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Campaign
for
Real Ale

Cambridge & District Branch Newsletter Issue 394 August 2019

A tour of historic pubs



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Pub News

Perhaps the biggest story for this issue of Pub News is that of the proposed £3 billion takeover of pubco EI Group by the smaller Stonegate Pub Company. Assuming shareholder and Competitions and Market Authority agreement this will see Stonegate increase its estate from 765 pubs to almost 5000 pubs. It could be a worrying time for tenants. In an effort to circumvent new tenancy regulation, EI was already moving towards a managed pub business model, and all 756 of the Stonegate owned pubs are managed. City analysts talking to The Financial Times seem certain that the movement towards managed pubs will continue. The analysts also commented that this presented a good opportunity for Stonegate to sell off pubs.

The CEO of Stonegate, former Greene King Managing Director Simon Longbottom, disagrees. He told the newspaper that Stonegate “knows how important tenants are to the mix in running a successful pub company.”

On the brighter side, Stonegate Pub Company, having invested £550million since 2010, has a reasonably good record of supporting its pubs. It remains to be seen whether or not that level of investment will continue into the future.



The iconic **Flying Pig**, Hills Road, Cambridge is once again under threat. The Pig, described by

and blogger Neil Toolin (Neil Toolin via Change.orgchange@e.change.org) as “A *pub of national and international significance*”, is threatened to be swept away in the same development that so ignominiously removed the nearby Osborne Arms in 2012. Mr Toolin makes his

Branch Diary

Don't forget that all Branch members are very welcome to attend the monthly business meetings, as well as our socials.

Tue 13-August: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Chequers, Pampisford

Sat 7-September: 11:00-19:30, Minibus tour, pick up near the train station

Tue 10-September: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Hare and Hounds, Harlton

Tue 8-October: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Bell Inn, Bottisham

Tue 12-November: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Queen Edith, Wulfstan Way

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Please note: National Trading Standards cannot help members of the public with specific complaints or advice about goods, services or specific businesses.

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Photo credits: Paul Treadaway and Helge Nareid

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Pub News continued

claim based on the breakdown of nationalities of the 11,000 plus signatories to the petition asking that the pub remain untouched, 1300 of which live abroad.

The **Maypole**, Park Street (maypolefreehouse.co.uk), looks also to be



threatened by plans of dreaded city developers. Owners Vince and Annie Castiglione are battling

planners who have applied to build a five-storey building comprising hotel/basement car park on the boundary of their pub. The pub, voted Cambridge CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2018, is one of very few free houses in the city centre and has been family-run since 1982. The family have been in long-running negotiations with the applicants but are now desperate for others to hear their plight and try to stop this blight on the landscape of what is one of the few remaining traditional residential areas in the city centre: www.elgplanning.co.uk/consultation/park-street-car-park.

City planners have granted permission for change of use to the closed Chinese restaurant, formerly the Ancient Druids, Napier Street from a restaurant into a B&B.



Situated at the other end of the Grafton Centre, we have heard little news from the **Hopbine**, Fair Street. The

tenancy of the pub, which is privately owned, has been advertised on a rolling short-term basis, which is unlikely to encourage investment or interest. Nearby residents, who saw an effort to register the

pub as an asset of community value rebuffed, are beginning to question the intention of the owner, who appears to be discouraging, rather than encouraging the re-opening of the pub.



Residents who live close by to the **Volunteer**, Trumpington Road, continue to

battle developers wishing to demolish the pub and create flats. Whilst in latter years the pub traded as an Indian restaurant, The Volunteer had kept its pub status and had maintained a much-visited separate drinking area.



Residents of Stapleford continue to try to save the **Tree**. Cambridge CAMRA has

registered objections to the developer's newest plans – which we believe show no improvement to plans already rejected.



Welcome to Chris Diogenous who is the new licensee of the **Three Horseshoes**, Stapleford.

Chris has refurbished the pub, raised the quality of the beer (the pub has 8 pumps) and received recognition for good Greek Cypriot influenced menu.

There are new licensees too in the Chequers, Fowlmere. Chris and Rebecca announced on the Green Man, Thriplow Facebook page that they were excited to be also taking on the Fowlmere pub. The Chequers will be open 5 days a week,

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Chequers, Fowlmere

and are encouraging everyone to visit both pubs.



pub has been taken over by the very enthusiastic Sharon and Dickie. We will visit soon!



be leaving the **Six Bells** in August after over 25 years. The family took up residency in 1983, and the pub has been in CAMRA Good Beer Guide every year since. In a message to customers Hugo cited high rents, high -enforced- beer prices and late nights as their reason for leaving. He expressed their great sorrow and thanked all of the staff, customers and friends for their continuous support. They will be sorely missed.

Ale Correspondent, Carl Woolf contacted us:

Hi Ali and Will

The **Carpenters Arms**, Great Wilbraham, remains unchanged for the time being.

Wednesdays – Sunday and food offerings will include tapas and flatbreads. They are not leaving the Green Man,

We received sad news that Michelle and Tom have left the **Ickleton Lion** after over two years in charge. The

There is sad news too from Fulbourn, where Hugo and his family have announced that they will



There is significant interest from the Chestnut Group, owners of the Rupert Brooke and the Pack

Horse, Moulton. Their interest would be to develop letting rooms in the garden. But negotiations are at an early stage.



