

ale



Campaign
for
Real Ale

Cambridge & District Branch Newsletter Issue 395 October 2019

Three Horseshoes, Comberton



Cambridge Beer Festival Winter 2019
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University Social Club, Mill Lane (see page 5)

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Pub News

Please excuse the pun: It is a sobering thought that nationally we have lost over 25% of our pubs – around 10,500 – since 1989. It is thought, by some, that the steady rate of conversion from pub to retail or residential use must soon diminish and perhaps end, but recent developments have raised the concerns of pub watching sceptics, including us. On September 12th, shareholders of Ei group agreed to accept the sale of their pub estate to the Stonegate Pub Company. On the face of it this may not be such a bad outcome. Stonegate, already the owner of pub chains such as Slug and Lettuce and Yate's brands, should have an idea of how to run their business. Naysayers have pointed out that the company does not have experience in supporting tenanted properties, but we believe from private discussions with local landlords that Ei were not always as supportive as expected and some tenants are quietly looking forward to the change.

Eyebrows have been raised even higher at the newly proposed sale of Greene King's 2700 pub estate to Hong Kong based CK Bidco for a cool £2.7 Billion. Not surprisingly, Greene King shareholders, who will receive a hefty pay out, are likely to agree to the deal. Greene King have issued a statement saying that the CK Bidco directors see this as an opportunity to acquire a "*well invested estate in prime locations*". In the same statement they mention that they are anxious to see that shareholders get a good reward for their investment. Our worry, and we think it is real, is that the potential new owners may be more interested in the prime locations than in running the pubs. To quote Nik Antona, the National Chair of CAMRA: "*The news that Britain's largest Pub and Brewery company has been sold to an international asset company is very concerning...*"

Local News

In the Ale 394 we reported on the plight of

Branch Diary

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

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

13-16-Nov: Cambridge Beer Festival, University Social Club, Mill Lane

Tue 10 Dec: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Castle Inn, Castle Street.

Sat 11 Jan: Minibus Tour, 11:00-19:00, contact social@cambridge-camra.org.uk

Tue 14 Jan: 08:00pm. Open Branch Meeting, Green Dragon, Water Street.

For Consumer Advice:

If you have a complaint about goods or services, please contact Citizens Advice for information and advice: Visit the Citizens Advice Website

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/

Or you can call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06

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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the Castiglione family, the owners of **The Maypole**, Portugal Place, who were trying to

gain reassurance from developers, Cambridge Investment Partnership and Marick Real Estate, that measures will be put in place to protect their business throughout the demolition of a multi storey car park and the building of a new hotel in Park Street, Cambridge. Agents for the developers have responded by refuting many of the family's claims, but have also suggested ways that they will mitigate any disruption. It is unclear how effective these measures will be and we understand that the project has been delayed for 12 months – starting January 2021 – that should allow more time for discussion.



If you have lived in Cambridge for a while, and you are a fan of Belgian beers, we are sure that you

will have met Rob and Jess, landlord and landlady of **The Elm Tree**, Elm Street. The Elm Tree is owned by Charles Wells, but was leased to Banks and Taylors, who placed Rob and Jess in charge. This arrangement meant that the pub could offer a large selection of real ales, three from B&T, three from Charles Wells and four guest ales on pump. Rob, who has a passion for Belgian beer, also introduced a beer menu, which included out of the ordinary examples of the strong stuff brewed by our European cousins. His reputation, and the pubs popularity, grew, and the Elm tree became the “go to” place for Belgian beers tastings. In recent months B&T have refused

permission for the sale of these beers, but the brewery has now decided to give up the lease, which ends in April, and Rob and Jess would like to revive the Belgian beer menu. We very much hope that they are allowed to. The Elm Tree is a smashing pub, but for many of us it was the opportunity to taste and chat to Rob about Belgium beers that made it rather special.



The **Med**, Perne Road re-opened on 21st August. It has been taken over by

the people running the Dumpling Tree restaurant that has now relocated there. The good news is that the size of the bar area hasn't changed. There were two real ales on offer when we made our visit.

