

No. 198 | Autumn 2022

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MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR



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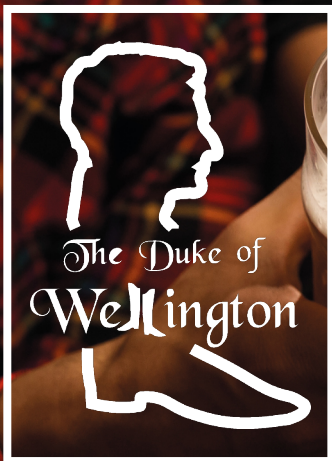
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Magazine of the Norfolk Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale



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A big thanks to everybody who came to the August beer festival and made it another huge success .



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OF NR3 SINCE
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Hello from the Editor

Welcome to our fourth and final Norfolk Nips of 2022.

You may have noticed a few changes to the magazine during the past year or so. We've updated the design and added some new features, like our regular centre page pub crawls from around Norfolk, and a humorous look at pubs in Last Orders. Have you enjoyed the changes? Is there anything else you'd like to see? Let me know editor@norfolkknips.org.uk

Lots of changes too with our pubs and breweries. New faces taking over some familiar venues, relocation and expansion for some of our breweries and, sadly, the loss of some pubs. Read more about what's happening across our four Norfolk CAMRA branches in Pub News on page 6 and Brewery News on page 16.

It would be remiss of me not to say another huge WELL DONE to the team at the Kings Head in Norwich who have made it through another round of judging and been crowned East Anglian Pub of the Year 2022. The last time a Norfolk pub held this honour was in 2004! Read more about the competition on page 38.



A huge thank you to everyone who got involved with Norwich and Beyond Pub Festival over the summer. As our cover photo shows it was a great chance to explore new pubs, and revisit some old favourites.

For fans of beer festivals (surely that's everyone) we have insights from a first time visitor to Peterborough Beer Festival on page 30. And of course our very own 44th Norwich Beer Festival is coming up this month! We've added

a pub crawl you can do before or after your festival visit on page 22 and the Beer Fest itself is previewed on page 26.

Now more than ever, pubs need your support. One way you can help is to volunteer with your local CAMRA branch. That might mean helping plan branch activities, being a point of contact for pubs or breweries, or signing up new CAMRA members. Whatever you choose to do, it's rewarding and so valuable to the future survival of pubs. To get more involved, check out the branch contacts on page 5 and social events on page 44. Taking the first step is as easy as coming along to a branch meeting or joining a pub crawl!

Whatever you get up to, enjoy the rest of the year and I hope to see you in the pub. Cheers!



LUCY COUSINS
Editor

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Subscription details

To receive the next four issues by post, please send either 12 x 2nd class stamps OR a cheque made payable to West Norfolk CAMRA for £8.50 to:

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PUB NEWS



Openings, closings and happenings

MID ANGLIA

Mid Anglia is a relatively new CAMRA branch, centred on Diss. The branch area extends for 12 to 15 miles around the town and straddles the county line, encompassing pubs, bars and clubs from both South Norfolk and North Suffolk.

The summer has seen various comings, goings and bits of news, covered here approximately from west to east.

The **Fox Inn**, Garboldisham, is one of the area's most successful community pubs. A Winter Beer Festival is planned for 2 to 4 December to celebrate the pub's sixth anniversary. This is a 'real' real-ale hub and well worth a visit if you find yourself on the A1066 between Diss and Thetford.

After reopening a few months ago, the **White Horse**,

Thelnetham continues to hold community get togethers. Check their Facebook page for opening times.

The sale of the **Cross Keys**, Redgrave, is in progress and likely to be completed early autumn, perhaps with restricted opening hours until things are settled.

Ampersand Brewery and Brew Tap in Diss continue to go from strength to strength, with regular in-house food, pop-up foodie events, DJs and live music. This is an especially convenient site for visitors taking the train to Diss, being 10ish minutes walk from the station, compared to the main town centre pubs at nearer 25 minutes. The brewing equipment is easily viewable and there is also an old bar favourite to keep you entertained - table football!

The **Swan**, Worlingworth was for many years one of the area's most historic, traditional and active pubs. It

was especially famous for Sunday afternoon meetings attended by folk with horses, ponies, wagons, carriages, traps and similar equine vehicles. After several years of closure, it has had a recent refurbishment, thankfully not obscuring the building's much-admired rustic character. Reopening is planned for the autumn, with local ales very likely, especially Adnams Southwold.

The **Ivy House**, Stradbroke has changed hands and is now also the venue for Roscoe's at The Ivy House, an eaterie named for new owner-chef Jason Pennellier's son. Jason described the makeover as 'modern country cottage style shabby chic. Casual with a fine dining twist. Gastro pubby.' Beers are generally from the Mighty Oak range, along with the very local Bruha Brewing and Earl Soham Brewery.

The **Trowel and Hammer** in



Newmarket Street,
01603 631557



Bishopsgate
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Grove Road
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Unthank Road,
01603 660706



Wensum Street
01603 633122

De'Ath Hospitality

For more information
Nick or Briony De'Ath

hello@nwbdhospitality

Cotton has closed until further notice.

Pub news in the village of Debenham, including the Woolpack and the (Red) Lion, is covered in our feature on page 42.

WEST NORFOLK



There's mixed news around the Tuesday Market Place in Kings Lynn. The rebranded and refurbished **Maids Head**, now a Craft Union pub, seems to be doing good business, but the **Lattice House** around the corner has closed and Admirals Taverns are looking for new tenants for this historic pub. Close by, we hear that the **Crown and Mitre** is closed and changes are afoot.

In the south end of town, the **Crossways** has been advertised once again. Advice has been sought from CAMRA about applying for an ACV listing, but it's unclear whether this has gone any further.

The **Stuart House Hotel** in Kings Lynn was due to change hands at the beginning of August, however the buyer pulled out at the last minute, so things



continue as normal for now. However, it seems that the annual beer festival which has been held there for 25 years will come to an end, although the Kings Lynn Vancouver Round Table have been exploring alternative venues.

On the plus side, there is likely to be a new event in Hunstanton, where councillor Dave Nice is organising an **Ale and Music Festival** in the town hall on the weekend of 11 to 13 November.

In Hockwold an application has been made to turn the **Chequers**, which closed in 2017, into flats. And the **New Inn** seems destined to become a hotel attached to Hockwold Hall to be used for wedding guests, with no regular public bar. This will leave the **Wellington** as the only pub in the village.



The **Wildfowler** in Terrington St Clement has new management - Mike Daisley is the head of a team that made us very welcome for a branch meeting. There is interesting

beer available, good food and plenty going on. Not far away in Tilney, John and Paul have taken over the **Coach and Horses**, an Elgood's pub with guest beers and great food.

Gareth Rayner has been appointed as the head chef at the **Gin Trap** in Ringstead, where there is an ambition to see the pub become one of the top gastropubs in the country.

The **Coach and Horses** at Dersingham, winner of the West Norfolk Pub of the Year on multiple occasions, is on the market due to the ill health of the current owner. It is expected that the pub will continue to operate with some refurbishment and alterations.