“Glad to have the village pub open again” is the consensus from the residents of Little Wilbraham as the **Hole-in-**

the-Wall settles down under its new publicans Nilesch and Agnes Misquitta. Three hand pumps dispense beers from the Greene King range although Nilesch now realises that discerning local drinkers expect a wider variety. With his Wisbech connections, we hope to see some Black Dog on the bar quite soon.

Regards, Carl

Returning to Cambridge City, local correspondent Paul Treadaway has spotted



that the builders have finally begun refurbishment work in the **Med, Perne**

Road, though in his words “ *Very little seems to be happening*”.

A number of Cambridge and District pubs have received recognition over the last few months. The **Black Bull**, Balsham; **John Barleycorn**, Duxford; **Red Lion**, Hinxton and **Three Horseshoes**, Madingley, are all included in this years AA Good Pub Guide. More prestigiously, the **Blue Ball**



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Pub News continued

Grantchester has been recognised by the Daily Telegraph as "The Best Authentic Pub in England".



The **Geldart**, Ainsworth Street, is looking for a new tenant. A 10 year protected lease is offered at £100,000. Rent is set at £30,000 year.

CAMRA Discount: The **Dobblers Inn**, Cambridge is now offering a CAMRA discount.

Beer Festivals

Three large beer festivals I thought you might enjoy:

The Histon Beer Festival, Red Lion Histon begins 2nd – 6th September

The Elgoods/SIBA Beer Festival, Elgoods brewery 19th – 21st September, half price entry to all card carrying CAMRA members.

5th Newmarket Beer Festival, Newmarket Race Course 26th – 28th September.



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Historic Pub Tour

On the weekend of the 7th to 9th of December 2019, CAMRA's national and regional directors met in Cambridge for a series of meetings. On the Saturday evening, Cambridge and District Branch Chair, Will Smith, led the directors on a tour of historic pubs in Cambridge city centre. These are the details of that pub tour.

Early Cambridge

The city of Cambridge lies at the crossing of two natural arteries that facilitated travel in ancient times. The River Cam, the final water course in a series of navigable rivers which traversed the East Anglian Fens and gave access to the sea, met a chalk and gravel ridge, utilised by the Romans to extend Worsted Street from East of the river, to Huntingdon in the North.

It was an important trading town during both the Roman and Viking periods, but it was the 9th Century Saxons, who left a lasting legacy, building wharves and churches, and creating a mint to produce "Granta" embossed coinage.

Disaffected scholars from Oxford established the University in 1209, and the first College, Peterhouse, was established in 1284.

There was an uneasy relationship between Town and Gown. This culminated in riotous acts of violence against the University during the Peasants Revolt in 1381, when, led by the city mayor, the townspeople ransacked university buildings and killed a number of the scholars.

This led to privileges being taken from local government and granted to the University, which now found itself the legal guardians for, amongst other things, weights and measures, baking and brewing.

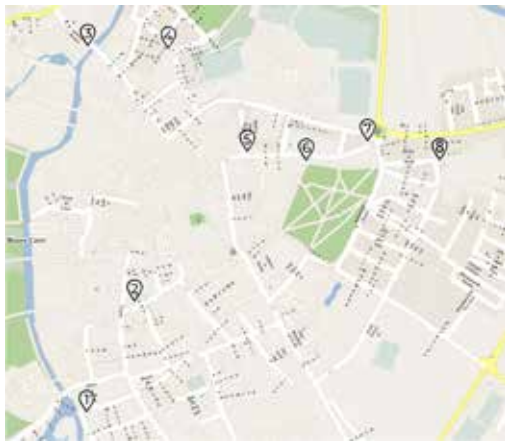
The University had established a stranglehold over the then town, which some would say it has never relented, and

there are now 32 University Colleges spread all over the city.

The railway reached the town in 1845 and in 1951 Cambridge was awarded city status.

The pub tour

It would be great to be able to say that, because of its rich history, Cambridge is blessed with a great many interesting and historical pubs. Sadly this isn't the case. While there is no doubt there are some stories to be told, and we have some excellent pubs, many of our old hostleries and breweries have throughout the ages fallen foul of brutalist town planners and a number of our historic pubs sadly no longer exist. However, we still have a lot of gems – some, it would have to be admitted more famous for their surroundings, than their own story – and I hope you enjoy this tour.



Pub 1: The Mill, Mill Lane



The Mill is a favourite of the local branch and it has won a number of CAMRA branch awards

since The City Pub Company took up the tenancy in 2012. The building itself dates back to the 19th century. It was once known

as The Hazard Arms, after owner, coal, corn, timber merchant and maltster, Henry Hazard.

Henry Hazard, who was a staunch Tory, had a political rival in committed Liberal merchant and mill owner CF Foster. When Foster took up residence in a neighbouring pub, The Ship Inn, there started a bitter rivalry which culminated in a court case. Foster chained off Laundress Lane (The passageway which runs behind The Anchor) and claimed it as his personal property, but was forced to hide in his mill after being pursued by Hazard carrying a horsewhip. Foster won his case. Hazard sold the pub in 1890 and the name reverted back to The Mill.

Our first stroll

Leaving by the Mill Lane entrance, we cross the road and walk to the end of Laundress Lane. We are now on Silver Street. Across the road we can see the red brick buildings of Queens' College, which was established in 1448.

Turn right and walking to the end of the road, we turn left on to Trumpington Street. As we walk towards Kings College Chapel, we have St Catherine's College (1473) on our left and Corpus Christi College (1352) on our right. It is in the latter, to the right on the corner of Benet Street that we soon come across one of Cambridge's newest tourist attractions, the Millennium Clock. Faced with gold and protected with bulletproof glass, the clock was completed in 2008. The creature on its brow is a mythical Chronophage – a grasshopper-like mythical creature that eats time!