The **Corner House**, Newmarket Road, has also re-opened after a short refurbishment.

The long awaited **BrewDog** craft ale bar has opened in Bene't Street. On a recent visit we sampled the only “real ale” offering – a key keg dispensed “live beer” called Cask. The Bene't Street area is fast becoming the craft ale destination in the centre of Cambridge. BrewDog is a stone's throw from both The Smokeworks Tap and The Pint Shop. Visitors to this area who prefer cask ale will be pleased to learn that The Bath House continues to offer a CAMRA discount on some very good beer.



The Cambridge News has reported that City Pub Company has been granted planning

permission to rebuild the fire-damaged **Tivoli**, Mitcham's Corner.



Campaign
for
Real Ale



CAMBRIDGE BEER FESTIVAL WINTER 2019

WEDNESDAY 13
17.00–22.30 £3

THURSDAY 14
12.00–15.00 FREE
17.00–22.30 £3

FRIDAY 15
12.00–15.00 FREE
17.00–22.30 £3

SATURDAY 16
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We received a message from Tina, the co-owner of **The Chequers**, Orwell asking if the pub could be listed

on CAMRA websites.

A quick check on the What Pub Website (Whatpub.com), told us that The Chequers is indeed listed and that the listing was updated in January 2019. CAMRA members who aren't familiar with Whatpub might like to give it a look. It is a very useful tool, which enables the user to not only find pubs in your area, but to rate those pubs, and to score the quality of the beer. It can also be a means of informing local CAMRA branches of any changes we may not have noticed.

That is exactly what a CAMRA member in Linton did for **The Waggon and Horses**, Linton telling us that the pub is under new management –



unfortunately, we have no further details, but we will be in touch.

In contrast, the member who told us about Donna, the new landlady of **The Six Bells**, Fulbourn, has given plenty of detail. The pub has been



redecorated; there are three real ales on offer; good food is available – and there are dog snacks on the bar!

Congratulations to the **Plough** at Shepreth

on winning the Cambridgeshire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year award. It was runner up at regional level. The award was presented by the Cambridgeshire Area Organiser, Andy Shaw, during the pub's Beer and Cider Festival

Pubs on the Market (as Listed by Dalton's Business website):

- The Dykes End Reach
- The Willow Tree, Bourn
- An unnamed pub in Lode

The **Kingston Arms**, Kingston Street, Cambridge is now listed with a rent of £38,000 rather than listed as for sale.

The **Radegund**, King Street is currently closed. A notice placed in the window states that the pub has been repossessed.

Brewery News

Congratulations to Mark "the Brewer" at **The Cambridge Brew House**. His Night Porter has been awarded bronze in the recent Champion Beer of East Anglia, Porter's Category.

Milton Brewery added to its long list of awards by winning bronze for Minotaur mild in the same competition.

We understand that **Calverly's Brewery** has been given planning permission to extend its business in Hooper Street.

And Finally.

It was nice to see Norfolk Brewery, **Grain**, supporting Cambridge and District village pubs this summer. The Plough Shepreth benefitted with support for their Beer and Cider festivals, whilst The White Lion, Sawston has seen the brewery hold a tap take over and an innovative, design your own beer evening, at which customers were invited to flavour grain beers with different spices, herbs and fruit.



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 interest 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.



Two regular real ales: Adnams Southwold Bitter and Adnams Broadside, also an Adnams seasonal ale and an ever changing guest ale, plus Crones cider on tap.

Opening times: Mon 11.30am-2.30pm, 6pm-10pm; Tue-Thu 11.30am-2.30pm, 6pm-11pm; Fri 11.30am-2.30pm, 5pm-11pm; Sat 11.30am-11pm; Sun Midday-10pm

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Ronan McLister and family took on the Tenancy of the Green Dragon last November 2018. Recently refurbished and looking fabulous. Through SIBA offering a rotating and varied selection of regional ales. Excellent home-cooked food offer with chef "Richard Norden" formerly of the Back Street Bistro. CAMRA discount offered at 25p off a pint.