The **Jolly Brewers** at Shouldham Thorpe is on the market and has been closed.

Stratton's Hotel in Swaffham has never been a real ale outlet, but it is being advertised as for sale and surely has lots of potential!

The owner of the **House on the Green** in North Wootton has been renewing his efforts to develop the site, with plans that include refurbishing and reopening the pub, but with residential units on some of the surrounding land.

In other planning matters, permission has been granted to complete the demolition of



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the **Ark** in Thetford and replace it with a care home. Queries have been sent to planning enforcement officers about the **Berney Arms** at Barton Bendish, the **White Hart** at Foulden and the **Woolpack** in Kings Lynn, all of which seem to have undergone a de facto change of use without planning permission.

NORWICH AND DISTRICT

News from the county first this time... in Loddon Frank and Jo Butt, both retired teachers, have big plans for the **Angel**, which they intend to refurbish with a 'crafted' interior, as well as converting the coach house at the rear into a microbrewery and adding four en-suite double bedrooms.

The **Canary and Linnet** at Little Fransham closed in August, and the **Green Man** at Rackheath has closed again, and is available for lease.



The **Crown** at Trunch has taken over the functions of the local newsagents and Post Office, which closed in August, and the owners hope to construct a small shop at the rear of the premises to stock groceries.



Another **Crown**, at Colkirk, reopened in April, and is now serving three ales, from Wolf and other local breweries.

The **Anchor** at Morston has been bought by the owners of The Harper, a luxury hotel in Langham, and was open until the end of summer. It will be refurbished over the winter and reopen next spring with, according to the hotel website, a 'top-notch selection of local ales'.



In the last edition, we understood that the **Vernon Arms** at Southrepps had been sold, however it turns out that the sale fell through at the last moment, and Paul and Debbie Briggs remain in charge - apologies to all concerned.

In the city, Warwick Street Social was taken over by Nick De'Ath in August 2022 and reopened under its original name, the **Warwick Arms**, as a 'straightforward' pub. It closed in late 2021 due to issues caused by the

pandemic, and was previously a cocktail bar.



The **Coach and Horses**, Thorpe Road now has a pizza oven in the yard at the rear of the pub. On our visit in July, in addition to the range of Chalk Hill beers, there was also a guest ale from Three Blind Mice.



The **Wildman** on Bedford Street closed briefly in July for a £5,000 refurb to speed up cocktail service. The **Steam Packet** has been sold for around £325,000, having been closed for several months.

The Gatherers, formerly the Woolpack Yard, has changed its name to **Garden** and is now a cocktail bar and eatery, serving a vegan tapas menu.

David Roylance, who took over the **Stanley** on Magdalen Road in 2020, has taken on the **Crown Point Tavern** in Trowse Newton, just outside the city. The pub closed for a refurb for a couple of weeks

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GOOD BEER GUIDE 2022 WE'RE IN IT

in June, and reopened with a new in-house kitchen.

An application to convert the **Grillhouse** restaurant on St Stephens Road, formerly the Trowel and Hammer, to housing has been refused. We fear the pub has already been lost, through a loophole which allows pubs to add some form of accommodation, often using what would have been the landlord's flat, and then convert to a restaurant, on the basis that they're an 'inn' and not a pub. This then makes it easier to convert completely to residential use, as there is no special protection for restaurants. (In the case of the Grillhouse, the application was only refused on technical grounds, and will no doubt succeed once modified.) This also appears to be happening at another pub on the North Norfolk coast, and unfortunately the

local council appear happy to collude with this practice, by refusing to prevent the clear change of use.

Planning permission to convert the upper floors of the **Heath House** on Gertrude Road to a house of multiple occupation has been withdrawn.



Some happy news to end on! Claire and Dale Brooks, who have been at the helm of one of Norwich's few remaining music pubs, the **Walnut Tree**

Shades in Old Post Office Court for 12 years, will be taking over perhaps the best-known Norwich music pub, the **Brickmakers** on Sprowston Road, in January. Current operators Pam and Charley South and Emma Rose, who have built the pub's reputation over the last 20 years, announced that they were leaving on social media in August. The move will see the range of real ales available at the 'Brickie' increased as trade permits, to include beers from current Walnut suppliers such as Mr Winter's, Grain and Moon Gazer. The future of the Walnut is to be announced soon, but it is believed that owners Stonegate are looking for a tenant with similar passions for music and real ale.

Please send any news or updates to pubs' entries on WhatPub.com to pubs@norwich.camra.org.uk



Celebrating our first year...

THE MALT AND MARDLE

On 22 July the Malt and Mardle micropub on Magdalen Street celebrated their first anniversary. To mark the special event, the pub launched a collaboration brew with Mr Winter's, gave out specially made Malt and Mardle cupcakes and had a good old knees-up with their

regulars! A run of branded t-shirts were also made and are still available to purchase from Norwich's youngest pub.

Owners Emily and Elliot would like to say a special thanks to everyone who has visited them over the last year for their custom. After a tough period in the trade, the micropub continues to go from strength to strength and let's hope this is a first year celebrated with many more to come.

maltandmardle.co.uk

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HIGHLIGHTS



- 06/10 THE SKIDS + THE ALPHABETAMINES
- 09/10 NERINA PALLOT + T.I.G.Y
- 11/10 THE LEMONHEADS
- 13/10 TURIN BRAKES
- 14/10 HOSPITALITY NORWICH
- 15/10 80'S VS 90'S + BARRIOKE



- 18/10 WISHBONE ASH
- 20/10 STONE FOUNDATION
- 21/10 THE NORWICH SOUL CLUB
- 22/10 LET'S EAT GRANDMA
- 24/10 SUPERONIX NORWICH
- 27/10 BOOTLEG BLONDIE



- 30/10 BFLF (2PM) THE ORB (8PM)
- 01/11 BODEGA
- 02/11 CLEARWATER CREEDENCE REVIVAL
- 03/11 MAGIC OF MOTOWN
- 05/11 SWIFTOGEDDON
- 06/11 SETH LAKEMAN



- 10/11 T.REXTASY
- 13/11 THE SELECTER
- 30/11 GONG + OZRIC TENTACLES
- 02/12 MARTIN KEMP'S BACK TO THE 80S
- 07/12 BABYBIRD + IAN PROWSE
- 23/12 BAD MANNERS

FOR TICKETS OR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EVENTS, HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE: WWW.EPIC-TV.COM/EVENTS

East Norfolk CAMRA Announcement of Annual General Meeting Monday 7 November



7pm, Tombstone Saloon Bar
6 George Street, Gt Yarmouth NR30 1HR

Following the chaos brought about by two years of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis leading to energy bills increasing by up to 400%, pubs and independent breweries are facing probably the greatest threat to their survival since the formation of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) over 50 years ago.

There has never been a better, or more important, time to get involved with your local branch of CAMRA.



The meeting will include election of ALL committee positions, so we are keen to get as many willing members as possible along to fill the available roles.

Nomination forms for committee positions are available on request by email: secretary@eastnorfolk.camra.org.uk and must be submitted to this address not less than two weeks before the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on 7 November. Cheers!