Entering Benet Street, we are now able to see the next pub on our tour.

Pub 2 : The Eagle, Benet Street

Before entering the pub- which I suggest you do by the famous courtyard – please take a second to look behind you at St Benedict's Church. This is the oldest building in Cambridge. The Saxon built tower dates back to the 9th century.



The Eagle is – perhaps justifiably so – the most famous pub in Cambridge. It is here in 1952 that Francis Crick and

James Watson announced to the world that they had cracked the secret of life and had discovered the double helix, which is DNA.

Unfortunately, neither of the pair would recognise the interior of the pub as it stands today. It suffered a design makeover in the 1980s, which destroyed the atmosphere and the tiny public bar. Prior to this, the rooms facing Benet Street were part of an estate agent's office. Greene King have since realised this was a mistake and efforts have been made to emphasise and celebrate the pubs remaining historical features. These include the ceiling covered in signatures of 2nd world war pilots which hovers over the dining tables in the back bar. The Eagle is a Greene King managed pub, which, like the considerably quieter Bath House situated a few doors down, offers beers from the SIBA beer list.

Our second stroll

When leaving the Eagle, once again I would suggest via the courtyard, pause and look up. You will see above the courtyard that there is an open window.

This is open all year round and is left so to appease the pub ghost, who causes all sorts of problems should it ever be closed.

We now turn right and retrace our steps towards the Millennium Clock. With our backs to the clock we can see the chapel of Kings College (1441) ahead of us. The chapel was completed in the 16th century. A large number of dwellings and pubs were demolished to make way for it. The foundations of a demolished street can be seen outlined in the college lawns during droughts.

Historic Pub Tour

Walking past the Chapel we soon come across Great St Mary's church. Carrying on, we enter Trinity Street. On our left at the beginning of the street is Gonville and Caius College (1348), whilst further down we will see Trinity College.

Founded in 1546 by Henry VIII, who was persuaded by his then wife, Catherine Parr, to create a new college rather than close and confiscate the funds of the very rich and very religious University, Trinity is (allegedly) the wealthiest college. It is infamous for being the scholastic home of the Cambridge spy ring, members of which included Burgess and Maclean.

On our right we will pass Rose Crescent. This walkway was once a road and was home to The Rose pub and brewery. When the pub was demolished in the mid 1800s the owner moved the business to Newmarket Road where he founded The Star Brewery. This grew to be the largest brewery in Cambridge history, famous for its Audit Ale. Beer was brewed on the site until 1972, when it was closed by then owners, Tolly Cobbold.

Carrying on along Trinity Street and again on our left we see the great gate of St John's College. Founded as a hospital around 1200, St John's was given college status in 1470, though it did not have a benefactor and was not fully established until 1512. The poet William Wordsworth is one of many famous alumni.

Here the road becomes St John's Street. As we approach a four way junction we can see ahead of us the second oldest building in Cambridge – the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, or Round Church. Built in 1130 and designed to replicate the dome of The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, this was originally a Wayfare Chapel, serving the Roman Road. Lavishly adorned with exotic and “idolatrous” art it was vandalised by the puritans during the Civil War (1643).

Falling into disrepair it was not fully restored until the 19th century.

Along from the church, entering Bridge Street, we will see two pubs, Nicholson's Mitre and Greene King's Baron of Beef. We can find no evidence, but both are suggested to have been coaching inns.

Continuing along the road on to Magdalene bridge, our next pub is on our left.

Pub 3 : The Pickerel, Bridge Street



A pickerel is a baby pike. The pub, with its foundations dating back to the sixteenth century, has claims to be the oldest pub in Cambridge.

Before the advent of the railway, Cambridge relied heavily upon the river for its trade. The area surrounding the

quayside was very prosperous. In 1841 there were 23 pubs and breweries, 20 of them on Bridge Street alone. The Mayor lived in one of the terraced houses adjacent to the bridge.

The Pickerel, however, did not have a salubrious reputation. The small courtyard was famous for cock fighting and the pub was the familiar haunt of fen bargemen, who had a reputation of being “foul mouthed opium takers”.

One such bargeman, Will Spread, saw the error of his ways. In 1825 he produced a book : “*The Waterman of the River Cam* “, in which he issued the following warning against swearing:

*It chills my blood to hear the blest Supreme
Ruddy appeal' to, on each trifling theme
Maintain your rank – vulgarity despise
To swear is neither brave, polite, or wise.*

Whether because of personal revelations such as Will's, or more likely the advent of the railway, combined with the creation of Denver sluice which prevented access to the sea, the area lost it's prosperity in the late 1800's and soon became a slum. Pubs and houses were removed to make way for an extension to Magdelene College (1542) and the quayside fell into disrepair. It is only fairly recently that it has been rejuvenated as the tourist trap we now see.

Our third stroll

Retracing our steps to the Round Church we will turn left along Round Church Street, left again as we pass the multi-storey car park and we can see our next pub.

Pub 4 : The Maypole, Portugal Place



The Maypole, the only family owned real ale pub in Cambridge city centre, is an iconic

Cambridge pub. Owned by the Castiglione family, serving up to 16 real ales, it is a destination pub, which the discerning visitor mustn't miss. I have deliberately been sparing with describing its history because I do not want to spoil the visitor's experience. as they discover the history, which has been lovingly displayed all over the interior walls

Our fourth stroll

Leaving the Maypole, turn right and walk along Park Street, passing the student run ADC theatre on your right hand side.