The Green Dragon, Chesterton,
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greendragoncambridge.co.uk

info@greendragoncambridge.co.uk

GreenDragon1109

cb4green

Opening times: Monday-Saturday
11.30am-11pm;
Sunday 11am-10.30pm

Food served: Monday-Saturday 12-2.30pm, 5-9pm, Sunday 12-4.30pm

Pub Tour

Another season - another Cambridge CAMRA pub tour.

We were heading in to Autumn. The leaves were beginning to colour and the air was - well actually it was lovely and warm, and sunny! Not your normal Autumn day. Anyway, it was time to go on our Autumn mystery (campaigning) pub tour.

I would like to start my report with a heartfelt plea to all landlords, bar staff, and owners of pubs. Please, please, please before you open up for custom each day have a taste of your cask ale, and, if necessary, pull some off before you start to serve, at least until it tastes ok. On two occasions during this tour we had to take beer back and ask for it to be changed. Once because the beer had been sitting in the pipes, and once because the cask had been close to empty overnight. On both occasions the beer was changed with a sincere apology and without quibble, but in this days of electronic judging, especially with the efficacy of the What Pub Beer scoring app, I would suggest that the serving up of a sour pint might leave a bitter impression that lasts a lot longer than a business needs.

Having said that, all of the pub landlords and the volunteers running the two beer festivals we visited on this tour were great fun. All were welcoming to 16 thirsty travellers and a fluffy dog called Gladys.

Here are the Highlights:

The Boot Inn, Histon



What a surprise this was! A comfy front bar (complete with doggy treats) sits adjacent to a cavernous rear bar and dining area. The Boot is now part of Raymond Blanc's White

Brasserie Company. Three beers were on offer - none of them too exciting, though a half of Timmy Taylors Landlord is not a bad way to start a tour.

The Phoenix, Histon



Still very much in transition from its previous identity as a Chinese restaurant, The Phoenix is notable for its

unusual furnishing. The entrance hallway is adorned with Chinoises wall paper, whilst the



large pub/ dining area is (according to one observer) furnished like an airport waiting area. It certainly is quirky. A family

friendly atmosphere pervades - the place was full of kids. Trestle and canteen tables cater for family diners. Three beers were on offer - the best of which, Milton Brewery's Dionysus, was worth the visit.

The Three Horseshoes, Madingley

I last visited this pub/ restaurant in the 1990's, when I was put off by what I saw as pretentious food offerings, stuffy staff, and expensive beer. I have no idea why that prejudice lasted so long, but it did - I am pleased we visited on this tour because this prejudice is finally dispelled. Now owned by Cambs Cuisine, who own among others The Crown and Punchbowl, Horningsea and The Tickle Arms in Whittlesford, this was one of the most welcoming pubs on the tour. The beer was pretty good too. I tried the Adnams Southwold Bitter because it is always a good measure of how well a landlord looks after his or her beer, (pretty good) but the revelation was the craft offering of Brewboard Brewery's Smökevrurks - it was yum!

The Three Horseshoes, Comberton



This was not actually on the original tour list, having been visited in a tour earlier in 2019. Those of us in the know

suggested that we should visit what we think of as a lovely example of community village pub. Fortunately our driver followed our advice and we were able to enjoy some great ale in excellent company, once again.

Toft Beer Festival



This was my first visit to the annual event which has grown a reputation for a warm welcome and real ale.

When we arrived, the festival was in full swing. Practically every seat in Toft Social Club was



taken. The villagers had certainly turned out in force! Normally the club has a strict "no dogs" rule, but in keeping

with the occasion, Gladys Emmanuelle was given dispensation to attend. She had a great time being fussed by children and adults alike.

The beer, served straight from the cask, was varied in style (including some lovely dark ales) and served in tip top condition - and the home-made scotch eggs were to die for!

We are definitely going back next year.

Little Shelford Beer Festival

It was getting late in the day and we were all feeling a little blurred, which accounts for the lack of a photo (sorry). Still plenty of beer left though, so we had a couple and they were very good. This festival is held on Little Shelford sports ground. Perhaps next year we should begin the tour here?



