

No. 200 | Spring 2023

CAMRA NATIONAL MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR 2020-2022



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for
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Norfolk

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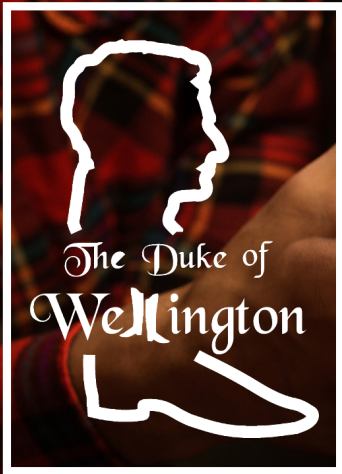
DELIVERING PUB AND BREWERY NEWS
SINCE 1982

Seaside Stroll
in Gorleston

Pub of
The Year

Summer
Festival Guide

Magazine of the Norfolk Branches of the Campaign for Real Ale



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Hello from the Editor

Welcome to Norfolk Nips Number 200!

This edition is a celebration of how our magazine has developed since it was created in 1982. You can read articles from the archives on page 32 and some history from past editors Tony Cantle and Michael Baldwin on page 22. A huge thank you to them, and everyone else who has helped us get to 200 editions. Sadly Adrian Hennessy, who was editor for 13 years, has recently passed away, you can read about his contribution on page 44.

Magazine production in CAMRA has changed so much since the first Nips. This edition is a full colour 56 page A5, designed on a Mac and printed using the latest digital print technology. Most of the writing and editing is done on laptops and mobile phones, with online document sharing allowing for live version changes.

In future, the editor's role will probably change even more, as AI technology becomes more commonplace. One column in this edition has been written using ChatGPT. See if you can spot it!

As usual you can find all the latest Pub News on page 6 and Brewery News on page 14. Our Festival Guide with the summer's best events is on page 38, including Norwich City of Ale which starts on Thursday 25 May.

We head to East Norfolk for a seaside stroll in Gorleston-on-Sea on page 26 visiting the coastal town's real ale venues, including a brand new micropub. Nearby, the Great Yarmouth Beer and Circus Festival returns from Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 May.

Judging has begun in the 2023 CAMRA Pub of the Year competition, with each of the four Norfolk branches choosing their top pubs, read more and find out how to get recognition for your local on page 46.

I've just come back from the annual CAMRA Members Weekend, AGM and Conference in Sheffield, which I'll tell you more about in the next edition. Some news I can share is the result of the CAMRA Magazine of the Year competition, which you can see on page 45.

I hope you enjoy our 200th edition, please let me know what you think.



LUCY COUSINS
editor@norfolkknips.org.uk

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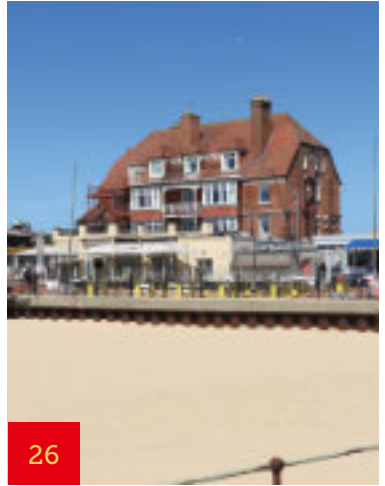
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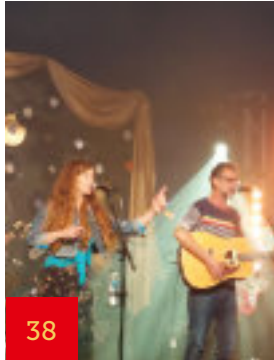
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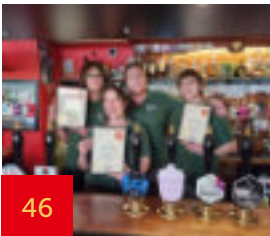
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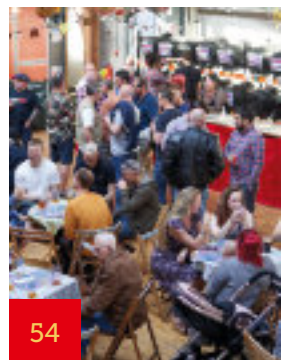
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Subscription details

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: **Norfolk Nips, 91 Tennyson Rd, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5NG**

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PUB NEWS



Openings, closings and happenings

NORWICH AND DISTRICT

Writing at the start of April, at the end of a quarter which we expected to be disastrous for pubs, thankfully we can say that the period, while difficult, has been better than expected. However, we have had a number of pubs, in particular those owned by the still-rapacious pubcos, closing and looking for new tenants.

Three such pubs, all owned by Stonegate, are the **York** on Leicester Street, which reduced its opening hours and stopped serving Sunday roasts in January, citing the cost of living crisis; the **Edith Cavell** on Tombland, which closed in March and was put up for rent at the ridiculous amount of £42,000 pa (but will be reopening by the time you read this); and the **Gibraltar Gardens** on Heigham Street, which closed in December and reopened in February.



Good news for fans of music venue the **Brickmakers** on Sprowston Road, which reopened in January under the management of Claire and Dale Brooks, who also still run the **Walnut Tree Shades**, Old Post Office Court. Stonegate, owners of both pubs, are looking for new tenants for the latter, as Claire and Dale are leaving in May. At the Brickmakers, they recently held a successful cancer charity day for Keeping Abreast and It's on the Ball, with ten live bands, kids activities and food trucks. They've got four real ales on tap and plans include more all-day events and homemade food served from a brand new kitchen.

The **Freemasons Arms** on Hall Road closed late last year, and

has reopened recently under new management. The **Gatehouse** on Dereham Road is currently closed and sadly the **Surrey Tavern**, Surrey Street has been converted to a cafe.

Frank's Bar on Bedford Street closed after 15 years, with the owners citing problems with renewing the lease, in addition to Covid and the cost of living crisis. The tenant of the **Berstrete Gates** left at the end of February, with the pub now being run by the (independent) owner.

Planning permission was granted in February to convert the **Windmill** on Knox Road to housing. The pub had been closed since Covid struck in March 2020, and was deemed unviable. This was mainly because part of the car park was sold off and converted to housing some years ago, hiding the pub from the main road, and not helped by the fact that the sign was removed, contrary to



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planning permission requirements. The pub was marketed at a ridiculous figure of £375,000 freehold, despite the surveyors and valuers stating that it was not viable as a pub! But despite this charade, Norwich City Council approved the conversion and we've lost yet another pub.

The **Golden Star** on Colegate changed hands in March, with long-term publican Lily LeGrice moving on after over 20 years at the pub - on behalf of the Norwich & District Branch, we'd like to thank Lil for everything she's done over the years for the cause of real ale and pubs, and wish her well for her future plans.

The **Trafford Arms** on Grove Road closed for a couple of weeks in March for a refurbishment, with new flooring, seating and some tall tables at the rear.



Darby's at Swanton Morley closed in late January, with the leaseholders, who also run the **Cock** at Dereham, stating increased energy prices, the 'bleak' general economic outlook, and the cost of living crisis as causes. They were hopeful that a new leaseholder could be found.

The **Blue Bell** at Langham closed in January, while the **White Hart** at Rockland St Mary reopened after closing in January for a refurbishment, which included a new bar, furniture and opening up the bar and dining room.

The **Green Dragon** at Wymondham and the **Kings Head** at Hethersett, both run by the same operator, closed in February, with owners Admiral Taverns and Stonegate respectively looking for new tenants. The Green Dragon has since been taken over by Victoria and Grahame MacDonald, who also run the **Cellar House** in Norwich and the **Old Ram** at Tivetshall St Mary. The pub was run by Grahame's five-times great grandfather, Caudell Clarke, from 1822 to 1850, so the pub is back in the family's hands after 173 years!

More good news for Aylsham, which has a new pizza restaurant and bar in the old Post Office, appropriately named **Stamp!** We happened to be in Aylsham at the end of March on a campaign coach trip, visiting the **Unicorn** next door, and discovered the bar, which has a huge pizza oven behind one of the old counters, and a square bar serving a Wildcraft 'house' beer on tap, plus cans from Duration.

The restaurant at the **Coldham Hall Tavern** in Surlingham has reopened after a winter refurb, and we believe the **Black Lion** at

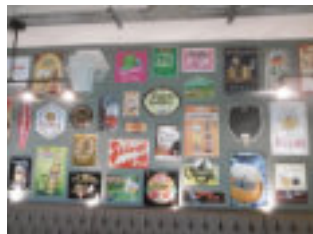
Walsingham has changed hands - any information welcome!

The **Eccles Tap** (or Old Railway Tavern to give it its correct name) has closed following the death of the owner Pat. Our condolences go to her family, including son Rowland who is hoping to reopen the pub at some point.

The **Star** at Lessingham has closed, we believe the owners are looking for someone to take on the lease at this former Branch Rural Pub of the Year.

The **Butchers Arms** at East Ruston, which closed in March 2020, is open Friday and Saturday evenings, and is offering a takeaway service for food including Sunday roasts.

WEST NORFOLK



David from Moon Gazer Brewery is once again undertaking a barrel push in aid of charity in October. One of his stops along the way will be the **Warehouse Taproom** at Beers of Europe in Setchey on Friday 6 October. This is just one of the events coming up at the venue. There is currently no cask beer, but



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there is a cold room ready and it is intended to introduce it in the future. Meanwhile there is plenty of bottled and craft beer to choose from.

The **Blue Bell** at Stoke Ferry is running a regular games evening on Tuesdays from 7-10pm with free complimentary yummy snacks.

Munford Cricket Club have been in contact to tell us that they always have real ale on sale. Contact David McGechie the Bar Manager at dmcgechie@gmail.com for more details.