On reaching the traffic lights turn left along Jesus Lane and then right along Malcolm Street to reach

Pub 5 : The Cambridge Brew House, King Street

One of only two microbreweries to be



found in the city, this was the second pub opened in Cambridge by The City Pub Company. The complex

building in which it is situated is an example of the Cambridge Brutalist architecture that plagued the city in the late 60s and 70s.

At one time there were 16 pubs in King Street. In 1955, a group of medical students, determined to ascertain how much liquid a male human could imbibe before passing water, invented the competition/pub crawl famously know as "The King Street Run". The aim was to drink 8 pints of beer in 7 different pubs in the shortest possible time without resorting to the comfort of a loo. The challenge continues, mostly taken up by nostalgic tourists, but participants now have to drink two pints in each of the only 5 remaining pubs.

A shorter stroll

Leaving The Brew House, we turn left and continue our journey along King Street to:

Pub 6 : The Champion of the Thames



Readers of Tom Sharpe will recognise this as Scullions' favourite pub in the novel Porterhouse Blue. It is named after a nineteenth century Cambridge resident and

oarsman who, having won a prestigious sculling competition, insisted that all of his correspondence be addressed to The Champion of the River Thames.

Historic Pub Tour

In contrast to most other pubs on the tour, this is very much a pub of the local community.

An even shorter stroll

Continuing along King Street we will find the smallest pub in Cambridge.

Pub 7 : The St Radegund, King Street



This pub is named after the Frankish Nun, St Radegund. The nunnery

bearing her name and situated nearby was demolished in 1496. Its foundations are now part



for short!).

of The College of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist and the Glorious Saint Radegund (or Jesus College

Our final stroll

Leaving the St Radegund, we will turn left, and cross via the roundabout to Maids Causeway. Looking behind us we can see the trees marking the extensive boundary of Jesus College. To our left is Midsummer Common and on our right, as we walk along we would have come to Fair Street and the final pub on our tour.

Pub 8 : The Hopbine, Fair Street

Voted as the Cambridge University Real Ale Society Pub of the Year 2018 this pub was



well loved for its ever-changing range of local beers. Located on the edge of the Kite area it was one of the few pubs to escape the 1970s

demolition required to establish the hideous Grafton Centre Shopping Mall.

In common with other Cambridge pubs it historically used to rely on custom from the Cambridge Midsummer Fair.

Chartered by King John in 1211, the Midsummer Fair is one of the oldest fairs still being held in England. It isn't to be confused with Stourbridge Fair, also chartered by King John, at which Isaac Newton famously bought his Italian crystal glass, which ceased to exist in 1933.

Both Fairs were chartered in order to raise funds for Barnwell Priory Leper Chapel. The Chapel still stands, isolated beside Barnwell Bridge on the Newmarket Road.

Unfortunately this pub is now closed. We in Cambridge CAMRA are keen to see it reopen. We believe it is an Asset to the Community.

The end of our tour

This is where the written part of the tour ends. However, if, like me, you are disappointed at its end, I suggest that you wander along to two more rather nice Cambridge pubs, The Elm Tree and The Free Press, situated on roads next to each other, Orchard Street and Prospect Row, only a short walk from The Hopbine, before heading towards The Alexandra Arms and The Cambridge Blue on Gwydir Street.

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The following local pubs offer a discount to CAMRA members on production of a signed and up to date CAMRA membership card: Please ask at the bar for further details.

The Alexandra Arms, 10% off a pint.

The Bath House Ben't Street, 10% off a pint.

The Brook, Brookfields, 10% off a pint

The Cambridge Brewhouse, King Street, 10% off Cambridge Brewing Company Beers.

The Dobblers Inn, Sturton Street, 10% off a pint

The Fort St George, Midsummer Common, 10% off a pint.

The Emperor pub and Latin Tapas bar, Hills Road, 20p off a pint.

The Golden Hind, Milton Road, 10% off a pint.

The Kingston Arms, Kingston Street, 20p off a pint.

The Maypole, Portugal Place, 20p off a pint.

The Mill, Mill Lane, 10% off a pint.

The Old Ticket Office, Station Square, 10 % off real ales

The Pickerel, Magdalene Street, 10% off a pint.

The Portland Arms, Chesterton Road, 10% off a pint.

The Station Tavern, Station Square, 10% off real ales

The Red Lion, Brinkley, offers 40p off a pint.

The Red Lion, Grantchester, 10% off a pint

The Red Lion, Histon, offers 40p off a pint.

The Plough & Fleece, Horningsea, 10% off a pint.

The Crown, Linton, 10% off house beers.

The Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 10% off food and real ale.

The White Horse, Swavesey, offers 20p off a pint.

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**CAMPAIGN
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Let's Drink to a day at the Races!