PUBS that Offer Discounts to CAMRA Members



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'et 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 Green Dragon, Chesterton, 25p 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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 - The Histon Beer Festival (Early September)


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Premier League Away Days Pub Guide

If you are lucky enough to follow a team in the English Premier League and even luckier to qualify for tickets to away matches this little guide might be of some help to you.

For some teams the pub of choice is fairly standard but there are a few beauties that need searching out if you happen to be in the area.

All of the pubs highlighted, with the exception of the in-house brewery at Spurs, the Kings Head at Leicester, and the Sheffield pubs have been personally 'tested' over the last few seasons by my good self.

Arsenal

There are a number of pubs on Holloway Road and the surrounding area but for me you'd do well to beat the **Parcel Yard** at Kings Cross station. It has about 10 different real ales on – all usually in top condition and you are only a couple of stops on the Northern Line away from the Emirates Stadium. Beware though this is London, so expect to pay premium prices for your ale.

Aston Villa

The **Bartons Arms** (B6 4UP) – The return of Aston Villa to the Premier League also brings about another opportunity to sample the delights of the Bartons Arms. This pub has so much going for it – architecturally it is a magnificent example of the Victorian era. The interior design is something to behold, high ceilings and ornate decorations make this one of the most beautiful city pubs you'll ever come across. Mix that with the excellent Oakham Ales and superb Thai cuisine, what more could you ask for? It's another one of those 10 minute Ladell strolls to the ground. Get there early enough and there is free car parking to be had for the nominated driver.

Bournemouth

You will need a car for this one. The **Foresters Arms** (SO42 7RR), Brockenhurst leaves you with a 45 minute drive to get near to the ground, so make sure you give yourself plenty of time. The pub is right next to the railway station and serves excellent Ringwood ales and very good grub. The locals are friendly and it is a very attractive alternative to the beer free zone that is the Vitality stadium.

Brighton

The selection for Brighton is a tricky one as you have to return to the railway station to board a train that takes you to the out of town football ground in Falmer. However, I love a challenge so head to the **Brighton Beer Dispensary** (BN1 3EG). This small pub gets very busy but its intimacy is its attraction – very friendly, great beer selection and decent food. You need to get there early though as you'll need to leave by 2pm if you want to make kick-off at 3, if your game hasn't been moved for TV coverage.

Burnley

The pub of choice for Burnley leaves you with a 10 minute walk to the ground. The **Bridge Bier Huis** (BB11 1UH) is not the easiest to find as it is tucked down a little side road not too far from Burnley Central railway station. They have some lovely beers in here and a good collection of European beers and continental lagers. The food, whilst basic, is extremely good value for money. This is a much better refuelling spot than the pubs around the ground.

Chelsea

OK, so with Fulham in close proximity you can use this pub for either team. The **White Horse** (SW6 4UL) on Parsons Green is well worth a visit. It is in an ideal location in leafy South West London and very close to Parsons Green underground station. The beer and food are rather expensive but with

all the Sloan Rangers that seem to gather there at weekends I guess they can charge that little bit extra. It is a 10 to 15 minute walk to Stamford Bridge from here – you just follow the crowd through the backstreets and before you know it, you're there.

Crystal Palace

This place doesn't open midweek so you should only use this if your team are playing on a Saturday. The **Southwark Brewing Company** (SE1 2EZ) is a 10 minute walk from London Bridge station. The pub is actually the brewery tap, so you can get to see the whole kit and caboodle of the brewery while enjoying your beer on trestle tables and benches. All the beers sold are made on the premises and the staff are very engaging. This pub forms part of the famous Bermondsey Mile pub crawl.

100 yards or so down the road brings you to **Hawkes Cidery** (SE1 2QH) which is open from 11am on Saturday mornings right up to 11pm, so plenty of time to get your pe-match drinks on board as well as time to celebrate or drown your sorrows afterwards. This is a great addition to the Bermondsey Mile. Beware though, If your game has been shifted to satisfy TV audiences the bar does not open on Mondays or Tuesdays and shuts at 6pm on Sunday. You will need to head back to London Bridge to get a train to Norwood Junction, so leave yourself plenty of time.