The **King Charles III** at Sporle, formerly the Peddars, Squirrels Drey and for those with a long memory, the Chequers, is up and running with beers from Lacons on offer.

Landlords Ben and Sarah Handley have announced that they will be stepping down from the **Duck Inn** in Stanhoe. They have given six months' notice and Elgood's are looking for new landlords for this award-winning gastropub.

Steam-Shed beer from Swaffham has been spotted on sale around the area, notably in the Old Windmill at Great Cressingham, Harpley Rose and Crown, Gooderstone Swan and Litcham Bull. Check out their Facebook page for details of deliveries and the latest brews.

Samuels Farm Shop at Walpole St Andrew now has a pub on site, called **Brothers in Arms**, which sells Abbot Ale alongside a house beer produced by Greene King.

The **Angel** at Watlington has won yet another award for its food, this time the Sunday lunches. They have been selling beer from Purity recently.

The **Globe** at Upwell, shortlisted for our Pub of the Year and the King of Hearts in West Walton, both Elgood's houses, are looking for new landlords.

Necton **Windmill** closed suddenly in January, and there's currently no information on the future of the pub.

The **Stag** at West Acre has reopened and is rather different to its previous incarnation. At the moment it has no cellar suitable for cask beer, however, there is usually a cask on the bar. Check out their bathroom murals - very unique!



EAST NORFOLK



There is some exciting news for real ale fans in Gorleston. Firstly, a new micropub has opened in the former Deja Brew cafe called the **Thirsty Crow Taproom**. Focusing on both cask and craft ales, the pub will be open from Wednesday to Sunday. Also in Gorleston, the **Pub on the Shrubs** now offer a range of ales, following the takeover of ownership by Clive Simmons, who is also at the helm of the **Green Bear** on Gorleston High Street. Along with the **New Entertainer** winning Branch Pub of the Year 2023, the area is becoming a prime real ale destination.



In Great Yarmouth, the **Barking Smack** has reopened for the summer season under the same ownership, so expect a range of well-kept ales if you visit. The **Blackfriars Tavern** now offers a large selection of bottled Belgian beers along with a

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With the holiday season starting, the **King's Arms** is once again open all week, as are the **California Tavern** in California, **Whites Lounge Bar** in Scratby, and the Branch Rural Pub of the Year 2023, the **Locks Inn** in Geldeston. The outside garden area at the **William Adams** in Gorleston is now open until 11pm.

The **Horse and Groom** in Rollesby is back open, after a brief closure following a dispute over council tax. Local residents helped raise the money needed through a crowdfunding campaign.

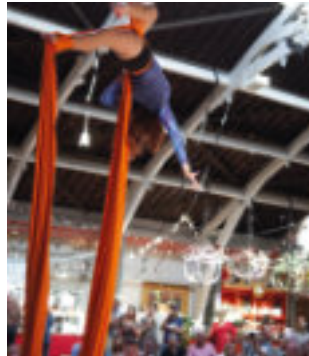
Reopened, under new management is the **Victoria Inn** in Martham, but no news yet on the real ale offering.

In Caister, the **Ship Inn** has reopened presumably with a temporary tenant, as the banner seeking a new manager remains in place. The Gate has just reopened with a new tenant, Steve Thornton of LEC Pubs, who also runs the **Woodman** in Norwich and the **Lady of the Lake** in Oulton Broad. **Branford's** in Caister have made a successful application to the Great Yarmouth Borough Council

and received permission to keep their outside marquee installed until March 2026.

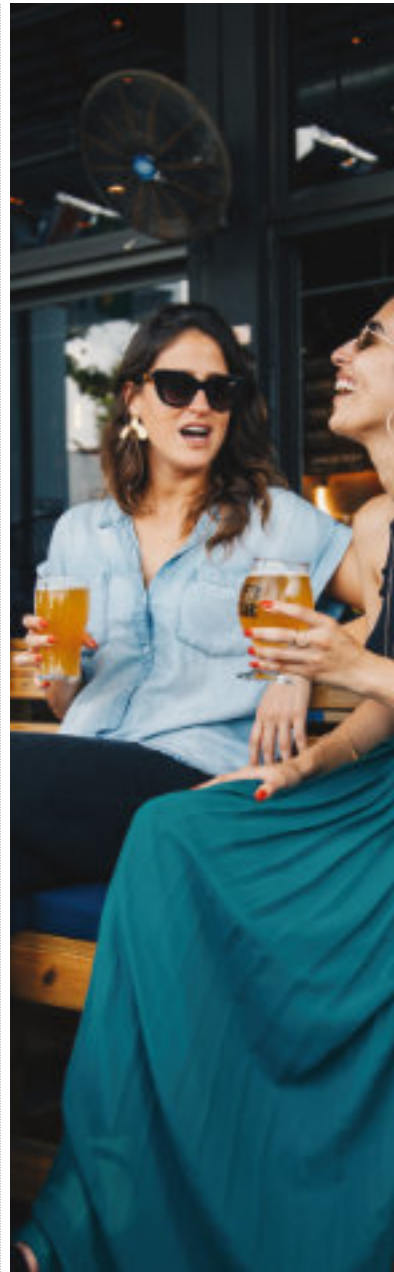
A quick mention for Lorna, the owner of the **Lacon Arms** in Hemsby, for her support to the local community during the recent issues with coastal erosion.

Work continues on the publication of a guide to the best real ale pubs, in both the towns and wider Broads area covered by East Norfolk branch. Look out for a copy in the next couple of months.



The **Great Yarmouth Beer and Circus Festival** takes place from 25 to 28 May, and once again our branch members will be manning the bar in the Drill House on the opening evening. Come along and say hello!

Finally, congratulations to two breweries in the area, **Humpty Dumpty** and **Lacons**, for picking up awards for their ales and bottled beers.



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



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BREWERY NEWS



What's brewing? News from Norfolk Breweries

■ OLÍ FERNANDEZ

Lots has happened in the world of brewing since this magazine started about 40 years ago, when the industry was dominated by big national breweries. Thankfully, the number of independent breweries has increased massively since then, with many breweries opening and closing over the years. You might remember breweries like Front Street, Spectrum, Northcote, Norfolk Square, Fakir, Slewfoot and Reepham, as well as many others.

Spring sees the return of Norwich City of Ale, with lots of brewery collaborations and new brews to sample, this time for a month from 25 May to 25 June cityofale.org.uk

DURATION launched their core and seasonal range in the middle of March. There's a 4.2% American Light Lager, Good Times; two pales, the 3% Table Pale, End Up, and 4.4% Another Day Done; their popular 5.5% Turtles IPA and Bet the Farm, a 5.2% Farmhouse Pale brewed over

in their barrel store. Their head brewer, Derek Bates, enjoys brewing and drinking across a diverse range of beer styles. He says that experimentation and creativity are undeniably at the heart of craft brewing, but some drinkers can be put off by too much choice.



Their seasonal beers have a mix of styles, from Cuttin' Grass, a 4.5% Italian Pilsener; Dripping Pitch, a 6.7% West Coast IPA for summer; 5.5% Harvest Bier, a Märzen, for autumn; and two stouts for winter, a 6.5% American Ebb & Flow and the 8.5% Imperial,

Fortitude, with notes of bittersweet chocolate and roasted coffee.

Duration Brewing Tap Days are back for 2023. Visit the dog and family friendly brewery taproom, with a courtyard beer garden and six beers on draught, plus wine, coffee and soft drinks. Tap Days offer relaxed drinking with grazing boards and street food available on rotation. Every Friday 4-8pm Saturday 12-8pm plus Bank Holiday Sundays 12-8pm. The shop is also open for take outs Monday to Friday 9-5pm. More info and booking at durationbeer.com

AMPERSAND are commissioning their new 20hL brew kit which will double their brew size - that's why they were on a reduced brew schedule recently. Their brewery tours are on the first Saturday of each month priced £15 per person including drinks. They've just celebrated their second Taproom anniversary, but if

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you missed that, their 6th birthday celebration will be from 25 to 28 May, with six special birthday beers to try!

The Taproom Bar at **GRAIN** brewery reopened in March after a refurbishment and change to the license, so visitors can now head to the brewery and enjoy their beers every Friday and Saturday from midday until 7pm, with extended hours in the summer. The bar has been

kitted out with brass and copper fittings and leftover bits from the brewery inside, and German bierkeller tables outside.

Grain Fest will be back this year on 24 June, with local bands Brother Pit and The Butcher's Dog plus plenty of beers and street food. They have been working on more Grain Storm beers for 2023, with the first being Chevallier 47 heritage malt brew,

followed by the Belgian beer collaboration with Belgian brewery Braxatorium Parcensis, ready for the City of Ale. There will be Grain Storm beers available every month, so watch the space!

BULL OF THE WOODS have been busy developing and producing some new ales to increase their range, with 4% Hacienda, which is very refreshing and easy drinking, and a 5% hazy IPA called

Happy birthday to **HUMPTY DUMPTY** who are celebrating 25 Years... Here's their story.

The brewery started life with a small 5-barrel (180 gallon) plant in the stables at the Railway Tavern at Reedham in 1998. With the railway connection, the brewery took its name from the GER Class T-19R steam locomotives that operated on the Norwich to Lowestoft line in the early 20th Century. The R (rebuild) 2-4-0 engines were front-heavy, banded to hold higher pressure, and looked as if they might fall off the line, so they were dubbed Humpty Dumpties.

In 2001, the brewery expanded to new premises on the edge of the village and bought an 11-barrel brew kit from Deeping Ales. Five years later, new owners took the reins and began to grow the business further and 17 years on, Lesley and Stephen George are still running the brewery, with the Humpty team.