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BREWERY NEWS



Who and what's brewing

OLI FERNANDEZ

And in the blink of an eye, we're in autumn, where did the year go?

Our brewers have had a reasonably good year so far, let's see what autumn and winter brings. The increase in energy bills doesn't look very good at all for anyone, and harvest this year hasn't been great either, due to lack of rain. Let's hope it is not too tough for them and our pubs too!

On the bright side, we have Norwich Beer Festival at the end of October as usual, where we'll be able to enjoy beers from Norfolk, the rest of the UK and around the world. And many of our brewers will be producing something special for it too!

In the last edition I reported that **S&P** had a revamp on their 4.4% mild, Shady Sadie, which has been renamed to Marsha's Mood.

It seems I literally got lost in translation, my apologies, as the beer has been renamed

Marsha's Mood in honour of John Mayall, not Mayhall as reported previously.



The pumpclip picture that features John Mayall's guitar was photoshopped by Tom, Andy's son, not John's!

Moving on, back in May, **S&P** and **WILDCRAFT** did a collaboration brew called Esprit (4.5% golden ale) in honour of Carl Newell and it was part of the City of Ale for their nominated charity MIND.

Both breweries committed to give MIND £25 from the sale of each of the 40 Esprit casks that were produced - sales have done well and soon proceeds will reach £1,000. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to it.

Wildcraft are at their new

location at Church Farm in Smallburgh (NR12 9NB). As in any move, this one hasn't been straightforward, so they had to transport water from their old site and use a chiller van as the cold room wasn't ready. Hopefully everything will settle down soon.



They have produced a new beer called Wild Rainbow, a 4.8% hoppy and citrusy beer available in bottles. It was created in collaboration with Norwich Amateur Brewers, with the barley, hops and yeast donated by generous local suppliers. All profits will be donated to the Norwich and Norfolk hospital charities.

Recently Toby, Dom and Poppy from Sir Toby's Beers visited the brewery, to create a brand new collaboration brew, a cherry wheat beer. This will be available to try



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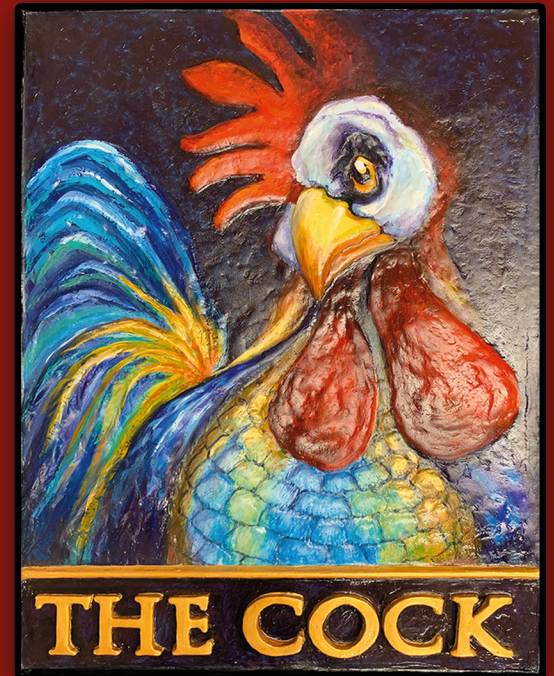
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soon at their pub, Stanford Arms in Lowestoft.

They have always been interested in foraging and they're happy to get help from the public. So if you happen to have lots of raspberries, plums, sloes, blackcurrants or blackberries in your garden, contact them at wildcraftbrewery.co.uk

FAT CAT now has four beers available in 500ml bottles (in addition to previous 330ml swing top bottles) - Norwich Bitter, Tabby, Tom Cat and Incredible Pale Ale.

A new 4.9% porter was brewed at the beginning of September and will be launched at Norwich Beer Festival in wooden cask. At the moment of writing this, its name hadn't been revealed yet, but flavours of coffee and chocolate feature in the malts.

They have decided to stop brewing Lockdown IPA, however it will be replaced by a succession of one-off IPAs in the short term, beginning with a 6% Rye IPA, called Maus Catcha, which will be launched along with the porter at the Norwich Beer Festival.

The **MOON GAZER** team continues to support pubs with a series of monthly special brews that you will be able to sample in different pubs across Norwich and Norfolk. They are committed to supporting cask and pubs as their main priority, and

have also been busy searching for additional premises, so watch this space with how they hope to use it!

Moon Gazer are also focusing on using new British hops. Based on this, their autumn series of specials began with the welcome return of Fresh Hop, where they picked and brewed with Sheringham-grown hops within an hour.

Other specials with British hops will include a red IPA for Halloween, an all-new golden Mash Up, as well as the return of Skipper for the FIFA World Cup!



And with autumn we see the return of Bouchart Mild, Skiddadler Milk Stout and Hazy Hare, a light pale ale which will be back in cans.

At the same time they have been working on expanding their range of gluten free options. Good news, as well as Pintail, they will now be brewing White Face IPA gluten free too! Its debut will be at the end of October at Norwich Beer Festival.

Following the great response from his beer push to London for testicular cancer awareness, David is back out training with his blue barrel for an even bigger challenge next year.



David is looking out for seven pubs, each to host a one-night event in September 2023, so please get in touch with him if you would like to help with his crazy adventure!

Every few weeks, the **GRAIN** team gets together at the brewery and they "grain-storm" or chat/discuss/argue about beers they have tried, beers they want to try, and most importantly, beers they want to create. The winners (and sometimes the losers) then go on to become scribbled recipe notes, a bit of internet research and a few phone calls, and on to the next stage of a test brew. Some beers make it no further, whilst others are tinkered with and destined for bigger fermenters.

One of these beers was on sale throughout August and is



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called The Taxman's Taken All My Dough. This is a table beer, 2.5%, it is very light, gentle and fruity and very easy going.

They have also decided to brew Redwood to the original recipe when it was 4.7%, which will be ready for Norwich Beer Festival. And for Oktoberfest they are brewing a Dunkles Weizen beer which will be available in cask and keg.

HUMPTY DUMPTY have just had their third event this year at the brewery, following Not the Reedham Beer Festival in July and their St George's / Shakespeare Festival in April.



UK-TOBERFEST was designed to be a British twist on the traditional Oktoberfest with plenty of good beer, cider, music and food. And as usual their annual Open Weekend will be 3 and 4 December at the brewery.



They also have produced new brews, Breydon Bitter, 4.1%

ruby-brown with classic and new British hops, was an addition to the Broadland themed beer list.

Completely different to Breydon are Pharos IPA, 4.7% a pale and hazy cold style IPA, and Radshlaeger, 4.6% Düsseldorf style Altbier, launched at the UK-TOBERFEST.

The Humpty Dumpty team are now busy thinking about new ideas and brews for Christmas, so don't forget to add their open days to your calendar.

POPPYLAND had a very busy time at the brewery, with plenty of visitors attracted by the lovely weather and a good selection of beers. Brewing continued through the summer although at a reduced pace due to the extremely high temperatures.