6th Newmarket Beer festival - Alex Hall, Operations Manager for Jockey Club Catering, Newmarket, is very keen to tell us all:

"The beer festival will run alongside the fantastic Cambridgeshire race meeting, hosted on the historic Rowley Mile, September 26th-28th. Working with Milton brewery based in Waterbeach, we will have at least 40 different drinks to choose from. Including one off brews only available at Newmarket Racecourse"



Alex is keen to introduce race goers to the delights of real ale, but is equally certain that real ale drinkers will find much to enjoy:

"A great driving force behind this festival is the crossover: the introduction of race goers to great beers they haven't had the chance to taste before and the introduction of great beer lovers to the wonderful sport

that is horseracing. This meeting is the perfect introduction to racing at a Jockey Club Racecourse with plenty of entertainment on and off the racetrack"

Prize draw

As a special promotion Ale readers who visit the following site:

www.newmarket-competition.co.uk/CAMRA

and fill their details will be entered into a prize draw. The first 50 tickets drawn will win a free entry to Premier Enclosure, worth £27.



Winners will be contacted by email. All entrants to the prize draw who agree to receive communications will be sent a promotional offer.

For further details:

www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/newmarket

A large, tall glass of golden beer with a thick head of foam sits on a wooden bar. The background is dark and out of focus.

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✉ info@greendragoncambridge.co.uk

📘 GreenDragon1109

🐦 cb4green

Opening times: Monday-Saturday

11.30am-11pm;

Sunday 11am-10.30pm

Food served: Monday-Saturday 12-

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We pride ourselves on fresh food, good wine, great beer and an eclectic gin selection.

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COMMUNITY PUBS CAMPAIGN

Apples & Pears - by Jerry Ladell

The Fourth Swavesey Cider and Gin Festival 2019



Where else would you expect me to start! This was the fourth annual Cider Festival at Swavesey and for the second year running we supplemented

the ciders with a number of gins (16 to be exact) for those who favour the taste of the juniper rather than apple or pear.

Local businesses fully supported the event, we managed to get an event sponsor - IT for Starters Ltd (they also sponsored the food). We also had a sponsor for the gin side of the festival - Beam Group Ltd. - All ciders and perries were individually sponsored by other local companies within the village and beyond. We cannot stress too much how grateful we are to all of them for their fantastic support.

From humble beginnings - our first festival featured eight ciders - we were now presenting 28 local ciders for our local community to sample. We first opened our doors on Thursday 18th July at 16:00 - at one stage we thought we may struggle to meet the official start time but we did manage to open on schedule eventually.



The event proved to be a massive success, we had great weather for three of the four days but were blighted by some typical British summer weather on the Friday

evening, when it absolutely persisted down from about 6pm onwards - this did have an impact on the numbers attending, which was a bit of a shame, as this is usually our most popular session - however, we more than made up for it on the Saturday with a much better turn out. Although for a while we were a little apprehensive as up until about 2pm (two hours after we had opened) we had only sold a single half - the volunteer staff had consumed quite a bit more than that - all in the name of research, of course! This proved to be the calm before the storm, from that point on right up to 11pm we were kept on our toes - no time for putting your feet up, that was for sure.



It was great to get such positive feedback on the quality and range of the ciders and perries, similar comments also were passed regarding the number of different gins we had to offer.

Sunday, the final day of the festival and the customers kept coming, our treasurer looked like the cat that had got the cream....

We closed our doors at about 10:30 on the Sunday evening with the dregs of three bottles of gin remaining and a few ciders for the working committee to enjoy at their mop up meeting.

I can safely say, this was the best festival we've organised yet, everything seemed to run like clockwork - next year's event is already starting to take shape, so we will definitely be doing it all again next summer - cheers.

Apples & Pears

Walking Cambridge Cider Tour – Saturday 14th September 12:00

At the moment all we have is the date and a start time but this event will be happening, the timetable will be published on the monthly email bulletins provided by the local CAMRA branch that goes out to all members in the last week of each month, so keep your eyes out for more updates as we get closer to the actual date of the event. Details will also be available on our website.

The plan is to visit in the region of seven or eight pubs that are within a relatively reasonable walking distance between each other, probably ending up at the Cambridge Blue at around 7pm or 8pm.

Jerry Ladell



A quintessential village pub, run by the Short family since 1962, the current landlord being the third generation.

One of only a handful of pubs to have appeared in every edition of the Good Beer Guide.

Recognised by CAMRA as having a historic pub interior of regional importance.

Food centres on soup and sandwiches, rare roast beef platters, street food every Wednesday, plus other food events each month.

Ales are served direct from casks on a stillage behind the bar.



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On The Campaign Trail!

Another Cambridge CAMRA Pub Tour

Our Spring coach tour, on a very blustery late-April Saturday, took us a bit further afield than normal.

Our first stop was in the Plough at Shepreth, where we celebrated the announcement



that the pub, voted Cambridge and District CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year for the second

year running, had been awarded the title of CAMRA Cambridgeshire Cider Pub of the Year.

Will, Cheryl and Gladys Emmanuel joined us and we made a presentation to mark this latest achievement. As well as a fantastic range of 20 mostly locally produced ciders and perries the Plough also has a fine range of beers, four from cask and five from keg. I opted for a half of the Bishop Nick East Street (a 4.2% blonde), followed by a half of the Papworth Whispering Grass (a 3.8% golden ale). Both were on excellent form.

It was time to move on. Just a 10-minute drive apparently. It seemed strange that we were heading towards Whaddon as the village doesn't have a pub. Well it wasn't a pub that we were heading for. It was Whaddon Golf Centre; somewhere I'd never previously visited. Its bar is open to anyone in much the same way as a pub. We were made most welcome by owners Lorna & Richard who have run it for 30 years. Due to the weather they had been expecting a quiet day so were very happy when our minibus pulled in. They pride themselves on keeping their beer well, preferring one in good nick to two that might not store well. Certainly the 3.9% Hardys & Hansons Bitter that we had on our visit was well kept. They hold an annual weekend beer festival when

they serve up to 8 ales, as well as Morris dancers and a barbecue on the Sunday. This might have been my first visit, but I have a feeling it won't be my last.