The first beer brewed at the Railway Tavern was a golden session bitter that remains Humpty Dumpty Brewery's flagship ale: Little Sharpie. This, like many of the beers, also has a railway connection, being a locomotive named after an engineering firm, Sharps. Many other railway-themed beers are still around or have been introduced to the

portfolio: Cheltenham Flyer, The King John and Golden Gorse, Railway Sleeper, Swingbridge Stout and Branch Line Bitter.

Other beers have a local Norfolk Broads theme such as Reedcutter, Swallowtail and Broadland Sunrise. There are many other seasonal and one-off beers brewed from time to time, as well as beers specially designed and brewed for events and customers.

Humpty Dumpty also has a spin off series of Norfolk Broads Brewing beers, designed and brewed by Lesley and other women in the industry - brewers, publicans, suppliers. Little Sharpie gained national recognition in 2009 as a CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain bronze medal winner (cask), and has achieved many local and regional awards since.

Red Mill and Broadland Sunrise have both been crowned CAMRA Champion Beer of Norfolk (cask). Little Sharpie's stronger version, Big Sharpie, was brewed to celebrate the brewery's 500th brew in 2012 and is now a regular feature every 100th brew. It won the 2022 Norfolk CAMRA Champion crowns for Bottle and Cask.

Banjo Hill. Both have proved very popular so far.

Co-owner and head brewer Seamus Clifford, along with his brother and business partner Rory, are planning an expansion of the brewery to try and keep up with the demand for their beers. The first phase of the expansion will be a new larger capacity kettle which will ease the current production process limitations and will allow them to brew more.

The brewery shop is selling open cask beers for bag in box requirements, a range of bottled beers and brewery merchandise. Its opening times are Thursday 2pm till 6pm and Friday 10am till 6pm. You can find the Bull of the Woods brewery, along with its brewery shop at: Brook Farm, Kirby Cane, Bungay, South Norfolk. NR35 2PJ



MOON GAZER have been busy with new brews and collaborations. The brewery welcomed Dimitri from Adept Brewery in Leuven to create a unique brew as they combined a 16th century Belgian oat beer recipe with an old British mild. The

resulting beer style is an oat old ale, so may be a completely new style! The beer is a 4.5% called Dankere Hass, which is Dark Hare in Flemish.

Dimitri and the Moon Gazer team will also be creating a new twist on Belly White, which will be a Belgian Blonde IPA and available in spring. The brews are part of a City of Ale initiative, pairing Belgian and Norfolk brewers to create new beers and form ties between the regions.



Moon Gazer are also celebrating White Face, 5% IPA being named as CAMRA's Norfolk Champion cask beer of 2023! Also, the SIBA awards named Moon Gazer a national finalist in the Community Engagement award, highlighting David's epic charity Beer Push to London and the team's work on supporting local cancer charity It's on The Ball!

The brewery is continuing to support pubs with their monthly 'pub only' specials, which will see the return of Ostara Spring ale, a coronation ale called Hares to the King, and the 2023 version of Belly White. Their collaboration cider with Whin

Hill in Wells is also a step closer and due for a spring launch, following a competition for the public to name the new North Norfolk cider.



LACONS have been working on a few collaborations, the first one is a limited edition with London Goodness Brewing. Its a 4.5% hazy pale ale called Hazy First Light using Nectaron, Centennial and Mosaic hops. The brewers from Goodness joined the Lacons team to collaborate in this seasonal beer. Hazy First Light is a nod to Lowestoft being the UK's most easterly point and the first place to see daybreak.





Next up is Origins, a 4.8% classic Golden Ale in collaboration with Lacons' long standing hop and malt suppliers, Charles Faram and Crisp Maltings. It marks ten years since Lacons reclaimed their independence and is designed to pay tribute to their brewing origins, hence its name. Their third new beer is Vista a 4.2% Pale Ale, golden orange in appearance, packed with Vista hops, brewed with Munich malt, and giving tropical notes.



S&P will be open regularly on at least one Saturday afternoon each month, after their trial opening proved popular. For more info check with the brewery. They're also having an open day in May and will confirm the date

soon. And finally they arranged with Wildcraft the presentation of a cheque to MIND from last year's City of Ale charity beer Esprit.

WILDCRAFT BREWERY

open days return in May and their Wildfest will be back on 26 and 27 May, and in September. They're also running a series of week-long pub takeovers, including the Cross Keys at Dilham and the Worstead White Lady - check their social media for more information.

If anyone is interested in the foraging side of what they do, they have 'Foraging Walks' that you can join them on from May. For more information about when and where are they held visit wildcraftbrewery.co.uk

Spring will see their new beers, a 4.4% edition of Wild Anchor, and Wild Steamer a 4% amber ale, made entirely with new British hops.

TINDALL ALES have collaborated with Hof Ten Dormaal, a Belgian farmhouse brewery who grow and malt their own barley, as well as a lot of other ingredients. Due to a shared love of coffee, hops and innovation, both breweries decided to brew an oatmeal pale ale with cold brew coffee for a smooth, aromatic, but not bitter, flavour. Belma hops add subtle strawberry and stone fruit notes. The beer will be available for the City of Ale in May.



After the success of last year's monthly specials, they're continuing to innovate with new monthly brews for 2023. A few of the popular ones from 2022 will return as seasonal specials, but will remain limited edition. They're also looking to expand their keg range this year, continuing to push unfiltered keg-conditioned beers, which retain their flavours from secondary conditioning, as well as fine creamy carbonation levels.



Solar Flare, a 4.5% Pale Ale is joining their core range. They blended Czech heritage Pilsner malt for a super-pale foamy beer, with English Oilcana hops to squeeze in lots of juicy mango and passionfruit flavour. Then they dry hopped with Citra for a touch of zest and citrus.



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POPPYLAND started their 11th Anniversary with a collaboration with Brouwerij de Coureur from Leuven. Bart, the founder and owner of the brewery, came over and they brewed a Norfolk Wit Bier, using styles and techniques from both Flanders and Norfolk. The very limited edition beer will be available at the Leuven Beer Festival on 20 May, in case anyone is over there at that time, and of course at the City of Ale launch party on 25 May.



Closer to home Poppyland are supplying the 'Seasonal Ale' to No1 Cromer Fish and Chip restaurant, so a good tip for next time you visit the coast. With ever-rising costs it is

becoming more difficult for the brewery to supply cask beer, but they will continue to supply local beer festivals and other events, and they aim to have their beer at the Red Lion in Cromer at least every other month.



After Easter, they'll have three special limited edition saisons available in bottles, perfect to enjoy over the summer.

Additionally they have re-brewed their classic Beagle Ale, incorporating popular Argentinian infusion Yerba Mate, the Pope's favourite drink. It is selling very well so you'll have to be quick to get one!

Apart from brewing, they're celebrating their IWSC awards for their Barrel Aged Gin, which won silver, and East Coast Rum, which got bronze. As summer is coming, they'll revert back to opening Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons, plus introducing Sunday lunchtime tasting sessions. Please check poppylandbrewery.com or Facebook for details.



CAMRA have recently launched a new brewery information system* named Pilgrim (all new CAMRA IT systems are named after varieties of hops) which you can use to find further details of all the breweries mentioned above, and any other brewery in the UK.

Just go to
bis.camra.org.uk

*for any BLOs out there, Pilgrim is the new, and massively better, BIS!

Vegan Real Ales from Norfolk



Queen of Hops (3.7%)



Three Tails Bitter (3.9%)



One for the Wood (4.0%)



Golden Torc (4.3%)



The Red Queen (4.5%)



Spiral Stout (4.6%)



Prasfo's Porter (5.2%)



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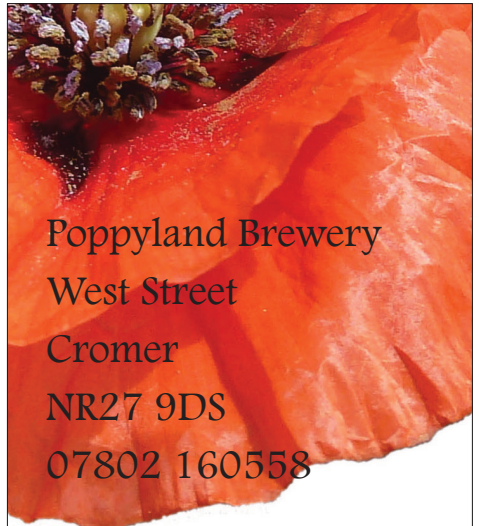


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Cask Force was born in 1989, when a West Norfolk CAMRA delegation from Kings Lynn, including Ian Wells, Jeff Hoyle, Ros Harre and others, headed to Thetford. Their mission, to encourage like-minded members to become 'more active'. I'm pleased to report that all went swimmingly that evening, and they not only found us to be fully house-trained, but that most of us remain good friends to this day. And, in the company of Stew Chambers and Charlie Askew, I found myself regularly attending branch meetings and functions across the West of the county. Jeff mooted the idea of a newsletter, having shrewdly noted that Stew and I worked in the printing trade, and my then wife, Mandy, was a graphic designer.



Memories of Cask Force, West Norfolk's branch magazine

■ TONY CANTLE

My congratulations to the Norfolk Nips teams throughout the ages for reaching their 200th edition. Well done to all involved!

Things were underway as a committee was born. Editorship was bestowed upon me, and no-one argued against my 'Cask Force' working title. A speedily produced mock-up was ready to take around prospective pubs to generate advertising revenue. Once we'd made enough for the main print run, the first edition hit the racks in 1990. From the start, there was no desire to replicate styles from branches across the country, which were a bit staid, clunky and often parochial. At A5 in size, and with just eight pages, the first Cask Force was easy to pocket and crucially, just as easy to read. We knew the regular cask ale drinker was likely to give it a whirl, but we were also keen to attract the casual pub goer (and potential future CAMRA recruit).