Their new cask beers Summertime Booze and Lazy Days were at the North Walsham and Cromer beer festivals. The Hop In, North Walsham and the Red Lion Hotel, Cromer continue to have their beers on draft, whenever Poppyland can supply them.

Three new brews are due to be launched shortly, Norfolk Jester a single hopped beer based on the fabulous Jester hop, Arthur's 100 a best bitter, and Autumn Light a session beer.

Their search for new hops

took them to the Brook House Hop Farm in Bromyard, where they discovered a couple of great British hops that will feature in their beers in the new year.



2023 will see the launch of a small batch Heritage range, where they will revisit some of the great beers Poppyland Brewery have made over the last 10 years.

LACONS have started work on their brewery expansion plans, having recently secured grant funding and additional buildings at their Falcon Brewery in Great Yarmouth. The projects will allow room for extra tanks and the addition of a small pack canning area, with further plans for a kitchen and taproom to complement their museum and shop.

The brewers are busier than ever. Their new 4.4% premium lager, called Igr, can now be found in pubs, bars and restaurants across the region. Cove, Cloudless and Dunes were real thirst quenchers this summer, and their next seasonal release is Sundown, a full-bodied radiant red ale with notes of caramel and toffee, closely followed by Phantom, a 4.6% pale ale with a complex soul of ripe citrus fruits.

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Norwich Beer Festival PUB CRAWL

You may wonder why we're suggesting a pub crawl when Norwich Beer Festival is on... but please bear/beer with us.

ON Tuesday to Friday at the festival, there's a break between the lunchtime and evening sessions. That's two free hours you could spend doing anything you want... so why not visit a few Norwich pubs!

One of the aims of Norwich Beer Festival is to support and work with our amazing local pubs, not compete with them. After all, the festival is only on for one week a year and we want our pubs to be here for many years to come.



Join us on the pub crawl

If you'd like to have a bit of company and get to know some Norwich & District CAMRA members, we'll be doing this crawl on Wednesday 26 October. You're very welcome to join us, just meet at 2.30pm outside the festival entrance. Afterwards we'll head back into the festival and you'll get queue jump so you don't need to wait!

Of course you can do the crawl at any point before, during or after the festival, these pubs are well worth a visit all year round.



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Old Hunstanton, T: 01485 534411



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Terms & Conditions: The coupon is only valid when £30.00 or more is spent on food. The coupon cannot be exchanged for cash. The discount does not apply to spend on drinks. The coupon cannot be used with any other promotion. The coupon(s) are not valid in excess of 8 people. The coupon is valid from 1st April to 30th June 2022. Excludes Sundays and Bank Holidays.

To receive details of future promotions, please tick here CODE NIPS



ARTICHOKE

LEOPARD

PLASTERERS ARMS

KINGS HEAD

NORWICH BEER FESTIVAL

**Norwich Beer Festival
PUB CRAWL**

On to the pubs...



The Kings Head has recently won East Anglian CAMRA Pub of the Year 2022 and is four times winner of Norwich and District CAMRA Pub of the Year. The pub run by Ali, Charlie and the team, dates back to 1709 has two bars - the main bar at the rear has a separate entrance from the courtyard at the side of the building. It is a traditional pub serving eight changing casks, two ciders, a wide range of European bottled beers and pork pies, but no keg lines.

including the Youngs, Crawshay & Youngs windows. In 2018 the owner of award-winning brewery Golden Triangle took over the pub and carried out a full renovation. It now has an eight-handpump bar with a large selection of craft beers and real cider in bottles, plus a food offering from Stoked vegan BBQ. Their latest venture is Arti Cans and Bottles in the old police station next door, which serves a selection of bottled beers, cider and wine to enjoy in the courtyard or take away, along with a range of deli produce.

with a large selection of craft beers on keg and in cans. It has a working Watneys Red Barrel often used to serve sour beers. This 19th century pub was sold by Batemans in 2013 and reopened in 2014 following refurbishment.



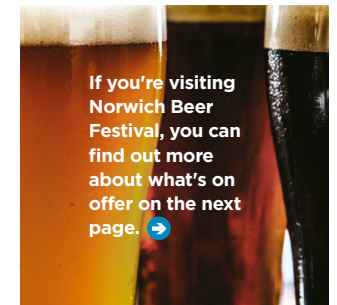
A freehouse since 2011, this pub was at the forefront of building the craft beer scene in Norwich, helping bring forward cask, keg, cans and bottles from small breweries around the country. With up to twelve handpumps and a large number of keg lines, there is always a wide range of beers from craft brewers. The Plasterers also serves pizza at the weekends, has a weekly quiz night and holds annual Fem.Ale events. It's a cosy, friendly corner pub dating from the 19th century and used to be known as the Knackers Arms in the 20th century.



A Norfolk CAMRA Pub of the Year, winning the Branch and County titles in 2019, The Leopard is a dog friendly pub, run by Justin and Emma, and dog Dude, who's the inspiration for their house beer, Chin on Bar from Mr Winter's. The pub boasts an open fire, underfloor heating and air conditioning making it comfortable all year round. It's a light and airy traditional pub, with a corner bar and a courtyard to the rear with ample seating and plenty of beer related nik naks. It normally serves up to six ales from its eight handpumps,



The Artichoke's original building was a 15th century leper house before turning into a pub in the 18th century. The current building was built in 1932 by Carters in the Arts and Crafts style, with flint walls, two round rooms and a pointed roof. It still has original features inside



If you're visiting Norwich Beer Festival, you can find out more about what's on offer on the next page. ➔

44th Norwich Beer Festival

Norwich Beer Festival returns to The Halls from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 October 2022, celebrating some of the best, most curious and most interesting beers around.

Many of the 400 beers on offer are from local brewers, representing styles from light golden ale to stouts and porters. Live music returns to the festival, this time in Blackfriars Hall on Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday.

A quick tour...

As you arrive at the festival you'll enter St Andrews Hall, where you'll pick up your glass and beer card. The main bar has beers listed alphabetically by brewery, there's a section with vegan and gluten-free beers, a section featuring beers from the wood, the Cider and Perry Bar and wine. The Curiosity Bar is here too, for beers with a difference, featuring unusual flavours and ingredients. A selection of clothing and merchandise with this year's logo, and beer glasses from previous years, will be on sale at the Products Stand, and you can also have your festival glass engraved.

As you move towards Blackfriars Hall, you'll find a mead bar and snacks, and in the hall itself many more beers and hot food available. Travelling through the Cloisters you'll find the World Beer Bar inside the marquee, and there's seating in both of these areas.

Opening hours will be a little different this year, with longer

lunchtime sessions and an earlier start in the evenings.

MONDAY

4pm-5pm CAMRA MEMBERS PREVIEW

5pm-10pm

TUESDAY

11.30am-3pm / 5pm-10pm

WEDNESDAY

11.30am-3pm / 5pm-10.30pm

THURSDAY

11.30am-3pm / 5pm-11pm

FRIDAY

11.30am-3pm / 5pm-11pm

SATURDAY

11.30am-9pm

A small percentage of tickets are sold in advance for each session, but you can always turn up and queue to get in without a ticket. However if you want to skip the queue, grab one of the last few advance tickets (or your glass and beer card starter packs).

