

Lewes (16 miles west) is the historic county town with a compact centre and a good number of excellent pubs, plus is home to Harvey's brewery. Hastings and St Leonards (17 miles east) has the greatest concentration of GBG pubs in the branch area with the old town of Hastings being particularly fruitful. Pub trails for all of the above areas are being prepared to help visitors find their way around and make the most of their weekend.





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Or are you going
out out?

OUTSIDE INN

We're on the hunt for the best covered outdoor areas, heated marquees and beer gardens in Norfolk. Send us your suggestions and we'll include the best ones in a future edition of Norfolk Nips.

We all love a drink outside when the sun is shining, but maybe we weren't as keen on forced outdoor drinking over the past couple of years. And even when we were allowed back in the pub, social distancing and table service meant a lot of venues needed to find extra space to put everyone!

Plenty of pubs were able to adapt, turning car parks into beer gardens and erecting marquees wherever they could. Regular pub goers have got used to it now, and it's often nice to have the choice of being in or out, especially if the garden area is comfortable, warm and you get your drinks delivered.



- The Secret Garden-

A familiar pub to residents of NR3, the **Angel Gardens** on Angel Road is a friendly local serving a wide range of real ales, ciders and classic pub food.

But what people may not know is it hides one of the best kept secrets in Norwich... a lovely wooden garden shelter, just perfect for an outdoor pint.

To create more outside space the pub decided to add to their already established front shelter by refurbishing the back garden. The new bespoke covered wooden structure features music, heating, plug and USB points, adjustable sides and even a blanket box.

With new outdoor tables and adjustable parasols, the back garden is now a great area to enjoy a drink, whatever the weather.

You can also order something tasty from the menu as food is served outside all year round. Favourites include homemade lasagne, sausage and mash with onion gravy and the ever popular Sunday roasts.

Ian Warren, landlord of the pub for over 33 years, said "The back garden shelter has helped us to maintain trade and be able to welcome customers, during these trying times for our industry".

The Angel Gardens is open for food and drinks from midday every day. Closing times vary at the moment but will extend during spring into summer. They are planning to have a monthly darts competition starting in February, but that'll be inside the pub!

Here's a few more pubs with covered outdoor drinking areas.



The **West Norfolk** (above) at Heacham has a welcoming outside area at the front of the pub with some covered seating.



There are extensive seating areas at the **Angel** (above) in Larling and the **Rose and Crown** in Harpley, both of which have robust, permanent structures.

The Kings Arms at Shouldham has a roofed patio area with removable side panels, so it can offer shelter in bad weather and be opened up on a nice day.

There are tented areas at the **Swan** in South Wootton, the **Chequers** (right) at Thompson and the **Partridge** at Clenchwarton.

The **White Hart Free House** at Ashill has a covered area with TV, which was well used for showing football during Euro 2020.

Another **White Hart**, this one at Roydon near Diss, has a large pub garden with purpose-made kids play equipment, coming off a well-constructed marquee with two woodburners, keeping the space cosy.

The **Fox Inn** at Garboldisham and the **Starwing Brewery Tap** in Redgrave have outside drinking facilities in the forms of generous marquees.

Carleton Rode Social Club has one of the prettiest beer tents we've seen, with real festival vibes! They've been praised for helping their members and guests feel really safe. CAMRA members get club prices too, so bring your card.

Very popular with locals and visitors, the **Shoulder of Mutton** in Strumpshaw is another pub with a marquee out front, positioned near the bar entrance. Table service is available or you can pop indoors to order at the bar.



Mysabar on Norwich Castle Gardens has huge marquees with bench tables and toasty heaters, bringing Scandinavian style to the city. The bar is well stocked, including a wide range of craft beers on keg, but no cask ale.

The **Artichoke** on Magdalen Road has a large decked and covered garden, plus outdoor seating in front of the pub. Order through their app or from one of the lovely staff and you never need to leave your seat!



Not far away, the **Brewery Tap** (above and below) on Lawson Road has large covered areas at the side and back of the pub, plus the front garden, which looks great after getting all new turf last year.



Send your best beer gardening tips and photos to editor@norfolkknips.org.uk

GONE TO THE DOGS



It occurred to me that while the most common pub name is said to be the Red Lion, there must be more pubs named after dogs than any other animal.

Sometimes it is just The Dog. You may remember the express bus from Kings Lynn to Norwich stopping at the Easton Dog, and I felt that a little bit of old England had been lost when it became Des Amis café. They probably felt the same way when the Dog on Sedgeford Lane in Kings Lynn closed in the late 18th century.

Then there are dogs of various colours. The Black Dog may be the most common, but there are White, Red, Blue, Grey and even Purple Dogs out there. Spotted Dogs abound, and I remember calling in the one in Hull on the night of a total eclipse of the moon.

Sometimes dogs share their sign with other animals, usually ones they are attempting to catch! Dog and Duck, Dog and Partridge, Dog and Badger, Airedale and Otter, Hare and Hounds, Dog and Fox. Maybe they need a little help in their task, giving us the Dog and Gun. Some hunting dogs became so famous that their name was enough. Up in Bury we had the Hark to Dandler and the Hark to Talbot, both memorialising famous hunting hounds. I hope the hunting theme does not apply to the Dog and Donkey. The Dog in a Doublet down the road at Thorney seems to owe more to the

pampered pooches wandering the Walks in their natty clothes than hounds chasing foxes.

Often, we see pubs named after breeds of dog. There is still a Greyhound in Swaffham and look hard enough you will find several Yorkshire Terriers, Bulldogs and even a Dobermann. There is a Springer Spaniel in Cornwall but I thought claiming the King Charles as a spaniel might be pushing it a bit, until I did a search and found a pub sign showing just that. Another pub I have visited is the Barking Dog in err... Barking.

In Malmsbury you can visit the Smoking Dog, where the pub sign emphatically does not illustrate the beagles used in tobacco-based experiments. The Mad Dog, the Dog and Sausage and the Sea Dog can all be found, and while a Harrier might refer to a bird, the illustration on the sign convinces us that it is yet another hunting reference. In Edinburgh, you can pat the little statue of Greyfriars Bobby on the head and then visit the pub which shares his name.

I guess that there are other examples and with the expansion of the Brewdog empire there are likely to be more in the future. But having exhausted my list of names, I tuned into the excellent Meet the Richardson's pseudo reality comedy show on Dave and discovered that John has constructed a pub in his garden shed in Hebden Bridge. Its name? The Dog and Bastard.

■ Jeff Hoyle

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