Reasoning that pages of beer-bore stuff would put people off, we tried to ensure that articles and features didn't outstay their welcome and were not exclusively 'local', and any brewing or pub industry facts were

understandable. A big dollop of humour and a touch of irreverence was deemed essential.

We had a fine team at the helm; Stew sold advertising space faster than a well-pulled pint, regular contributors meant no shortage of material, and we had two excellent illustrators, Paul Lacey and Kev Southgate. Jeff could be relied upon for the harder-hitting stuff, Charlie released his inner Monty Python, future editor Pete Rider supplied witty bar-room observations, a Mr. Angry column (actually a nice chap, more Mr. Miffed), while my cunningly rehashed bits, under assumed names, filled in the gaps. Not forgetting an original and eye-catching cartoon on the front cover.

Very soon, both the quarterly print run and pagination increased. To keep things fresh, new contributors were actively encouraged, and virtually nothing submitted was ever rejected, with editing also kept to a bare minimum. Different coloured papers and inks were used, which definitely helped our newsletter stand out when displayed on the pub bar. We had a proper people's mag for the cask ale lover.

I lasted about four years before burnout, handing the reins to Pete, who did a terrific job in sometimes tricky circumstances, the novelty of a branch magazine having worn off to some degree. Pete eventually relinquished the role to an 'editorial team' including Nige Nudds, Judith Moore, and many others, all supporting Stew Chambers.

My personal highlights were witnessing customers reading the very first edition at The Crown in Downham Market, other branches requesting permission to use our articles (always granted), a quality national newspaper ripping-off Charlie's 'Nibbles' article and the epic 'Cask Force Task Force'. But my overriding memory is being involved with a great bunch of people, who put in a huge amount of effort over the years.

Cheers to you all!

An Editor remembers...

■ MICHAEL BALDWIN

Back in 2009, I was looking for a new challenge, and as it happens, the Norwich & Norfolk Branch of CAMRA wanted a new Editor for Norfolk Nips.



Issue 150 was imminent, so it was agreed that I could sit in on the production of the Autumn 2009 issue and take the reins for the next one.

Previous Editors Graham Freeman and Warren Wordsworth failed to put me off. I did make one condition, and that was that I would do it for a fixed term of five years. After that I reasoned that the magazine would become a tad stale and would need someone else to freshen it up. I was right.

Fortunately, I was not alone as Chris Lucas became the West Norfolk Editor at the same time.

I quickly found that my ageing PC wasn't up to it and taking photos at events with my trusty compact Fuji didn't quite cut the mustard when professional photographers were present. So somehow I persuaded the committee to stump up the cash for a new laptop and a Fuji bridge camera. Much better (although the compact produced better results than the new camera in my

opinion. One that was never shared!)).

Chris and I met regularly with the production team; Dan Speed, Tamoko Design and Chris Shilling, Advertising. Great sessions in wonderful pubs. We even got around to discussing Nips sometimes... Although Warren had given me a list of what had to go in each issue, I still needed copy. Fortunately, a source was close at hand, because being Editor meant that I was a non-executive member of the Branch Committee. It was a hard life attending all those meetings in the back room of The Fat Cat!

By now I was visiting pubs, breweries and beer festivals and meeting some wonderful people along the way who gave me plenty of encouragement, decent copy, and beer. My heartfelt thanks go out to them as they helped to make Norfolk Nips what it is today.

I made some changes to the style, slowly, (the first full page photo on the front cover did not appear until Spring 2012, the thirty years old edition) and re-introduced a regular competition.

I was the Branch Rep for the first City of Ale Festival in 2011 which was a wonderful

experience and the festival remains one of my favourites.

When I took over, I knew that Norfolk Nips was good, I'd seen other CAMRA magazines and so for me the Holy Grail was the Magazine of the Year Award. In the five years I was Editor, only two magazines ever won: Nottingham Drinker and Pints West. They were good, but both were A4 size. Nottingham Drinker was packed with text, an impressive read but one that took ages, whilst Pints West went for large photos. I considered that our compact A5 size was perfect, as it didn't take up much space in the dispensers and could be slipped into a pocket to take home.

Now, as I write we are still CAMRA Magazine of the Year, since winning in 2020. Thanks to Lucy and everyone who helped to make this come about.

Highlights of my time include commissioning Roger Protz to write an exclusive article for Nips, being mobbed (by at least two people) as I distributed Nips at the Scarborough AGM, and wonderful words of encouragement from readers.

Happy Days!





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And for its size, Gorleston has more than its share of fantastic pubs and restaurants, here's a guide to the best places offering real ale.



Starting on the High Street, where buses from Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft all stop, we head to Gorleston's newest pub and the only micropub in the area! **THE THIRSTY CROW** opened in April, opposite the Library on Lowestoft Road, selling keg and cask beers, and boxed ciders.



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SHORT BLUE

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DOCK TAVERN



THE THIRSTY CROW



NEW ENTERTAINER



ODDFELLOWS



CLIFF HOTEL



PIER HOTEL



2

Our second stop is 2023 East Norfolk Pub of the Year, the **NEW ENTERTAINER** on Pier Plain. A place for everybody this one - the customers as varied as the beers. Take care when you leave as the door opens out onto a road. A great local, with pool, darts, live sport on TV, a wide selection of real ales and over 50 gins!



3

Just up the road on Cliff Hill is the **ODDFELLOWS**, known for serving Lacons beers, hosting live music and a glorious west facing garden out the back. A perfect sun trap.



4

Continuing along the clifftop, the **CLIFF HOTEL** is a great spot for a drink or a meal, with a covered terrace overlooking the beach.

Walk down the steps from the Cliff's terrace or take a detour through the front of the hotel and take the slope towards the beach. As well as stunning views, you'll also see the spot where Banksy left his mark during his 2020 'Spraycation'.





Walk past the bandstand, the Pavilion Theatre and the Ocean Room, we arrive at the **PIER HOTEL** famous for hosting a rooftop gig in Danny Boyle's film Yesterday, watched by thousands of fans from the beach! Also home to the **PUB ON THE PIER**, it's another good option for food, with plenty of seating indoors and a dog friendly beachfront terrace.

Turning away from the beach, opposite the harbour, the **BELLE VUE** is a recently refurbished, friendly local, but sadly has no real ale.

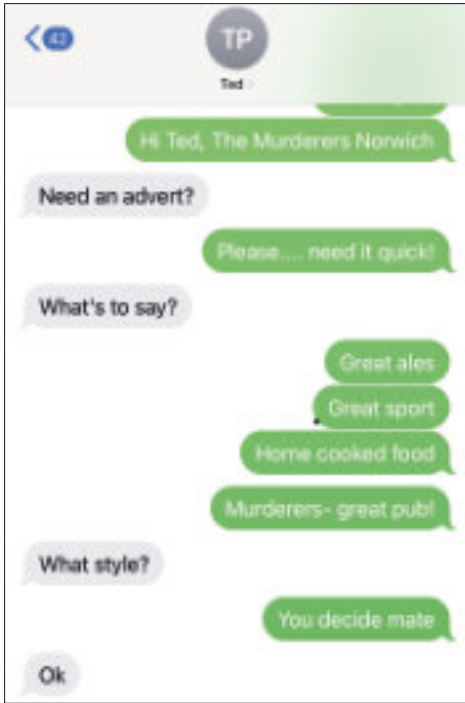


Walking along Riverside Road past the small RNLI museum, we make a left turn to the **DOCK TAVERN** which regularly hosts charity music days. It has a secluded garden at the back and sunny seats at the front, with food served at lunchtimes.



From there it's a short walk to the **SHORT BLUE!** Sitting between the river and the High Street, it's tiered garden has great views of the ships coming and going. Named after the largest fishing fleet in the world, which was based in Gorleston, with the ships all displaying a small blue flag.

Leaving the pub via the front door, we're once again close to bus stops serving all main destinations.



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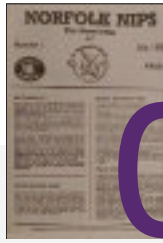
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NORFOLK NIPS THROUGH THE YEARS

We've delved into the archives to bring you some memorable moments from the first decade of Norfolk Nips.

From the first edition in 1982, Nips set out to fight for pubs and real ale. Campaigning was central to its aims as shown in the demands put to Watneys Brewery in 1986 and the report of the closure of Tolly Cobbold in 1989.

And the Norfolk Nips awards of 1991 show the magazine's satirical side, addressing issues we still face today, like smoking, sexist advertising and unsympathetic pub refurbishments.



01

NUMBER 1
July 1982
WE'VE MADE IT!

This is the first edition of Norfolk Nips, the newsletter of the Norwich and Norfolk branch of CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale. The free newsletter will be distributed regularly to local pubs where landlords agree to copies.

The purpose of the newsletter is twofold: firstly to inform ordinary beer drinkers about CAMRA and its aims, and secondly to provide for CAMRA members a supply of news about local pubs, beers, breweries and local CAMRA campaigns.

It is hoped that Norfolk Nips will act as a forum via which members throughout the county can pass on news to others. Contributions are invited from all readers, whether in the form of articles, letters to the editor, or pub news. Readers are particularly urged to send in details of any real ale changes they discover in pubs, so that readers can update their local real beer guides.



23

NUMBER 23
Feb / Mar 1986
**ELGOODS PUMP
TRICK**

Wisbech brewers Elgood are incurring the wrath of local CAMRA branches by persisting with their policy of using handpumps for pressurised beer. Even keg Fenland Bitter and mild are now increasingly served by handpumps, the latter at one time commonly with pump clips advertising 'cask' mild. CAMRA believes that the public expects only unpressurised, cask conditioned beer to be served by handpump. Elgoods houses in West Norfolk are affected by this unfortunate policy and drinkers are advised to ask in any Elgood pub whether the beer is unpressurised before ordering, until such time as Elgoods decide to cease this confusing trick.