Everton

The **Ship and Mitre** (L2 2JH) is in the centre of Liverpool not too far away from Liverpool Lime Street station. They have a great selection of real ales to sample. You will need to use either public transport or a cab though to get you to the ground which is about a 15 minute drive away. They were serving that well known Liverpool gastronomic delight that Liverpudlians are generally named after – Scouse!

Leicester

The **Kings Head** (LE1 6RL) unfortunately,

our usual pub at Leicester – Broood – closed its doors for the last time in April, so we have had to re-assess the situation. With more than a little help from Steve, the ex-landlord at Broood, who suggested the King's Head – which was right next door to where Broood once was! I don't think you'll be disappointed. Nine guest ales, accompanied by three from their own local micro-brewery plus up to six real ciders – what could possibly go wrong? The pub is a multi-award winning CAMRA pub to boot.

Liverpool

The red side of Liverpool would consider going to church as being a visit to Anfield. You could of course use the pub identified for Everton if you wish – however if you fancy something nearer to the ground and are not too fussed if they don't sell real ale – a visit to the **Church** (L4 0UH) is recommended. You are within the shadows of the Kop so it is advised that it is probably best not to disclose your club colours, due to the proximity of the ground but the place was friendly enough and you could leave with 10 minutes to kick off and still be in the ground in time to see the teams come out.

Manchester City

Personally I think it is best to stick in central Manchester or stay right out of town when visiting the Etihad – If you opt for my first selection it's a 20 minute walk along the canals from Manchester Piccadilly station or 5 minutes in a cab. The **Waldorf** (M1 3AQ) is an excellent venue for real ale, with a plentiful choice to whet your appetite. Food is probably a no-no due in the main that the pub is usually rammed – especially on match-days. Be warned, this a noisy venue – plenty of big plasma screens showing the latest sporting events from around the globe. Having said that the locals seemed friendly enough...

If you are a bit more adventurous though, head for **Stalybridge Railway Station** (SK15 1RF) and its **Buffet Bar on Platform 4**. You will not be disappointed. The choice of ales and ciders was very impressive for a

Premier League Away Days Pub Guide

relatively small bar. The staff were friendly and knowledgeable about the beers and the food although quite limited was excellent. You can park for free outside the station and you have literally a 20yard walk to the train, you travel one stop on the 30 minutes service to Ashton, from there you have a few hundred yards to the Metro and it is then a further 20 minutes to the Etihad. We left the pub at 2pm and were in the ground in time to see the teams come out (which was a bit of a shame as we conceded five in the first 20 minutes!)

Manchester United

The **Lime Bar** (M50 3AH) is perfectly situated for Old Trafford, a 10 minute walk through the Quays gets you to the stadium. The Lime Bar is a great spot – car parking is pretty pricey though, so be warned – and if you use the Lowry Outlet Mall to park, make sure you take a note of which car park you use and the floor! The bar has a restaurant area reserved specifically for people who wish to eat but there is plenty of bar area to park yourself and numerous big screens showing all the latest sports action. When we were there last time, they had an al-fresco barbecue on the go – the burgers were awesome. They also had a very decent range of real ales to satisfy your thirst.

Norwich City

Two pubs here to choose from. The **Coach & Horses** (NR2 2SL) is a brew pub. Its locality to Carrow Road means you need to get here early if you are intending to sit down – it's also only a good goal kick away from the main railway station, so brilliant if you are planning on letting the train take the strain.

The second pub, which is very popular with our Norfolk Hornets sub-set, is the **Fat Cat and Canary** (NR1 1TR). This pub is even closer to the ground, although a good 15 minutes peg from the railway station. The pub is a free house, so plenty of great ales,

ciders and lagers to choose from – not too much in the way of food though to soak up the beers – usually just filled rolls on match-days.