Our next stop was the Hare & Hounds in



Harlton, which had reopened 18 months earlier having been bought and refurbished by a Community Interest

Company whose shareholders mostly live locally. The village is rightfully proud to have saved its pub. There are three handpumps on the bar. I opted for halves of the refreshing 5% Hop Back Summer Lightning and the 3.7% Young's Bitter.

It was now time for a 25-minute drive,



leaving our branch area, to visit the Chequers in Little Gransden. The pub, which was on the

shortlist for CAMRA's 2018 Pub of the Year, is home to the Son of Sid Brewery. Our visit coincided with their beer festival. They had 6 of their own beers on offer plus 10 from other breweries and 3 ciders. We tucked into pork pies and scotch eggs whilst supping our beers. I went for my Son of Sid favourite, 3.5% Muck Cart Mild and wasn't disappointed. The 4.1% Muirhouse Blueberry Porter was deliciously rich & fruity.

It seemed a shame to have to leave behind a beer festival in a prestigious brewpub but 30 minutes later we turned off the road and

followed a farm track before finally pulling up outside the Rocket Ales Brewery in an industrial unit near Great Staughton. Here we were met by Mike and team, shown around and told the story of the brewery. We also tried four of their cask ales, Apollo



11 (3.9% APA), First Man (4.2% bitter), Lunar Module Pale Ale (3.8%) and Atlas IPA (5.8%). Now that's what

you call a welcome!

It was time to head back towards our branch area but en route we stopped off at the Ale Taster in St Neots which is the Huntingdonshire CAMRA 2019 Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year. Not only did they have a fine selection of ales, ciders & perries but they also have a line of fridges



for craft and foreign beers; reminiscent of the Cambridge Blue. What's not to like? The 5.0% Mad Squirrel

London Porter was fantastic with smoky chocolate lingering flavours.

The clock was ticking and we still had two more pubs before home. It was to be my first proper visit to the Blue Lion in Hardwick



since it had changed hands. The new licensees plan to make it slightly less food orientated and focus more its beers. On our visit we could choose between Greene King IPA, Morland Old Speckled Hen and Ruddles Best Bitter.



Our final stop was the Black Horse in Dry Drayton which is our branch's 2019 New/Most Improved

Rural Pub, having reopened less than a year earlier following an 18-month closure. We were welcomed by Colin and Amanda. They champion LocAle, always having a beer from the village's very own Lord Conrad Brewery; Hedgerow Hop on our visit. The Adnams Broadside (4.7% best bitter) was also in fine form.

As we travelled back into Cambridge we held our votes. Pub of the tour was a very tough one and it took two rounds of voting for Rocket Ales Brewery to just edge out the Plough in Shepreth. There were several nominations for beer of the tour but the voting clearly selected the Mad Squirrel London Porter at the Ale Taster.

Although there had been quite a bit of travelling it had been a very enjoyable trip. Our next minibus trip is on 7 September. Keep your eye out for more details in our website's events section and in our monthly email to members.

Due to space limitations, minibus trips are open to CAMRA members only.

Cambridge CAMRA Walkabouts - June Strolling Social.

The Cambridge CAMRA Strolling Socials are fairly laid-back affairs. We publish the schedule of pubs to be visited on our website, and inform branch members by email and people turn up when they want and leave as they wish. The June Strolling Social visited some of the Cambridgeshire pubs along the railway line towards Kings Cross.

We started out beyond Royston at a pub in Huntingdonshire branch's area, the Jester. It is beside Ashwell & Morden station. The

On The Campaign Trail!



pub, and station for that matter, isn't in Ashwell, nor is it in the larger villages,

Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden. It is in the tiny hamlet of Odsey. I'd not visited previously, and found the pub to be bigger than I'd expected. An old inn, it is constructed from dark flint and has a powder blue painted extension. The lady serving us said that it was about to change hands but currently obtained its beer from Marston's. Our beer choice was simple as they only had one cask ale. It was Ringwood Razorback (3.6%). Best Bitters all round! We took them outside to drink in the attractive rear garden.



50 minutes later we took the train to Meldreth station. It was then a 10-minute walk to the British Queen in Meldreth. It was very busy. They had



kindly set aside a table for us, but the weather was lovely so we opted to make the most of it, ordered food and took our beers to the outside patio. Of the four real ales on offer my first choice of 4.5% Adnam's Ghost Ship was deliciously fresh and is justifiably popular. The 3.8% Woodforde's Wherry was decent too. I was told that the soup was excellent. Certainly the sandwiches and chips were very good.

Another walk of about 25-minutes took us to the Dolphin in Melbourn. This is a large, family-friendly Greene King managed house situated in the centre of the village. Such pubs can sometimes be hit or miss but at the Dolphin the beer was a hit. They had

four ales on offer. The 3.8% Black Sheep Best Bitter was spot on and I also enjoyed a half of the Timothy Taylor Landlord (4.3%) whilst sat in the garden.

It barely took 5 minutes to reach our next



stop in Melbourn, the Black Horse. This flint-built back-street pub

is always worth a visit. A real community pub with well-kept beer. We had a choice of three. I enjoyed halves of a zesty 3.8% Oakham JHB and a malty 4.5% Otter Brewery Otter Ale.