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28

NUMBER 28 Christmas 1986 WHAT WE WANT FROM WATNEYS

CAMRA would like to reveal the real intentions behind their recent campaign concerning Watneys in Norfolk.

The campaign is NOT simply a complaint on behalf of CAMRA members about the quality of beer in Watney houses. The campaign IS intended to expose and curb Watneys' monopolist Norfolk activities and to cut pub closures. The reasons for the CAMRA boycotts were 1) to draw attention to Watneys' Norfolk monopoly (a word not mentioned in recent press coverage) and its adverse effects on ALL beer drinkers (not just CAMRA members) - brewery and pub closures, the loss of local beers, high prices and the restriction of competition and choice; 2) to demand significant increases in competition in Norfolk's pubs by large scale pub swaps and beer exchanges between brewers; 3) to demand that Watneys offer their surplus pubs WITH LICENCES.

Over 620 Norfolk pubs (56%)

are tied to Norwich Brewery, Whitbread having the second largest number (111) (1985 figures) The extent of this monopoly is difficult to grasp. If the Watney group were to reduce their holding to 25% (still a monopoly, but more palatable) they would need to swap around 350 Norfolk houses with at least two brewers in exchange for pubs in other parts of the country.

WHAT WE'VE GOT SO FAR
Local CAMRA representatives have had two recent top level meetings with the local Norwich Brewery arm of the Watney group to discuss these matters. Norwich Brewery are actively pursuing the pub swap idea with local breweries and are converted to the principle, but are experiencing reluctance on the part of the other brewers.

However, announcements of swaps are expected soon, and one swap has already taken place - in Norwich the Coach and Horses, Bethel Street will reopen as a Greene King pub in exchange for the Kingdon Arms, Cambridge, which is now a Norwich Brewery house. The likely final extent of this swap scheme is yet to be seen, but we await more news with optimism.



44

NUMBER 44 Aug / Sept 1989 TOLLY BREWERY CLOSES

On Friday 14th July 1989 Brent Walker closed the Tolly Cobbold in Ipswich. Which Camerons Brewery will be next?

It came as no surprise to hear that Brent Walker has closed the Tolly brewery with a loss of 66 of the 300 jobs. The excuse is that the Cliff Quay brewery, established in 1746 when Thomas Cobbold transferred his business from Harwich and rebuilt in 1896, has no lager capacity.

It remains to be seen which brews will be retained when production is switched to Camerons' brewery in Hartlepool, though it has been mentioned that Tolly Original and 4X will be brewed there. Old Strong would be one of the most missed beers if omitted from their portfolio.

If there is any consolation in this, perhaps it is the chance that Camerons' highly regarded beers will enjoy a wider distribution - hopefully without loss of quality.



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53

NUMBER 53

Feb/Mar 1991

THE 1990 NORFOLK NIPS AWARDS

As a means of reviewing the activities of 1990 the editors once again present their awards for outstanding achievement.

GENDER-BIASED JOURNALISM AWARD

Norwich Mercury & Advertiser for stating "do you like a quiet drink with the wife, or a chance to meet the lads and play snooker or darts?". We thought this type of attitude went out many years ago.

NEW PUB AWARD

Red Lion, Stiffkey for providing villagers with a local pub for the first time in over 20 years. It's good to see this former Watney tied house has reopened as a freehouse.

FRESH-AIR AWARD

Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe, for creating the first non-smoking pub in Norfolk, giving non-smokers the choice of visiting a pub where they do not have to breathe in other people's fumes. How about one of our fine city pubs following this good example!

GOOD-VALUE AWARD

Pottergate Tavern for offering customers Greene King Mild for only 80p throughout 1990 while other pubs repeatedly increased their prices.

CITY CLOSURE AWARD

Fruiterers, Norwich for adding to the ever increasing list of closed city pubs... George & Dragon, La Rouen, Bell, Coach & Horses, Swifts, Jolly Butchers, Shirehall...

BREWERY REOPENING AWARD

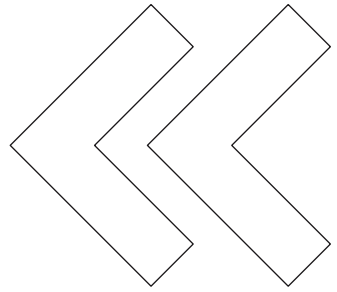
Tolly Cobbold for opening despite Brent Walker's efforts to close it. This historic event shows that the claims of big businesses that some breweries are economically unviable are not always correct.

SYMPATHETIC REFURBISHMENT AWARD

Tap & Spile, Norwich (formerly White Lion) for their successful extensive refurbishment during the early part of the year. The excellent atmosphere and choice of beers has been maintained.

SEXIST ADVERTISING AWARD

Camerons Stud Lite for an advertising slogan of "it's up and coming". Wouldn't it be



better to promote healthier living and safer driving for men and women rather than themes of masculinity and sexual capability?

PUB SURVIVAL AWARD

The Nelson, Norwich for surviving 1990 after Watneys failed to get it pulled down for a housing development. It is now a Belhaven pub, and has been taken over by Nick & Gail (ex Earl of Leicester). A pub to support!

LOST OPPORTUNITY AWARD

Jolly Butchers, Norwich for being gutted, ruined and wasted. Another blow to Norwich's pub heritage. It could have been one of the success stories of the year if it had been sold to a pub-caring brewery.

NON-SYMPATHETIC REFURBISHMENT AWARD

Artichoke, Norwich for their subtle alterations - mirrors, video screens, non-stop disco music, dark blue settees with pink piping and chromed tubular tables & chairs. Need we say more!

These awards do not necessarily express the views of CAMRA or its branches.



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SUMMER FESTIVAL GUIDE



Norwich Amateur Brewers are delighted to welcome you to the Coachmakers Arms for our 2023 Beer Festival. There's loads to get involved with - special events, guided tasting sessions, educational talks and exciting guest appearances... not to mention the opportunity to sample over 24 different beers crafted for you by members of our club. Get involved, vote for your favourite and have fun!

Tutored beer tasting with trained professionals, to help educate your palate. Triangle Taste Test: a blind tasting, one brewed by a pro brewery against one brewed to the same recipe by a Norwich Amateur Brewer... which will be your favourite? A presentation and tasting with our special guests from Ampersand Brewery. Meet and chat with brewers and club members to learn why they love making top-class beer at home. We are also expecting

to welcome two other pro breweries from East Anglia to be with us on the day for additional talks and tastings. **MANUP?** representatives will be on hand to talk mental health awareness in-between the beer business. Vote for your favourite beer from the 24 on offer, and give eternal glory to one of our members. A chance to sample our charity beer brewed by Ampersand in collaboration with Norwich Amateur Brewers.

MAY TO AUGUST 2023

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Spring Taproom Open Weekend

Humpty Dumpty Brewery, Reedham
humptydumptybrewery.com

MONDAY 22 TO SATURDAY 27 MAY 2023

Cambridge Beer Festival

Jesus Green, Cambridge
cambridgebeerfestival.com

THURSDAY 25 TO SUNDAY 28 MAY

Great Yarmouth Beer & Circus Festival

The Drill House, Great Yarmouth
outtherearts.org.uk

THURSDAY 25 MAY TO SUNDAY 25 JUNE

Norwich City of Ale Festival

Pubs across Norwich
cityofale.org.uk

FRIDAY 26 TO SATURDAY 27 MAY

Wildfest at Wildcraft Brewery

Church Farm, Smallburgh
wildcraftbrewery.co.uk

FRIDAY 26 TO SUNDAY 28 MAY

Denver Windmill Beer Fest

Denver Windmill, Downham Market
facebook.com/denverwindmill

FRIDAY 26 TO MONDAY 29 MAY

The Real Trunch Beer Festival

Trunch Social Club, Trunch
facebook.com/TrunchSocialClub

SATURDAY 27 TO WEDNESDAY 31 MAY

Brickmakers Beer and Cheese Festival

Brickmakers, Norwich
brickmakersnorwich.co.uk

Norfolk
and Suffolk
brewers

Entry
£11

includes 3 pints
& festival glass

Belgian
beers from
Leuven

40+
Award winning
cask ales

FESTIVAL OF
CHAMPIONS

BRITAIN'S
ORIGINAL
BEER WEEK

Keg and
craft beer
bar

LAUNCH PARTY

THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023 | 17.30 – 22.30

AT THE WATERFRONT | NORWICH

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Improvement
District

For more details visit
cityofale.org.uk



FARNELL CLARKE
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Lastly, when you buy a ticket you're helping us to raise money for two charities.

The heroes of **East Anglian Air Ambulance**. They do fantastic work saving lives covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by air and road. You can check out the great work they do at eaaa.org.uk.

MANUP?

whose mission is to change people's attitudes, opinions and minds about male mental health manup.how

We hope to see you there!

Garboldisham Fox Summer Beer Festival

Picture this... a large tent has been erected in the grounds and the sound of music can be heard in the background, and the smell of street food wafts through the air.

A sign above the entrance reads 'Garboldisham Fox Summer Beer Festival'. People are milling about, trying different ales and ciders from the 36 different regional breweries represented at the festival. A food truck waits outside with its tempting aromas of freshly cooked food.

A live band is playing on the main stage. People are dancing and enjoying the music. Others sit at tables with their friends, sipping their drinks and enjoying the warm summer weather.

Even after the sun has set, the festival is still going strong. Lights strung up around the perimeter and stage provide a festive atmosphere. People are still dancing and enjoying the live music.