Newcastle United

The **Pitcher and Piano** (NE1 3DX) is situated on the Quayside overlooking the River Tyne and right next to the iconic pedestrian 'eye' bridge which is a very interesting piece of modern engineering. This place can get very busy during the late summer and spring months due to its location. The beer is decent, with a few real ales to sample plus the usual premium lagers. It is a good 20 minute hike to St James Park and it is all pretty well uphill, so allow plenty of time and make sure you have the energy to climb the 14 flights of stairs to reach the away fan enclosures. So much for the pitch-side view away fans are meant to be afforded!

Sheffield United

Due to the fact that the Blades have been operating in league one and the championship in recent years it has been quite a while since our paths last crossed. The **Sentinel Brewhouse** (S1 4SQ) is an interesting sounding place, a father and son team took over a re-posessed brewing plant and have started brewing their own Three Point craft lagers. If you want something a little more traditional then I have been reliably informed that **Shakespeare's** (S3 8UB), which is right near Kelham Island (aka RAP - Real Ale Paradise), is very good with up to nine real ales on tap and three or four real ciders – looking at Google maps it looks about 10 minutes from Bramhall Lane.

Southampton

This is a real cracker of a pub and one of my premier league favourites. The **Caskaway Tasting Rooms** (SO14 3DP) is something to behold. Yes it is a Micropub but that doesn't hamper your enjoyment. When last there I

think they had about 15 ales and 10 real ciders on – you really are spoilt for choice. Add to that the fact that you are only a 15 minute walk from the ground it is the perfect location. The pork pies and scotch eggs are something else. You also get a 20% discount from the nearby pizzeria if that sort of thing floats your boat.

Tottenham Hotspurs

Now that they're back in the new White Hart Lane stadium we can offer you three venues for the price of one. We return to a couple of our old favourite haunts plus the innovative in-house brewery that is actually sited within the football stadium (unbelievable Jeff!). You can either head to the **Beehive** (N17 9BQ) on Tottenham High Road – It's only a 10 minute walk and the natives were pretty friendly when we last visited. The beer was decent, selling the local Redemption Brewery range of beers plus some of the big boy's main stream ales. They have a lovely enclosed garden area to the rear, which is great if playing them during August, September, April or May.

Or you can visit the previously mentioned **Redemption Brewery** (N17 ORE) that has its own tap room, which is open for all Spur's home games. This is an excellent little find. Great food and beer – the only drawback is the fact that it is situated in the middle of an industrial estate, so if it's views you're after – then this isn't for you. As they say though, beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

And thirdly there's the in-house **Beavertown Brewery** which is yet to be tried and tested but if their Neck Oil is anything to go by then we're all in for a treat – I just hope the price of a pint inside the ground are not similar to the £6.50 you have to pay for a pint of it in Cambridge.

Watford

My home turf. You need look no further than The **West Herts Sports Club** (WD18 7HP) when visiting that wonderful town of Watford which is on the outskirts of London in Hertfordshire – we are only classified as a London club when we're doing well (so not

very often). The beers are superbly kept and the company is obviously amazingly good – especially if my crew are in. The food is limited but Watford does unofficially own the best kebab house this side of Istanbul – and – it is only a long clearance down the road. The ground is a comfortable 10 minute walk – just follow the merry throng of people wending their way down the back streets of West Watford.

West Ham United

With their recent successful (not) move to the sunny climes of Stratford and the Olympic London Stadium the pubs are a bit hard to locate, but if you are persistent, and I am, you will find **Crates Brewery** (E9 5EN) which is a brewery and a pizzeria all in one – both are home-made – the ales and the pizzas – and by golly they are good. You overlook a somewhat run down part of the Lea river/canal with some rather questionable graffiti adorning the walls of the buildings opposite. It is best not to wear your club colours here, not in fear of being attacked from West Ham fans but on police advice – I've never seen any issues here and the West Ham fans all seem pretty decent people. You are only 10 minutes from the stadium but car parking is at a premium so I would suggest letting the train take the strain if possible.