Then followed the longest walk of the day. 40 minutes, though the warm weather, blue skies and fine company made it seem shorter. None-the-less we were ready for



another beer when we arrived at the Green Man, just off the A10 near Shepreth. We had four beers to choose

from. I had a decent half of Timothy Taylor 4% Boltmaker, a beer that at one time they simply called their Best Bitter. Whatever its name, it's a well-crafted English ale. I also enjoyed a half of the richer 5% Greene King Abbot Ale.

The plan had been to train hop and walk to get in a visit to the White Horse in Foxton before heading back to Cambridge but the fresh air and exercise, not to mention the rewards of the brewers and cidermakers labours had left us weary. But that's the joy of a Strolling Social. You come and go as you please. The White Horse will be visited another day.

Our next Strolling Social will be on Saturday 10 August with the delights of Fen Ditton, Chesterton and Riverside our planned stopping points. Check our website or members monthly email for details. Strolling Socials are open to all.

Evolution of the Pump Clip by Fred Laband

Can you put the following real ale pump clips in chronological order?

			
A	B	C	D
			
E	F	G	H
			
J	K	L	M
			
N	O	P	Q
			
R	S	T	U

ANSWERS : (Oldest to most recent) Oakhams JHB C D A B; Adnams Bitter G F E H; Nethergates Umbel M K L J; Elgoods Cambridge Q N P O; Woodforde's Wherry S T R U. (Note that Woodforde's Wherry Bitter and Amber Ale are the same beer with a slight change of name...)

Paws for thought. The wonderings of

Hello Doggy Friends.

I know it seems a long time ago but I thought I would dedicate this issue wandering to the 46th Cambridge CAMRA Summer Beer Festival.

What a great time I had! But goodness me wasn't it hot!

I felt really sorry for my friend Vernon. Every year the festival advertising features the anniversary of a significant event in history, and every year Vernon dresses up as one of the key participants of that event. This year, Festival Organiser Anthony Cox and his team celebrated the 50 year anniversary of landing on the moon, so Vernon dressed up as an astronaut, though he looked as hot as a cooked lobster as he steamed in his airtight suit. I thought it had affected him



badly because he seemed to be moving in slow motion, but he told me he was actually pretending to be walking with heavy boots on the surface of the moon.

It was, my human told me, another record year!

Over the 6 days our 550 volunteers served "45,111 customers a total of 110,700 pints of beer, cider and perry, over 2,200 bottles of wine and mead and approximately 750kg of cheese which was enjoyed with 55kg of pickle."

I was really pleased to see that the festival charity had also done really well. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity raised over £25,000 to help support people in Cambridgeshire living with a life-limiting illness and those who need end-of-life care. Especially as they had helped my friend Janice (reported in the last issue of Ale).



This is particularly nice picture because my friends and beer bloggers and Adam Walker and Louise Hanzlik snuck in at the back.

As usual, I asked my human to give me a festival tour. I like to check to make sure everyone is ok.

It gets a little hectic during the evenings and I am only a little dog, so we waited for a quiet lunchtime before visiting the ladies on the glasses stand. They were very happy!



a pub going dog



I next visited the brewery bars. It was especially nice to meet the humans from award winning local Turpin's Brewery.

The staff of the Adnam's bar greeted me with a pat on the head, and gave my human a free sample of their featured beer Dark Side of The Moon, which was brewed especially for us. It was so good he took a sip and said "The Eagle has landed", which I think was supposed to refer to landing on the moon, but he got the quote mixed up with a Hollywood film.

As usual, a steady stream of people came to see me at the CAMRA membership stand.



My apologies to this young lady for not remembering her name. I did ask my human to write it in his notebook - but he forgot. He says he will write it down next year if that's ok?

Tim Nash also came to pay us a visit. Tim helps to organise the beer festival in The Castle Inn, Castle Hedingham. Last November a fellow volunteer, a 21 year old lady, passed away after suffering brain cancer. Tim is cycling (it seems like) all over Britain, visiting pubs and beer festivals along the way, in an attempt to raise £3000



for the St Helena Hospital charity which looked after the young lady in her final days. Here, Tim is

with bespectacled CAMRA volunteer David Anglestein



It was great too to meet up with Jenny Wood and her friend Kira. Jenny

had invited the festival organisers to a memorial for her partner, Cambridge City Mayor, Nigel Gawthrop. Unfortunately it coincided with the Festival opening on 20th May, so we couldn't all attend, so we were so glad when she said she would pay us a visit. My male human used to work in the same place as Nigel - they were union reps together - so my human knew him quite well. "Nigel certainly cared about people" - he told me - "and he liked a beer or two!" Praise indeed!

See you next issue

Gladys Emmanelle

Lost pubs of Cambridge(shire)

OK. What's black and white and eats like a horse? Clue:



Yes, that's right, last issue's mystery lost pub was the Zebra on Maids Causeway.

The ever-reliable Pete Davis provided the following reminiscence:

"My wife lived on Maids Causeway during her teenage years in a house owned by Finbows the Removers. Her Dad was Foreman at Finbows whose depot was originally the Tabernacle, later Wellington Tyres and now probably an estate agents.

"Every night Syd walked along to the Depot for a final "security" check and on his way home popped into the Zebra for a nightcap. As a result of these visits, every time Syd's Grandson passed the pub he referred to it as Grandad's Boozer.

"We still refer to it as such today!"