Yes folks it's the famous summer beer festival in Garboldisham's community pub once again! Starts evening Friday 30 June finishing Sunday 2 July.

See our Facebook page nearer the time for more information.

June

FRIDAY 9 TO SUNDAY 11 JUNE
North Norfolk Railway - Rails & Ales
Holt, Weybourne and Sheringham
nrrailway.co.uk

FRIDAY 16 TO SUNDAY 18 JUNE
Summer Solstice Beer Festival
Hill House Inn, Happisburgh

FRIDAY 16 TO SUNDAY 18 JUNE
A Jolly Ale and Music Festival
Jolly Sailors, Brancaster Staithe
jollysailorsbrancaster.co.uk

FRIDAY 23 TO SATURDAY 24 JUNE
Morley Beer Festival and Fun Day
Derek Daniels Playing Field, Morley, Wymondham
morleyfestivalnorfolk.co.uk

FRIDAY 23 TO SUNDAY 25 JUNE
Dereham Cider Festival
The Cock, Dereham
the-cock.co.uk

SATURDAY 24 JUNE
Norwich Amateur Brewers Festival
Coachmakers Arms, Norwich
norwichamateurbrewers.co.uk

SATURDAY 24 JUNE
Grain Fest at Grain Brewery
South Farm, Alburgh
grainbrewery.co.uk

FRIDAY 30 JUNE TO SUNDAY 2 JULY
Summer Beer Festival
Fox Inn, Garboldisham
garboldishamfox.co.uk

FRIDAY 30 JUNE TO SUNDAY 2 JULY
Summer Beer Festival
Beehive, Norwich
beehivepubnorwich.co.uk

July

FRIDAY 7 TO SATURDAY 8 JULY
Summer Beer Festival
Crusaders Rugby Club, Hethersett
crusadersrugbyclub.com

TUESDAY 18 TO SUNDAY 23 JULY
Summer Beer Festival
Heathlands Community Centre, Blofield Heath
heathlandscommunitycentre.org.uk



HEATHLANDS BEER FESTIVAL 18-23 JULY 2023

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SUNDAY 12:30-6PM

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Friday: East Coast Pizza
Sat: Smokin' Grill

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Sat Aft: BroadBandits
Sat Eve: Hot Cold Ground

12th Beer Festival 2023

**FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME**

Fri 4th Aug 12noon-11pm
Sat 5th Aug 12noon-11pm
Sun 6th Aug 12noon-6pm

Ranworth Village
Hall, Broad Road,
Ranworth NR13
6HS

www.ranworthvillage.com
ranworthvc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/iranfest

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Denver Windmill Beer Fest

**Real Ale & Cider Festival
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12:00-10:30pm
Friday 26th May- Sunday 28th May

At the historic Denver
Windmill and grounds:
PE38 0EG (Denver, Norfolk)

Contact us on Facebook:
Blackstone Engine Bar Official
for more info and
camping/caravan opportunities

Great Yarmouth Beer and Circus Festival

The UK's only Beer and Circus Festival returns to Great Yarmouth's Drill House from Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 May.



The festival was enjoyed by 900 people in 2022 and the 2023 edition will see much more entertainment, with live music, circus acts and the return of the infamous electric hamster racing!

Thursday and Friday sessions run from 5pm to 11pm, with Saturday and Sunday sessions from 12 noon to 11pm. Members of CAMRA's East Norfolk branch support the festival through volunteering and promotion, and Great Yarmouth's Lacons support as lead brewery, also supplying all the bar equipment.

There will be an exciting new and seasonal range of beers and ciders from breweries across the East of England and beyond.

The Drill House, on York Road, is home to the organisers of the Out There Festival that takes places in the heart of Great Yarmouth every September.

Festival Organiser and Communications and Development Manager of Out There Arts, Emily Phillips said: "This is the third beer festival I have organised, and it has become my favourite time of year. I really look forward to welcoming people through the door to sample an abundant variety of beers and ciders."

All CAMRA members will be granted free admission upon presentation of proof of membership. Special discounted tickets are available online, or just pay admission on the door.

Visit outtherearts.org.uk for more information.

Photos by M Rodwell.

THURSDAY 20 TO SUNDAY 23 JULY

Summer Ale Festival

Norwich Arts Centre
norwichartscentre.co.uk/event

FRIDAY 21 TO SUNDAY 23 JULY

Reedham Beer Festival

Humpty Dumpty Brewery, Reedham
humptydumptybrewery.com

THURSDAY 27 TO SUNDAY 30 JULY

33rd Ipswich Beer and Cider Festival

St Clements Church, Ipswich
ipswichbeerandciderfestival.co.uk

August

TUESDAY 1 TO SATURDAY 5 AUGUST

Great British Beer Festival

Olympia, London
gbbf.org.uk

THURSDAY 3 TO SATURDAY 5 AUGUST

Summer Beer Festival

Angel Inn, Larling
angel-larling.co.uk

FRIDAY 4 TO SATURDAY 5 AUGUST

North Walsham Beer Festival

North Walsham Memorial Play Park
northwalshambeerfestival.com

FRIDAY 4 TO SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

Holbeach Music and Beer Festival

Fen Field, Holbeach, Lincs
holbeachfestival.co.uk

FRIDAY 4 TO SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

12th Ranworth Beer Festival

Ranworth Village Hall
ranworthvillage.com



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A JOLLY ALE AND MUSIC
FESTIVAL
 June 16 17 18th

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CIDER - LIVE MUSIC

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 2023
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www.angel-larling.co.uk

Brickmakers

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SATURDAY 27TH TO WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY 12PM - 11PM
 FREE ENTRY

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WYMONDHAM RUDDY CLUB'S 11TH

BEER FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC **40+ ALES** **GIN BAR**

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2023 3PM-11PM
 &
SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023 11AM-11PM

RUDDY **FOOD VENDORS** **CIDER BAR**

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WANT TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT? GET IN TOUCH! | SPONSOR A BARRELL!



Adrian Hennessy

Many CAMRA members will be saddened to learn of the passing of my good friend Adrian Hennessy, who had just turned 70. I first met Adrian some 50 years ago when we helped out with sales stands to raise funds for the Sheringham heritage railway. On moving to Norwich in 1979, I began to meet Adrian and others each week in the Horse & Dray on Ber Street. In the early 1980s we all decided to descend on the annual Norwich Beer Festival to offer our services.

Initially Adrian served behind the bars, but soon put his sales expertise to good use on the CAMRA Products stall, ordering goods and running the stand for several years. Adrian spent his entire working life with Eastern Counties Newspapers, so with his print background it was inevitable that he would take over as Editor of Norfolk Nips. Adrian started in October 1995 (Edition 81) when the mag was just 16 pages of black type, with no photos, printed on coloured paper. He brought colour to Nips, before relinquishing the role in 2008 after a run of 13 years. Back in the 1990s Adrian took over organising the monthly First Friday Fives, which he continued until only a few years ago.

Adrian and I shared an interest in sci-fi but Adrian went much further than me and embraced emerging technology. He was the first person I knew to own a home computer

(an Atari) and a mobile phone. In 1994 our branch website was set up by Adrian and he continued to update our website until very recently, and managed the branch Twitter account.

Adrian enjoyed rail travel, visiting towns and cities across the UK and Europe in search of beer and pubs, and was a canal enthusiast. He was also interested in Romano-British history, aircraft and space travel (but he hated flying!), cycle racing, indie music and gigs, politics (with a distinct lean to the left), pub and brewing history, Citroen 2CV's (although he never owned one!), American freight trains and electric traction in all its forms. In short, time spent with Adrian over a beer or three was never dull.

Sadly, Adrian was not blessed with the best of health, although he managed to beat non-Hodgkin lymphoma twice, once in the mid 1980s and again in the late 1990s. More recent radiotherapy damaged the nerves in his right arm leaving him disabled although he mastered living one handed and still enjoyed trips away and days out. His last battle with cancer reduced his mobility but he kept abreast of current events, cycle racing and progress with space exploration right to the end. CAMRA and Norfolk Nips send condolences to his elder sister Brenda and her family on their loss.

■ PETER WELLS



18 FEBRUARY 1953
—
27 MARCH 2023

Norfolk NIPS



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40+ BEERS IN BOTTLES AND CANS
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MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2023

We were delighted when Norfolk Nips was named CAMRA Branch Magazine of the Year in 2020, and we've proudly held the title since then. The competition had a revamp for 2023 and the results have just been announced, at the CAMRA Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference in Sheffield.

So it's time for us to hand over the baton and say congratulations to the new winners...



FIRST PLACE

Pints West

from Bristol & District and
Bath & Borders branches



SECOND PLACE

Full Pints

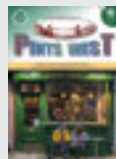
from Ayshire &
Wigtownshire branch



THIRD PLACE

Mine's a Pint

from Reading & Mid
Berkshire branch



Well done to them all and to everyone who has worked on magazines over the past few years.

CAMRA AWARDS 2023

Our four Norfolk branches have announced their winners of the Pub of the Year, Club of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year 2023.

NORWICH & DISTRICT

We have three Pub of the Year awards, the City Pub of the Year for pubs in Norwich, the District Pub of the Year for pubs outside Norwich, and the overall Branch Pub of the Year, decided between the winners of the City and District awards. The Branch also awards a Cider Pub of the Year and a Club of the Year.

✦ **City Pub of the Year and overall Branch Pub of the Year**

WHITE LION

Oak Street, Norwich

✦ **Cider Pub of the Year**

WHITE LION

Oak Street, Norwich

This is the first time a pub has won both the Pub and Cider Pub awards in the same year!

✦ **District Pub of the Year**

THE COCK

Dereham

✦ **Club of the Year**

BOB CARTER CENTRE

Drayton

The White Lion and the Bob Carter Centre now go forward to the County rounds of their respective competitions - good luck to them, and congratulations to all the winners!