Wolverhampton Wanderers

Back in the top flight after a few seasons in the wilderness that is known as the EFL. The best pub that is not too far from the ground is The **Great Western Hotel** (WV10 0DG). The pub is a bit like a Tardis, it looks quite small from the outside but it seems to go on for ever once inside. This is a very busy pub which has built well on its reputation as a provider of premium real ales. The filled rolls are also well sought after. The only word of warning I would give about this pub is that you have to navigate a rather nasty underpass that has in the past been known to attract a few undesirables who seem to think it is quite acceptable to attack innocent passers-by on their way to enjoy a good day out at the

Premier League Away Days Pub Guide

football. Don't let these jobs detract you though. If you are a bit more adventurous and don't mind a slight detour, you could do a lot worse than calling into The **Sportsman Club** (B70 6PP). The pub does some outstanding curries and the beer is well cheap – even if it is all of the gassed variety (no real ale here I'm afraid). Large TV screens showing the main sporting events of the day are numerous. This pub won our away pub of the year, two years running when the Albion were still in the top flight. You can get a tram from Trinity Street right into the middle of Wolverhampton (St. George's) in less than 25 minutes. It's a 10 minute walk from there!!!!

And there it is – my guide to all of the current Premier League football grounds. If I have the time and energy I will update the entries each season. I hope you enjoyed the read!

Jerry Ladell



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Apples & Pears - by Jerry Ladell

Walking Cider Tour - Saturday 14th September 2019



A small but perfectly formed group congregated at the **Carlton Arms** at 12 Noon to start the first Strolling Cider Tour that I have organised.



Carlton Arms

We got off to a bit of a shaky start, those that were present will know exactly what I mean, and set about tackling a couple of halves of their finest ciders and perries. Eight ciders and a perry were on offer and the ones I had (Black Dragon 7.2% – Gwynt Y Ddraig & Bee Sting Perry 7.5% – Lilley's) were very different but very enjoyable too. All of the drinks served were in top condition, nice and cool.

The walk to the **Golden Hind** took us through the neighbourhoods of The Arbury and Kings Hedges estates – it was an interesting meander that went without incident, apart from nearly getting run over on a couple of occasions for jay walking... We were joined by a few more waifs and strays, including Gladys Emmanuel and her human companion. The offering at this pub was much larger, however the bulk of their supplies were fruit-based offerings from Lilley's – these have their appeal for some cider drinkers, but I have to say they are lost



Golden Hind

on me. They were also very warm, so I'm not sure we tasted them in ideal condition. I tried another Gwynt Y Ddraig offering – Warrior 6.8% and although warm I came to the opinion that if slightly more chilled it would have been an enjoyable quaff – I also tried one of Lilley's that didn't have additional fruit – Dark 7.5%, all I can say is that it was very, very sweet.

We then walked the mile or so to the **Haymakers**, which was our designated food stop. The ciders on offer were quite limited and again a touch on the warm side. The pizza though was to die for – Gladys took quite a shine to the pizza crust. I tried one of Simon's Ciders here – East Meets West 6.6% this was the best drop I'd tasted so far! I then opted for Krones Rum Cask 7.5% it was on the dry side, but it was very drinkable – it was a close call but Simon's still had the edge.

From here we had the shortest scheduled stroll of the afternoon to the **Waterman** on Mitcham's Corner. They only had two ciders on and both were made by Lilley's, one being of the added fruit Lilley's variety, so the selection process was very simple, I plumped for the Sunset 6%. It was verging on sweet but did have a slightly drier after-taste – It was decent enough, but not really my thing – we only stayed for the one!

The next walk was by far the most attractive, as we cut across Jesus Green, past the Round Church and along King's Parade as we made our way to our next scheduled stop the Smokeworks Tap. It was here though that we decided to go off piste and nipped into the newly opened

Brewdog bar on Bene't Street – what a good decision that was! They had the very lovely Hawkes craft cider on offer, so I went for the Urban Orchard 4.5% - it tastes stronger than that and it is a beautifully blended cider. We had to have a second serving it was that good.