I first encountered the pub in the mid-1980s, when it had just been refurbished and was enjoying a few years in the *Good Beer Guide*. It had a good reputation for food, too, which continued long after it dropped out of the Guide. But what I remember most is the décor: zebra stuff *everywhere*, filling every available space, it seemed. This did get thinned out a few

years later after a bit of a spruce-up, which didn't go down well with some of the regulars, one of whom scrawled on the wall of the gents: "*Grebos for the Zebra like the old days!*"

And speaking of the old days, here's the ancient history bit:

It was in 1847 that the Zebra first makes an appearance, as the venue for an inquest "*on the body of Ann Holah, who died suddenly*". Landlord at the time was Charles Oliver. He had previously been at the Star & Garter, Eden Walk (better known to us now as Fitzroy Street), so he hadn't come far.

He was succeeded briefly by a Mrs Elizabeth Freeman. Her tenure was not altogether a happy one: suspecting a long-term lodger of hers, William Billings, of occasionally pilfering money while she was out, she challenged him with the same, whereupon he "*took up a pewter quart pot and broke 19 panes of glass in my windows*". So she took him to court, as you would, and he was ordered to pay 10s to cover the damage or go to prison for 14 days. Which option he chose is not recorded, but one suspects he was no longer welcome in the Zebra.

William Unwin followed, but he was more of a carpenter by inclination, and after about ten years returned to that trade.

In 1869 John Roe Beeton, newly married to Emily, began his 20-year tenure. Now he was an interesting chap, part of family of publicans originally from Market Deeping. His mother, Hannah, had been running the Shakespeare just up the road next to Sun Street for over ten years, where she was later succeeded by his older sister, Susannah.

He himself had had a stint in the Royal Navy, serving aboard HMS *Ringdove* in the Far East during the period of the Taiping

Rebellion. Perhaps connections he made while out there resulted in the Zebra now being the only place in Cambridge (according to the advert) where discerning pipe smokers could obtain something called 'Wood's Oriental Mixture'. Given its provenance, one doesn't wish to think what exactly was in it... (The Zebra also had the more dubious honour of having its hospital charity collection box nicked from the bar.)

As well as running the pub, John also taught at the University Swimming Club, no less! It is, then, a sad irony that his second wife, Maria, whom he had married in 1880, was found drowned in the river near the railway bridge early on the morning of Monday 3 June 1889. The inquest is reported in detail in the *Cambridge Independent Press* of 7 June, but to summarise: she had stayed up later than her husband the night before to prepare him some food for first thing in the morning, and then went to bed. For some reason it seems that she got up before dawn and went for a walk along the river. Her hat was later found on top of her folded shawl near Jesus boathouse, and her body, still warm, a way downstream about two hours later. The arranging of her hat and shawl suggests suicide, but there had been no other indications previously that she "*had in her mind the idea of destroying her life*", and so an open verdict was recorded.

This tragic loss clearly affected poor John, and he died six months later, of consumption.

Of his successors Kate Wheedon and her brother, Frederick William, there is little to be said except that in 1903, when one Lucy Askham was fined for being drunk on the premises, Frederick was "*allowed the benefit of the doubt*" when charged with permitting it. Such understanding Magistrates!

As its architectural style suggests, what we see today does not date from the 1840s. No, the Zebra was fortunately one of those somewhat dilapidated establishments

considered worth rebuilding in the improved style in the 1930s. A photograph of the original from around 1925 shows it to be looking rather shabby, but even so the newly arrived Bertram 'Bertie' Walter Sharpe stands proudly outside.

With the spanking new building comes new respectability, of course, and from then on nothing nefarious seems to have happened worthy of being reported in the papers. Ten years later, Bertie leaves to do a stint at the Tiger, East Road.

Probably the only thing of even slight interest from the 1950s to the 1970s is that the Zebra gets listed under Hotels rather than Public Houses in Kelly's Directory. And that brings us to the 1980s where we started.

In the 1990s the pub returned to the *Good Beer Guide* occasionally, but like many pubs it ran into troubled times as the new century dawned. A number of licensees who had enjoyed success elsewhere in Cambridge tried their hand at stopping the rot, but alas none could make a success of it. Amongst them were Steve and Cissy-Lyn of the Sino Tap (now the Punter), but they stayed only a couple of months. Then Ralph Holland (Mill, Old Spring, Burleigh Arms) and his wife Ania made a number of improvements, including the introduction home-cooked Polish food, but that didn't work out either. Finally it was the turn of Jo Tomkins and Val Martin, who were also in charge of the Haymakers and the Corner House at the time, but six months later, in the summer of 2011, the pub closed again, this time for good, and it was soon put on the market to be snapped up, inevitably, by a developer. A lengthy battle ensued to prevent conversion to flats, but that has been lost.

And the name? Well it's certainly unusual, apparently one of only two in the country. The suggestion is that it was named after a ship. Now there have been more ships than pubs named the *Zebra*, but the most likely candidate is HMS *Zebra*, an 18-gun *Cruiser-*

Lost pubs ... continued



class brig-sloop launched in 1815. Had Mr Oliver been one of the crew in his younger days, and named his new pub after it?

Here's another *really* easy one, lots of people should be able to provide lots of stories for me for next issue – pretty please!



Do send reminiscences – or even better, embarrassing anecdotes – to me at pub-history@cambridge-camra.org.uk. Same goes if you've got any information to add about the Zebra or any other pubs I've written about. Don't be shy, it's never too late!

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