Landlord of The Cock, Steve Garner said "Winning the District Pub of the Year has been a great and welcome surprise for us. We've worked hard to establish our real ale focused pub - a feat made more difficult through Covid, which closed our doors just two months after opening, and of course also severely disrupted our passage into the Good Beer Guide. However here we are, and we're all so chuffed!

The staff have worked hard on keeping our ales in tip-top condition and making The Cock such a nice place to visit. We also reached the top 10 best pub signs in the whole country in 2022 as voted for by The Inn Sign Society innsignsociety.com. We're loving the recognition and thank our customers for all their support, and we hope to meet many more new friends from across the region here at The Cock."



APRIL

HIMI WEISS
Sat 3rd • LCR **SOLD OUT**

FACE DOWN NORWICH LAUNCH - SPECIAL GUESTS TRASH BOAT LIVE

Sat 3rd • WF

BIG D AND THE KIDS TABLE

+ KILL LINCOLN
Mon 3rd • WFS

DEVIN TOWNSEND

Wed 5th • LCR

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL - CLUBNIGHT TAKEOVER

Sat 8th • WF

SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX

Sat 10th • LCR

LONDON CALLING PLAY THE CLASH

Fri 16th • WF

PKEW PKEW PKEW

Fri 16th • WFS

THE DAMNED

+ THE NIGHTSALES
Sat 15th • LCR

FOXYHOP - A TRIBUTE TO PEARL JAM

Sat 15th • WFS

LAST SEEN ALIVE

+ UNDERCOVER RANDOLPH + TRUHTELLER
Sun 16th • WFS

GUN - ACOUSTIC SHOW

Wed 19th • WFS

HAISIE PETERS

+ CAFE
Fri 24th • LCR **SOLD OUT**

RAZORLIGHT

+ AFFLECKS PALA
Sat 23rd • LCR **SOLD OUT**

PETER DOWERTY

Mon 26th • WF

GAZ COOMBS

Tue 25th • WF

ALDOUS HARDING

+ H HAWKLINE
Wed 26th • WF **SOLD OUT**

BAR STOOL PREACHERS

+ BLACK WATER COUNTY
Thur 27th • WFS

WHEN RIVERS MEET

+ ARISLE
Sat 29th • WF

YOUTH KILLER

Sat 29th • WFS **SOLD OUT**

MAY

MANCHESTER CALLING

Fri 5th • WF

HEY BOY, HEY GIRL

Sat 6th • WF

THE QUIREBOYS

+ BLACKBALLED
Sat 6th • WFS

DEAD KENNEDYS

Tue 9th • WF

GIRL SCOUT

Tue 9th • WFS

BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD

Thur 10th • WF

FRIENDLY FIRES

Sat 12th • WF

THE HEFFS

Tue 16th • WFS

SHY FX

Fri 19th • LCR

OH MY GOD! IT'S THE CHURCH

Sat 20th • WF

CITY OF ALE LAUNCH PARTY

Thur 25th • WF

LOOP

Fri 26th • WFS

SWIM DEEP

Wed 28th • WFS

JUNE

TRAVIS

Fri 2nd • LCR **SOLD OUT**

CANAAN COX

Sat 3rd • WFS

OUT OF SPACE - NEON GLOW PARTY

Sat 3rd • WF

CARCASS

+ UNTO OTHERS + CONJURER
Sun 4th • WF

LEFTFIELD

Fri 9th • LCR **SOLD OUT**

THE SYNTHS

Fri 16th • WF

THE HU

Wed 24th • LCR

THE HIGH POINTS

Fri 30th • WF

JULY

GUANA BATZ

+ STAGE FRITS + THOSE DEADBEAT CATS
Sun 2nd • WFS

THE DOWNSETTERS

+ JACK THE LAD + BOOT BOY

RADIO BUS

Sat 8th • WFS

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Mon 17th • WF

GLENN HUGHES

PERFORMS CLASSIC

DEEP PURPLE LIVE

Wed 19th • WF

HONDO GENERATOR

Mon 31st • WFS

AUGUST

GUNS 2 ROSES

+ SOME KIND OF METALLICA

Fri 18th • WFS

SWANS

+ NORMAN WESTBERG

Wed 23rd • WF

TRIVIUM

+ SLEAZE FROM WITHIN + GREAT

CULTURE

Thur 31st • LCR

SEPTEMBER

THE JAM!

+ JACK THE LAD

Sat 2nd • WFS

THE BLACK CHARADE + FELL OUT BOY + L1986 P4RK

Fri 8th • WF

UK SUBS

+ PETER & THE TEST TUBE

BABIES

Thur 21st • WF

RHYTHM OF THE 90'S

Fri 23rd • WF

INKUBUS SUKKUBUS

+ WHIP OF THE WALE

Sat 23rd • WFS

FEROCIOUS DOG

Sat 30th • WF

SOMEBODY'S CHILD

Sat 30th • WFS

OCTOBER

THE SHERLOCKS

Sat 7th • WF

GABRIELLE

Tue 10th • LCR

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND

+ DASHBOARD CONFSSIONAL

Fri 15th • LCR

THE DEVOUT - DEPECHE

MODE TRIBUTE

Fri 15th • WFS

STONE FOUNDATION

Sat 21st • WFS

COMING UP!

MAY

GIRL SCOUT

FRIENDLY FIRES

SHY FX

SWIM DEEP

JUNE

TRAVIS

THE HU

AUGUST

TRIVIUM

OCTOBER

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND

NOVEMBER

STARSAILOR

DECEMBER

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

THE 900



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MID ANGLIA

🌟 Pub of the Year AMPERSAND BREW TAP Diss

A first time winner, the Brew Tap recently celebrated its two year anniversary. Close to Diss station, it offers Ampersand and collaboration beers, brunch and street food, brewery tours and live music.

WEST NORFOLK

This year's awards all go to previous winners, congratulations!

🌟 Pub of the Year ANGEL INN Larling

🌟 Cider Pub of the Year LIVE AND LET LIVE King's Lynn

🌟 Club of the Year FERRY LANE SOCIAL CLUB King's Lynn

The Angel Inn serves a range of real ales and a real cider and hosts a number of events, including a beer festival weekend in August.

The Ferry Lane Social Club has a range of real ales, and a real cider from local producer, Sandringham Cider. Based next to the departure point for the West Lynn Ferry, the bar and balcony give visitors great views of the river.

The Live and Let Live is a traditional community local, serving a variety of real ciders, including a number from local

producers, alongside a good range of real ales.

Andrea Briers, Chair of West Norfolk Branch said "I would like to congratulate all our winners on their achievement. The last few years have not been easy for the hospitality industry and they have continued to look after their local community and visitors to the area. Our pubs and clubs are a vital part of the community and I would encourage you to support them so that they continue to be there for us and future generations."

EAST NORFOLK

Following very close scores for all of the pubs assessed for Pub of the Year and sub-categories, East Norfolk Branch are proud to announce our results for 2023.

🌟 Pub of The Year Winner NEW ENTERTAINER Gorleston on Sea

Runner Up BLACKFRIARS TAVERN Great Yarmouth

🌟 Cider Pub of The Year Winner NELSONS HEAD Horsey

Runner Up BLACKFRIARS TAVERN Great Yarmouth

🌟 Rural Pub of the Year LOCKS INN Geldeston





The
Leopard

4+ real ales, 4+ traditional ciders
 6+ craft beers on tap
 Great selection of craft cans & bottles
 Wood burner & beer garden

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WHY NOT TRY OUR AWARD WINNING ALES

GOLDEN JACKAL
GRANNY WOULDN'T LIKE IT
LUPUS LUPUS
SIRIUS DOG STAR
WOLF ALE

**BOTTLES AND CASKS
 LOGALLY BREWED**

WOLF BREWERY

'Howlin' good'

CHOOSING THE PUB OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Following the article in the Winter 2023 Nips on how pubs are selected for the Good Beer Guide, we wanted to let you know how East Norfolk Branch selected its winners for the Pub of the Year, as these awards can also sometimes attract accusations of favouritism or bias.

When we set out in January to select our candidates for the 2023 awards, we agreed that as the Good Beer Guide 2023 had already been published, it would be logical to draw our Pub of the Year from those pubs. It would seem somewhat daft having a Pub of the Year which wasn't in the Good Beer Guide!

We formed a panel of assessors, who were allocated pubs they had no particular attachment to. They were asked to visit and score the pubs using CAMRA guidelines, in the following categories:

- **Quality & Condition of Product (Ale)**
- **Promotion & Knowledge of Product**
- **Cleanliness & Staff Hygiene**
- **Community Focus & Atmosphere**
- **Service, Welcome & Offering**
- **Style, Décor & Furnishing**
- **Sympathy with CAMRA Aims**
- **Overall Impression & Value**

All pubs were visited by two separate assessors, so we'd know they had been looked at in a different light and on a different day. After the visits, the two assessors' scores for each pub were averaged out, to give us our winners in each category.

We're satisfied that our selection procedures are fair and will stand up to scrutiny. But we're looking to further improve on our methods by carrying out scoring throughout the year, with our assessors visiting all eligible pubs over a nine month period. This will give us a broader number of scores from different people, recognising consistency of each pub's offering throughout the year, rather than within a limited few weeks in January.

So what can CAMRA members do to help their branch deliver fair results for Pub of the Year?

- Nominate pubs for the Good Beer Guide - this process is open to all members, so if you haven't joined yet and want your voice heard, visit join.camra.org.uk
- Get involved by going out and scoring the pubs for Pub of the Year. Contact your local branch for details.

Who knows, you may soon find yourself drinking in your local, as the branch's new Pub of the Year with their Certificate hanging proudly on the wall - how good would that feel?