Entry to all sessions is FREE to CAMRA members, and you do not need to buy advance tickets.

If you're not already a CAMRA member, you can chat to our membership team and join at the festival. You'll receive two free pints, free entry for the entire festival and loads of member benefits throughout the year. This offer also applies to anyone who joins during October at join.camra.org.uk. Just show a screenshot of your membership number and joining date to the membership team when you arrive.

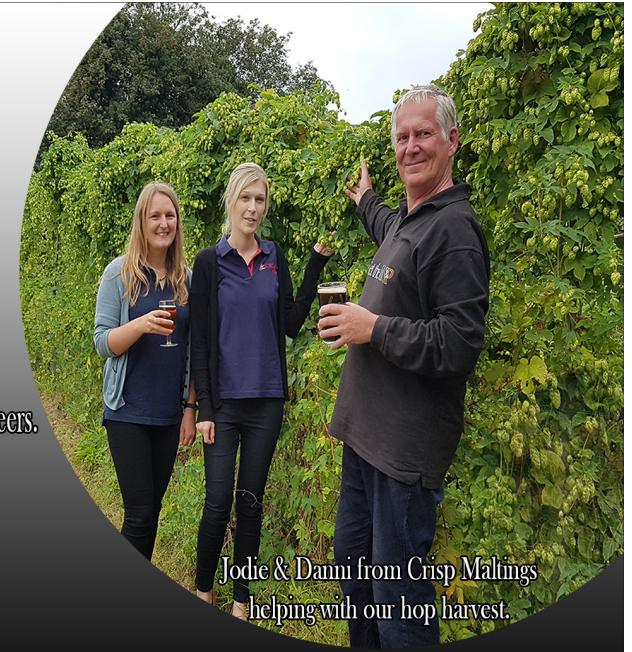


ADVANCE TICKETS



VOLUNTEER

Norwich Beer Festival is run solely by volunteers, if you're interested in helping out with the many different roles involved, take a look at the volunteering form



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An Historic Tour of Kings Lynn

On a warm July evening, a small group of us gathered outside the railway station for a walk around one of the oldest parts of Kings Lynn, to learn more about the area and the pubs which used to operate there.



Standing in the forecourt of the railway station, Jeff, our guide for the evening, mentioned six pubs or hotels which once stood close to that point. They were the Old Town Wall, Rein Deer, Duke of Edinburgh, East Anglian Hotel, Portland Arms (the Railway Hotel from 1892) and the Fenman (formerly the Tap Room of the East Anglian Hotel and formerly called The Greyfriars Tavern). Unfortunately, the only one now open is the Fenman, directly opposite the station.



Our next stop was The Walks outside St. John's Church, where we learnt that the Park View Hotel, which I remembered being on

Blackfriars Road when I moved to Kings Lynn in the late 1980s, was the Cozen's Temperance Hotel in 1905. It was taken over by Helena Anderson and her husband in the 1960s, who called it the Hotel Mildenhall. Helena is the daughter of Peggy Spencer, the famous dancer. It is now a residential area called Parkview.



Moving across the road, our next stop was by Greyfriars Tower, which is one of only three Franciscan monastery towers in England and is Grade I listed. It is only still standing because it was saved from the dissolution of the monasteries due to its use as a navigation mark.



From here we could see where the Admiral Tap had been on St. James Street. It opened in 1997 but only survived for a couple of years. Although it may not stand out much now, the building it was in is now listed, as it is one of the earliest reinforced concrete-framed buildings in England. It was built in 1908 and similar buildings did not commonly appear until the 1920s, with very few examples

remaining today. Concrete only became an accepted material for exteriors when Wembley Stadium in London opened in 1923. The building is now in a bit of a sorry state but, hopefully, someone will come forward to save it one day.

Another pub that we would have been able to see from this viewpoint, until the early 1980s, was the Rummer, named after a tall cylindrical glass, with one originally featured on the pub. Passing the bingo hall, Jeff explained that the building on the site now had been built as a theatre in 1938, to replace the original, which had been built in 1814 but destroyed by fire in 1936. Before the fire the theatre had been showing films and the new one continued to do so, with the first film to be shown being the Prisoner of Zenda with Anthony Coleman, and the last one, Summer Holiday with Cliff Richard in 1962.



It came as no surprise that there were a lot of pubs around the Saturday Market Place, two of which are still open. The White Hart, built in the mid-17th century and almost completely rebuilt in the 19th century, claims to be the oldest continually licenced premises in town. The norfolkpubs website (www.norfolkpubs.co.uk) traces the landlords back to 1791, although the first reference to the pub is 1623. The other is Wenn's, which was known as 'The Restaurant' when it opened in 1872 and became Wenn's Hotel in 1961, when a new licence was issued. James

and Lizzie Wenn took over the pub in 1877.

In addition, over the years, other pubs in the area included the Three Pigeons, Duke of Fife, Recruiting Sergeant and Crown Hotel, which stood on the site of the car park on Church Street. Before London Road opened this was the main route into town and the Crown was a major coaching inn. It suffered from the opening of the railways in 1846, which changed the way people travelled, and in 1852 was advertised as 'offered to let with immediate occupation'. It was closed by 1891.

The tour finished at the quay in front of Marriott's, which is housed in a building built in 1580, with some stone coming from demolished religious buildings, possibly Whitefriars.



It was now starting to rain, so the group returned to the Saturday Market Place to enjoy a pint or two at Wenn's and thank Jeff for the interesting tour. I'm sure that we all look at some parts of the town differently now that we know more about its past.

■ Andrea Briers



My first visit to...

PETERBROUGH BEER FESTIVAL



Tuesday 23 August 2022 saw a milestone, my first major UK beer festival other than Norwich. It's only taken 45 years of (legally) drinking to get here!

A group of a dozen, organised by Simon Davey of the Trafford Arms, caught the train from Norwich. On arrival in Peterborough, the majority of the gang headed for the Brewery Tap on Westgate (offering a full range of Oakham Ales). Alan and I decided eating was a sensible option, so we found a local Italian offering half pizza and chips for a fiver, what's not to like!

We rejoined the group at the Brewery Tap, which had a great setting inside and out. It was a good chance to meet the others, as there were a couple of familiar faces but mostly new acquaintances.

Next stop was the Ostrich on North Street, an excellent pub

with a wide range of beers and ciders. As you'd expect, it was very lively and we bumped into a few other Norwich & District CAMRA members.

Our final stop before the festival was Charters Bar, a well known floating pub on the River Nene (I'd previously visited on a Norwich City FC trip a few years ago). We found it atmospheric and enjoyed great beers again, with plenty of outside space to enjoy the sunshine.

Then to the festival, a short walk back across the river and on to The Embankment.

My first impression.... this is big! Two large marquees and a massive outside seating/standing area, surrounded by food and trade stalls.

The main marquee contained the ale, one continuous bar along the far side, alphabetically by brewery. Interestingly payment was by cash or card, not tokens as I'm familiar with. We bought our

festival glass after entry, with the option to return it at the end of our visit.