Cheers!



Campaign for Real Ale

£30*
real ale
vouchers

*Joint members receive £40 worth of vouchers

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on pints with
Real Ale
Discount
Scheme

Branch
magazine

Volunteer
at beer festivals
or local branch

Vote for
best
pubs

BEER
magazine

*What's
Brewing
online*

Membership
card and pack

Learn
& Discover
online
resources

Meetings
and socials

Vote for
champion
beers

*Good Beer
Guide and
CAMRA book
offers*

NATIONAL

LOCAL



Membership
Benefits

CAMPAIGN

Brewery
tours

Local Pub
discounts

Partner
Discounts

Lobby
MPs

Ensure a
fair deal
for your
local

Support
pubs and
breweries

Save
Pubs
and
industry jobs

Promote
beer quality

Campaign
for great beer
and pubs

Reduce
tax
on beer

Join CAMRA today
www.camra.org.uk/join

GOOD BEER?

HARD TO FIND IN 1976!

■ PAT SMITH, EAST NORFOLK CAMRA

I went to a CAMRA meeting a few years ago where we were selecting pubs for the next Good Beer Guide. This could be done online, but paper votes were still possible, prompting someone to ask "How did we manage before computers?"

Well, I can remember being in that same room over 40 years previously, selecting pubs for the Good Beer Guide in 1978. When we got to the pub we had to buy an empty glass downstairs. Then we went upstairs to find a barrel of (to us highly exotic) Courage Directors Bitter. Apparently it was what the directors actually drank, or so we thought. The landlord had gone beyond his contract to buy this beer and we were honoured to have it. Wow.



Welcome to CAMRA 1970s style. Take what you can get, anything is better than Watney's.

At the time over 90% of pubs were owned by breweries, not pub companies as is the case now. This gave them a ready market for their beers. Watneys had just bought out, and promptly closed, three of the four breweries in Norwich (Bullards, S&P, Morgans, and Youngs, Crayshaw and Youngs) and Whitbread had done the same to Lacons in

Great Yarmouth. Watneys then had many Norfolk parishes with two or more pubs competing with each other. So they closed all but one, sold the rest for housing and forced the survivor to sell nothing but fizzy, expensive beer. At one point in the early 1970s only 12 pubs in Norfolk sold real ale.

In 1978, it was not so much a 'Good Beer Guide' meaning where the best is. It was more a 'where there was any beer' guide. So voting was simple... did the pub serve real ale? Then it went in! Especially if it served Adnams, because then, as now, the brewery provided the stillage and plenty of staff training.

The 'Big Six' breweries tended to produce keg beer which was pasteurised, filtered and fined to make sure it did not go off. Unfortunately decent beer does not take well to this, and they generally produced a bland, flavourless product.

Other beers available at the time, usually in freehouses, were Worthington E or Bass. Watneys which owned Norwich Brewery, tried to tempt us with poor quality offerings like Norwich Fined Bitter or the only slightly better Bullards Mild. A tiny bit of Tolly Cobbold, Greene King, Ruddles, Courage or Elgoods was available, but really Adnams was where it was at, even in Norwich. Without Southwold in Suffolk, Norfolk would have had no real ale to speak of for 15 years!

1976 GOOD BEER GUIDE

39 Norfolk pubs, 8 selling more than one real ale.

28 Adnams, 12 Greene King, six Bass or Worthington and one each for Tolly, Courage and Ruddles.

1978 GOOD BEER GUIDE

74 Norfolk pubs, 62 selling more than one real ale.

50 Adnams, 36 Greene King, 13 Bass or Worthington, 12 Tolly Cobbold and a smattering of Ruddles, Courage, Elgoods and Paines.

1979 GOOD BEER GUIDE

107 Norfolk pubs, 95 selling more than one real ale.

From 1976 to 1979, the number of pubs in Great Yarmouth selling real ale went from two to nine, but none of it was from Norfolk. (Sadly, only three of those are still open). In Norwich it went from five to 20.



Notice the massive increase in numbers of pubs selling real ale, thanks directly to campaigning by CAMRA.

In these Guides one pub stands out now, as it did then. The Plasterers in Norwich had four or five different beers in both guides at a time when the vast majority only had one or two.

The map shows where the GBG pubs were in 1976. Note the wide open spaces in mid Norfolk. No beer in Swaffham, Attleborough, Diss, Wymondham, Fakenham or Kings Lynn.

SO where does all this take us? I believe the Good Beer Guide is still one of CAMRA's major campaigning tools. It is bought by those who appreciate good beer and want to know where to find it when they are in places that they don't know. Some pubs see it as a status symbol. But for others in more remote country parts which need to survive on seasonal visitors, it is a vital help to their viability.

For its buyers it is the only reliable guide where to find a decent pint in unfamiliar places. Were these books mine? No, they were my Dad's and he would never leave home without them.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dates for your diary

MAY

FRIDAY 5 MAY

Norwich First Friday Five

8pm at Oak Bar & Terrace, then Rushcutters River Garden, Town House, Fat Cat & Canary.

SATURDAY 6 MAY

Norfolk Pub of the Year Coach Trip

1pm from Norwich Castle Meadow
Visiting the four Norfolk Branches' Pub of the Year winners, and a couple of others on the way: New Entertainer, Gorleston-on-Sea (East Norfolk PotY)

Locks Inn, Geldeston

Ampersand Tap, Diss (Mid Anglia PotY)

Angel, Larling (West Norfolk PotY)

Feathers, Wymondham

White Lion, Oak Street (Norwich & District PotY).

THURSDAY 11 MAY

Lunchtime Campaign Coach Trip

including Wildcraft Brewery
11.30am from Norwich Castle Meadow.

MONDAY 15 MAY

East Norfolk Branch Meeting

7pm at Kings Arms, Great Yarmouth.

TUESDAY 16 MAY

Norwich & District Branch Meeting

7.30pm at Malt and Mardle.

Special guest David from Moon Gazer.

THURSDAY 18 MAY

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll

12 noon at Coach & Horses Bethel Street, then Coachmakers, Rose Tavern (opens 3pm)

Georgian Town House, Temple Bar, Reindeer

(opens 4pm).

THURSDAY 25 MAY

Norwich City of Ale launch party

5.30pm at The Waterfront.

FRIDAY 26 MAY

Barsham Brewery Street Food Evening Coach Trip

6.30pm from Norwich Castle Meadow

Visiting Barsham Brewery and two pubs on the way home, including a City of Ale pub.

SUNDAY 28 MAY

North Norwich Sunday Cycle or Stroll

1pm at Blue Boar, Sprowston Road, Maids Head, Old Cutton (2pm stroll start), Woodman and Brickmakers Beer Festival (City of Ale pub) - join us anywhere on the route!

JUNE

FRIDAY 2 JUNE

Norwich First Friday Five City of Ale Special

8pm at Fat Cat, then Ten Bells, Plough, Strangers Tavern, Belgian Monk.

MONDAY 5 JUNE

East Norfolk Branch Meeting

7pm at Pub on the Shrubs, Gorleston.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE

Norwich City of Ale Lunchtime Stroll

12pm at Angel Gardens, then Rosebery, Whalebone (opens 2pm), Duke of Wellington, White Lion, Rumsey Wells, Vine.

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

Lunchtime Campaign Coach Trip

11.30am from Norwich Castle Meadow

Visiting four Norfolk pubs and one City of Ale pub.

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

Norwich City of Ale Saturday Stroll

1pm at Crown Point Tavern, Redwell Brewery, Rose Pub and Deli, Murderers, Lamb Inn, Garnet, Wildman.

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE

Norwich City of Ale Evening Stroll

7pm at The Brewery Tap, then Stanley, Artichoke, Marlborough, Cottage, Leopard.

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

Evening Campaign Coach Trip

7pm from Norwich Castle Meadow

Visiting four Norfolk pubs.

JULY

SATURDAY 1 JULY

Norwich Saturday Stroll

1pm at George Hotel, then Unthank Arms, Eaton Cottage and Beehive Beer Festival.

MONDAY 3 JULY

East Norfolk Branch Meeting

7pm at Blackfriars Tavern, Great Yarmouth.

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY

Lunchtime Campaign Coach Trip

11.30am from Norwich Castle Meadow

Visiting five Norfolk pubs.

FRIDAY 7 JULY

Norwich First Friday Five

8pm at Champion, then Eagle, Trafford, Kings Arms, Freemasons Arms.

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

Norwich Lunchtime Stroll

12 noon at Merchants House, then Golden Star, Playhouse, St Andrews Brew House, Gonzo's Tea Room, Bell.

SATURDAY 15 JULY

Summer Social visiting Chelmsford by train

12.30pm Railway

1.25pm Queens Head

2.10pm Orange Tree

2.55pm Hop Beer Shop and Moulsham Tap

4.10pm United Brethren

4.55pm Woolpack

5.45pm Golden Fleece

6.30pm Ale House

TUESDAY 18 JULY

Norwich & District Branch Meeting and Social

7.30pm at St Andrews Brew House.

FRIDAY 28 JULY

Evening Campaign Coach Trip

7pm from Castle Meadow

Visiting four Norfolk pubs.

AUGUST

FRIDAY 4 AUGUST

Norwich First Friday Five

8pm at Coach & Horses (Thorpe Road), then Compleat Angler, Nelson Hotel Bar, Last Pub Standing, Steam Packet.

HOW TO BOOK

Please use the **CAMRA tckty** site to book your place on our **Coach Trips**.



CONTACT

socials@norwich.camra.org.uk
with any questions.

For more details of any of the pubs mentioned, please check **WhatPub.com**

Mid Anglia

West Norfolk



East Norfolk

Norwich & District



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