The range and quality of beers was excellent as you'd expect, and we tried far too many for me to list! The overall Champion Beer of the festival was Thornbridge's Cocoa Wonderland, with No Man from IVO Brewey taking second place, as well as winning the Beers from a New Brewery category.

As the weather was glorious, we ventured outside and luckily found a bench seat, very nice and civilised. All in all, a great day out, highly recommended and we've already booked it in our calendars for next year - 22 to 26 August 2023.

Cheers!

■ **Andy Fox**



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YOUR GUIDE TO BEER FESTIVALS

October 2022 to February 2023

October

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 October
OKTÖBYFEST 2022
Sir Toby's Beers, Norwich Market
sirtobysbeers.co.uk

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October
DARBYFEST 2022
Darbys Pub, Swanton Morley
darbyspub.co.uk

Monday 24 to Saturday 29 October
44TH NORWICH BEER FESTIVAL
The Halls, Norwich
Free entry to CAMRA members
or join on arrival
norwichbeerfestival.org.uk

November

Wednesday 9 to Saturday 12 November
CAMBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL
WINTER
The Guildhall, Cambridge
cambridgebeerfestival.com

Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November
10TH AUTUMN BECCLES BEER
FESTIVAL
Beccles Public Hall
Becclesbeerfestival.co.uk

Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November
HUNSTANTON ALE AND MUSIC
FESTIVAL
Hunstanton Town Hall

Wednesday 16 to Saturday
19 November
HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT BAY
WINTER ALE FESTIVAL
Kingsway Hall, Dovercourt
Tendringcamra.org.uk

Tuesday 30 November to Saturday
4 December
38TH PIG'S EAR EAST LONDON BEER
AND CIDER FESTIVAL
The Round Chapel, Hackney
pigsear.org.uk

December

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December
HUMPTY DUMPTY BREWERY OPEN
WEEKEND
Reedham
humptydumptybrewery.com

January 2023

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 January 2023
WHITTLESEA STRAW BEER
Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire
strawbear.org.uk

Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 January
2023
14TH COLCHESTER WINTER ALE
FESTIVAL
Colchester Arts Centre
colchesterbeerfestivals.co.uk

February 2023

Thursday 16 to Saturday
1 February 2023
GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL
WINTER (BURTON BEER AND CIDER
FESTIVAL)
Burton upon Trent Town Hall
Camra.org.uk



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Debenham Downs and Ups

The Mid Anglia CAMRA branch extends about 15 miles around Diss. One of the area's more outlying villages is Debenham, to the south of Diss, about halfway to Ipswich.



'Picturesque' is overused when describing our villages, but in Debenham's case it's extremely accurate. Its great variety of buildings and architecture span many centuries, with an impressive church and some 20 shops, from a thriving Co-op and a classy pork butchers, to varied craft and vintage outlets - 'We buy junk, we sell antiques'.



ABOVE (Red) Lion, Debenham is predicted to reopen, the sign will be back.

What about pubs? Old-timers say (often at length) that in former times, Debenham boasted dozens of pubs, inns, taverns and beer rooms. Today, in such a large and expanding village, one pub remains, plus a bar at the Leisure Centre. It is a familiar tale that resonates with many villages and small towns across the country. So what happened?



ABOVE Wings clipped and a sorrowful picture of decay.

About 25 to 30 years ago, there were four pubs spread throughout the village, each with a distinctive character and clientele. Approaching from Diss, the Red Lion had real ales and food, a well-used function area, meetings of various sports and social groups, and a regular set of customers, some fairly well-to-do. Opposite, the Angel was especially busy late afternoon with trade folk, and again in the evenings with music, darts and similar. Farther along the road, the Woolpack was also busy, but perhaps more a place for mature drinkers and pub grub. At the Ipswich end of the village was the Cherry Tree, frequented especially by younger customers, with music, discos and similar entertainment. Perhaps a

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Debenham Downs and Ups

rather clichéd description, but that's how it was.

The Red Lion was first to fall, bought in 1999 as a residence. Some villagers pointed to the fact that another pub was opposite, and that the village was (in those times) well supplied with alternative eateries. Also in 1955 it had become a listed building, Grade II, with accompanying benefits but also restrictions.

The Cherry Tree began to fade after a number of problems with management, disturbances and late or under-age drinking. It tried renting out one bar for Thai/Chinese eat-ins and takeaways. By 2008 it was closed. After a protracted series of planning ideas, including renovation as a pub and demolition for housing, it was extensively redeveloped. In 2014 it became the now-thriving Debenham Veterinary Practice.

The Angel was two and a half large bars and a good all-round drinking and eating venue, with various real ales. When new owners took over in 2011, there followed a series of changes that puzzled many villagers. The bar area was greatly reduced. Alleged onerous limitations were placed on various aspects of running a pub, such as playing music and general opening hours. Facing such difficulties, the Angel stuttered, staggered, and then closed in about 2018. It is currently



ABOVE The Woolpack, Debenham: Lively, friendly, comfortable, reliable local.



ABOVE Woolpack ales: Well respected, the brewery is just round the corner.



BELOW Former Cherry Tree, Debenham: Now a thriving veterinary practice.



languishing. In February 2022 a planning application to become a commercial unit with more residential room was rejected following an appeal.

Which left open, of the four, only the Woolpack – the smallest pub in what is a rapidly growing settlement. A homely, characterful place, the ‘Woolly’ changed hands in 2022. It is now open from 11am every day with food sessions gradually building up. Real ales are well kept, keenly priced, and mainly from Earl Soham Brewery – which happens to be just around the corner.

A common story of recent village pub destinies? But the tale is not quite over. The Red Lion, now the Lion, is being converted back to a licensed premises for eating, drinking, functions and accommodation. It opened briefly for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and should reopen fully in the near future. Debenham's pub-goers of all persuasions eagerly anticipate the event.

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Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri/Sat	12-2pm & 5:30-8pm
Sunday	12-4pm

Pub of the Year

We're through to the final stages!



Things are hotting up in the CAMRA Pub of the Year 2022 competition as it enters the super-regional stage. Our Norfolk county winner, the Kings Head in Norwich, has beaten the winners from five other counties to take the regional title - East Anglian Pub of the Year.

Pubs in the competition are judged on their atmosphere, decor, welcome, service, inclusivity, overall impression, but most importantly - the quality of live beer, real cider and perry.

But what does that really mean? And how does the whole competition work? Check out our handy guide and see which pubs have made it to the next round.

ROUND ONE - BRANCH January to March

Each of CAMRA's 300+ branches can select their Pub of the Year, Cider Pub of the Year and Club of the Year. For the rest of this guide, we'll talk about the Pub of the Year competition.

CAMRA members from each branch vote for the pub they feel best meets the criteria set out in each category. The highest scoring pub becomes the Branch Pub of the Year and, along with any runners-up, is presented with a certificate.

ROUND TWO - COUNTY April to May

Branch winners within each county compete against each other. In Norfolk we have four branches, so members who wish to take part in the judging visit all four pubs and vote again. This year the Norwich and

District branch winner, the Kings Head, came out top and became Norfolk County Pub of the Year.

ROUND THREE - REGION June to July

County winners are grouped within their region and compete again, with members voting just as before. There are 16 regions and each contains several counties or areas. East Anglian includes six counties - Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. In the last edition of Norfolk Nips we covered this stage of the judging and planned an epic road trip! We ended up doing a combination of driving and trains to visit all six pubs, a huge undertaking but we were so pleased to take part in the judging. Even more so when we saw the result!



The Kings Head is East Anglian Regional Pub of the Year!



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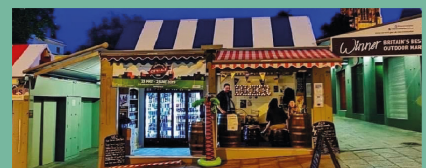
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Where we are now...

ROUND FOUR - SUPER REGION August to September

The 16 regional winners are put into four groups for the super-regional stage. CAMRA regional directors carry out the judging this time with the results announced in early October.

The last time a pub from Norfolk got this far in the competition was when the Fat Cat in Norwich went on to win the final round and become CAMRA Pub of the Year 2004!

FINAL ROUND October to November

By this point there'll be four finalists remaining, one from each super-regional group. This is where it gets serious! Which pub will be named the overall winner? The judges will complete their scoring and the results will be out at the end of November and we'll be sure to let you know who the winning pub is.

Who's in the running?

Regional winners include everything from micropubs in converted shops, to traditional ale houses and brewey taps. There's a pub set up by CAMRA members in 2015 and a half-timbered pub, bequeathed to villagers in 1608. What they all have in common is the chance to compete for the coveted title of CAMRA Pub of the Year 2022.



Central Southern
Bell, Waltham St. Lawrence



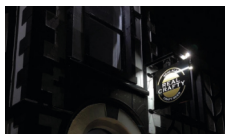
East Anglia
Kings Head, Norwich



East Midlands
Horse & Jockey, Stapleford



Greater London
Hop Inn, Hornchurch



Greater Manchester
Real Crafty, Wigan



Kent
Larkins' Alehouse, Cranbrook



Merseyside, Cheshire
Magazine Hotel, New Brighton



North East
Station House, Durham



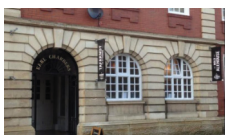
Scotland and N. Ireland
Commercial Inn, Dunfermline



South West
Pelican Inn, Gloucester



Surrey and Sussex
Hornet Alehouse, Chichester



Wales
Mold Alehouse, Mold



Wessex
Olaf's Tun Craft Ale Bar, Woolston



West Midlands
Tamworth Tap, Tamworth



West Pennines
Fifteens at St. Anne's, Lytham



Yorkshire
Heaven & Ale, Barnsley



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REAL ALE IN THE USA

In 2016, Pete Wells wrote in Norfolk Nips about his experience of the beer scene in North America and the birth of craft beers. He and his wife Susan recently went back for another visit and have given us an update...

On my previous visit to the US, hand-pulled beer was still quite hard to find, so it was with interest we crossed the pond to see how things have changed.

It was not an auspicious start when we discovered that our Washington hotel bar was an Irish theme pub! A quick trip downstairs though discovered three reasonably priced local beers on the taps – so immediately things started looking up. No handpump though but two days (and several breweries) later we struck gold at the Bluejacket Brewery in the heart of the restored naval shipyards. The lone real ale was an English bitter called Love Language – and very good it was too. This beer set the tone for the next three weeks, as



Hand-pulls amongst the shiny brewing kit at Bluejacket in Washington DC.

most of the hand-pulled beers we encountered were English style beers of one sort or another.

The handpump at Bluejacket turned out to be the only one we saw in any of the ten Washington breweries we visited. However, as we had little info on the beer scene in Washington, we didn't think we'd made too bad a start in the USA. Outstanding breweries for me were Other Half Brewing (their double dry hopped Forever Ever hit the spot) and Atlas Brewery – the barrel-aged Saison de Brett black honey beer was to die for! One thing we did note was that most bars sold at least one local beer, so even in a non-beer city like Washington things are looking up.



English style cask beer at the Alarmist in Chicago.

Beer the way it should be served at Wayfinder, Portland.

Next stop was Chicago – of which I heard much from friends who have been there for the annual Blues Festival. Again, local beers were everywhere – even in the famous blues bar Buddy Guy's Legends, where we also admired the expensive signed guitars nailed to the wall high up behind the bar! Our only hand-pulled beer in Chicago was at Alarmist Brewery Tap where the Pantsless Grapefruit and Papaya was described as an English Pale Ale! What we hadn't taken into account in Chicago is that although there are 50 plus breweries, Chicago's population is five times that of Norfolk! Using the antiquated elevated railway (probably scarier than standing in a glass box hanging off one of the worlds' tallest buildings – which we also did!) and the excellent bus services, we managed to get to thirteen breweries – along with a few bars of course.

Brewery highlights were Pilot Project (a brewing kit shared by five different brewers) and Ravinia Brewery where I had a very unusual milk brown ale! Sadly, we didn't get to the famous Goose Island Brewery as they were running a ticket only Stout Fest that week – sold out needless to say!

We had left the best to last, as one should. Portland, Oregon (the locals call it Beervana) is the home of craft beer in the

USA. Being a much smaller city than the two we had visited, most of the breweries were within walking distance of each other. Here we found out that close competition has forced many to seek a unique selling point.

Cascade, for example, specialises in sour beers (we had a job to drag ourselves out of this one) and most of the breweries, and even many of the bars, feature a hand-pump. Of the sixteen breweries we visited, six had handpumps, Away Days and Upright each had two! Wayfinder and Binary breweries have both ditched their handpumps and were selling straight from a cask.

You don't get many breweries like this! Stained glass and beer in Portland. Well, Steeplejack is in an old church!



For us Portland will be remembered forever for the afternoon we spent at Cascade, immersed in Brettanomyces, and the real dark mild at Level Brewing was superb, but for sheer atmosphere, the hand-pulled Alewife Dark Mild at the Steeplejack Brewery tap will be hard to forget.

To sum up – yes, there is real ale over the Atlantic. And it seems to be on the rise. Craft breweries in the UK take note...

■ Peter & Susan Wells

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dates for your diary

October

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

Norwich First Friday Five / 8pm

Vine, St Andrews Brewhouse, Playhouse Bar, Golden Star, White Lion.

WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER

Lunchtime Campaign Trip / 11.45am

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll / 12noon

Coachmakers, Champion, Coach & Horses, Lamb, Bell, Last Pub Standing.

MONDAY 24 OCTOBER

44th Norwich Beer Festival

CAMRA Members Preview 4pm / Public opening 5pm.

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

Norwich Beer Festival Special Stroll / 2.30pm

Meet outside The Halls, then Kings Head, Artichoke, Leopard, Plasterers and back to Norwich Beer Festival at 5.30pm (queue jump!)

November

FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

First Friday Five / 8pm

West End Retreat, Fat Cat, Belle Vue, Alexandra Tavern, Reindeer.

MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER

East Norfolk CAMRA AGM / 7pm

Tomestone Saloon, Great Yarmouth eastnorfolk.camra.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Lunchtime Campaign Trip / 11.45am

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER

Norwich & District Branch Meeting and Social / 7.30pm

Venue TBC.

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Afternoon Campaign Trip / 1pm

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll / 12.30pm

George Hotel, Unthank Arms, Eaton Cottage, York Tavern, Rose Tavern.

December

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER

Norwich First Friday Five / 8pm

Rosebery, Angel Gardens, Duke of Wellington, Stanley, Artichoke or Malt & Mardle.

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER

Lunchtime Campaign Trip / 11.45am

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

West Norfolk Branch Christmas Crawl in Norwich

Angel Gardens 11am, Rosebery 12pm, Duke of Wellington 12.45pm, Whalebone 1.30pm, The Brewery Tap 2.15pm, Marlborough 3.15pm, Artichoke 4pm, Leopard 4.45pm, Plasterers 5.30pm, Kings Head 6.15pm, White Lion 7pm, Golden Star 7.45pm.

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

Norwich & District Branch Christmas Crawl

Fat Cat & Canary 2.30pm, Coach & Horses (Thorpe Road) 3pm, Jubilee 4pm, Lollards Pit 4.45pm, Wig & Pen 5.15pm, Walnut Tree Shades or Sir Toby's 6.30pm, Coach & Horses (Bethel Street) 7.30pm, Coachmakers Arms 8.15pm, Trafford 9pm, Kings Arms 9.45pm, Rose Pub & Deli 10.20pm
Feel free to join in and leave wherever you like - we don't expect you to visit every pub!

WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll / 12noon

Kings Head, Merchants House, Ribs of Beef, Glass House, Maids Head Hotel Bar, Louis Marchesi.

January 2023

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY

First Friday Five / 8pm

Edith Cavell, BrewDog, Wildman, Franks Bar, Belgian Monk.

WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY

Lunchtime Campaign Trip / 11.30am

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll / 12noon

Georgian Townhouse, Coach & Horses (Union Street), Coach & Horses (Bethel Street) then your choice of Sir Toby's Beers or Vine.

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY

Norwich & District Branch Meeting and Social / 7.30pm

Venue TBC.

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

Evening Campaign Trip / 7.15pm

Norwich Castle Meadow, booking essential.

February

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Norwich First Friday Five / 8pm

Brickmakers, The Brewery Tap, Marlborough, Cottage, Leopard.



HOW TO BOOK

Please use the CAMRA Tcky site to book your place on our Campaign Trips. Contact socials@norwich.camra.org.uk with any questions.

The LCR

The ADRIAN FLUX Waterfront

SEPTEMBER

GLORYHAMMER

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STARSAILOR

Sat 10th • WF

EMBRACE

Sun 11th • LCR

ARKELLS + LIGHTS

Thur 15th • WFS

MIMIC STREET PREACHERS

Fri 16th • WFS

ADORE DELANO

Thur 18th • WF

MARTIN SMITH

Tues 20th • WFS

THE SLOW READERS CLUB

Fri 23rd • WF

AFFLECKS PALACE

Sun 25th • WFS

FEROCIOUS DOG

Fri 30th • WF

OCTOBER

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS

PET NEEDS + TRUCKSTOP HONEYMOON
Sat 1st • LCR

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

Sun 2nd • LCR

THE ENEMY

Wed 5th • LCR

PETROL GIRLS

Wed 5th • WFS

THE ZANGWILLS

Fri 7th • WFS

BEABADOOBEE

Sat 8th • LCR

THE ROCK ORCHESTRA BY CANDLELIGHT

Sun 9th • LCR

ANVIL

Wed 12th • WFS

LOOP

Thur 13th • WFS

FROM THE JAM + BUZZCOCKS

Fri 14th • LCR

PULLED APART BY HORSES

Sat 15th • WFS

THE SNUTS

Mon 17th • LCR

SUGABABES

Tues 18th • LCR

SOLD OUT

THE DAMN TRUTH

Tues 18th • WFS

THE AMAZONS

Wed 19th • LCR

SPORTS TEAM

Thur 20th • LCR

THE UNDERTONES

Thur 20th • WF

THE HUNNA

Fri 21st • WF

DIRTY DC

Sat 22nd • WF

ALFIE TEMPLEMAN

Sun 23rd • WF

THE FEELING

Mon 24th • WF

THE WOMBATS

Tues 25th • LCR

SOLD OUT

THE UNDERCOVER HIPPIE

Wed 26th • WFS

MIDLAKE

Thur 27th • WF

BLACK MARBLE

Thur 27th • WFS

PIP MILLETT

Sun 30th • WF

BURY TOMORROW + AUGUST BURNS RED + MISS MAY I + THORNHILL

Mon 31st • LCR

NOVEMBER

THE PRETTY RECKON

Thur 3rd • LCR

SOLD OUT

SET IT OFF

Sat 5th • WF

BEARS IN TREES

Sun 6th • WFS

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Mon 7th • WF

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DEVIN TOWNSEND

ALDOUS HARDING

MAY

THE QUIREBOYS

DEAD KENNEDYS

OCTOBER

GABRIELLE



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LAST ORDERS



HORSING AROUND

Our trip to judge the county winners of the CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards took us to Sweffling in Suffolk. The White Horse turned out to be a fine pub, but did not serve food, so we went half a mile down the road to the White Horse at Rendham, before returning to our accommodation for the evening, the White Horse at Leiston.

By this time a pattern was emerging, reinforced by our short journey to Framlingham next day which took us past another couple of White Horses, maybe Easton, Badham or the one in Framlingham itself. Surely it is coincidence, but maybe not. The WhatPub.com oracle revealed that there are or were well over double the number of White Horses in the county as Red Lions, considered to be the most common pub name. Sure, Suffolk

is known for its horses, but when we came across the Framlingham Horse Show all the beautiful Suffolk Punches were 'chesnut', as they say locally.

As I lay half awake on the hot summer night, I conjured up all kinds of possible explanations. Maybe they were named in honour of the hero of the first Wembley Cup final in 1923, the White Horse that helped to clear the pitch allowing the one-time world's most expensive player, David Jack to score the first goal in Bolton Wanderers' triumph. Perhaps there are White Horses cut into the chalk hillsides nearby, but if there are I certainly didn't see them.

Perhaps there was a super White Horse from which generations of other super horses descended, in the same way the Durham Ox revolutionised cattle breeding?

Maybe a local White Horse won the Grand National and lots of villagers made a fortune. A general offering to buy his demobbed soldiers a pub provided they called it The White Horse after his favourite mount?

A job lot of pub signs going cheap? A reference to the White Horse of Hanover, demonstrating support for the monarchs from that dynasty? Wouldn't want the King to suspect that we support those horrid Jacobites, no sir! Convinced by any of these wild theories? No, me neither.

What I can say is that East Suffolk is a beautiful part of the world. Visit it, meet your friends there. But remember that if you agree to rendezvous in the White Horse, you may need to be very clear which one you mean.

■ Jeff Hoyle

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