We then had our shortest unscheduled walk of the tour, which took all of about 20 seconds to the **Smokeworks Tap**, right next door to Brewdog – here they had Cambridge Cider Company's Angry Wasp 6.5%. This was a cut above, perfectly chilled and ever so slightly effervescent, it was glorious. Again, one was not enough!

A walk across to Mawson Road and the

Live and Let Live, which was our penultimate stopping point. They had a very nice selection of Simon's Cider on the bar – No cider tour would be justified without having a go at Simon's Cox!!! 8% but it was bloody lovely! That was followed up with a swift half of Gibson's Perry 6.4% which was fairly sweet but a near perfect perry. By the time we left this stop off point it was just myself and Ali Cook that ventured on to our final destination. It was an easy 10 minute stroll from the Live to the **Cambridge Blue** and to be perfectly honest I cannot recall what I tasted here – the effects of a long day and a lot of cider had finally caught up with me!

I vaguely remember my wander back to pick up the guided bus but from there it is all a bit of a blur. What I can remember is that we had an excellent day out, spent with lovely company. Thanks for those that attended and a medal for Ali for lasting the distance – cheers!



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On Your Bike

Pubs officer Ali Cook continues his tour of local pubs

It was a warm Saturday in September and I had just bought a new bike so I thought I would give it a test run whilst checking out the pubs in Fowlmere, Thriplow & Newton.



The **Chequers** in Fowlmere was taken over in June by Chris and Rebecca who also run the Green Man in

Thriplow. The staff were friendly and there were three other customers just drinking which I thought was good custom for mid-afternoon. I could hear other customers in the dining areas. Two of their four handpumps were in use, both from Grain Brewery on this occasion. I was told that but the choice of brewery changes on a regular basis. I tried the Three One Six, which was vibrant and hoppy. I then sampled the Best Bitter. It too was delicious. Both were £1.75 a half pint. The pub has transformed since my previous visit. The then landlord viewed beer as an afterthought. The beer quality now was such that I immediately nominated it for next year's Good Beer Guide.



The **Green Man** in Thriplow had three ales on offer. Unfortunately not one was from a local

brewery, which I felt made a mockery of the CAMRA 2019 LocAle award proudly displayed in the bar. Having said that, the beer quality was ok. Brain's Rev James was on good form. The Shepherd Neame Spitfire and Adnam's Lighthouse were pretty good too. By now it was early

evening and both drinking & dining sides of the pub were pretty busy.



The **Queen's Head** in Newton they also served some very enjoyable beer. The Adnam's

Ghost Ship was especially delicious. Also on offer were two more Adnam's beers, Broadside (very good) and Southwold Bitter and the guest -beer was Orangutan from Animal XT Brewing. It is very tasty and well balanced beer. Unlike a number of hoppy ales I could name, I found that the orange notes did not over power the beer.

In all, it was a worthwhile trip, and my new bike managed to get me home safely and in one piece!

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Why not get involved?

CAMRA is volunteer-led, and all our local branch activities are run by volunteers. The most prominent aspect of that is our two annual beer festivals – we always need volunteers for those.

But Cambridge and District branch does more than just beer festivals – we're active throughout the year, campaigning to protect pubs and promoting real ale, cider and perry.

All of this, of course takes time and effort and we could do with some help.

We would love more people to get involved

Just for a start, why don't you come along to one of our monthly meetings. Held in a different pub every month the date and venue of each meeting is advertised in *ALE* magazine, the *What's Brewing* Newsletter and on our website (cambridge-camra.org.uk).

Perhaps the simplest way to become involved is to provide us with a beer quality score next time you're in the pub. Beer quality scores help us keep track of how the pubs in our area are changing – which pubs are improving and which might be declining. It also helps us choose our Pub of the Year award and our entries for the *Good Beer Guide*. To score beer, open the WhatPub.com website in a browser on your mobile device. Find the pub you are in and then press the Submit Beer Scores tab. You will need to put in your CAMRA membership number to be able to enter a score.

Staying in the pub, if you know of a change at a pub (or something that's about to happen) you can help us keep up to date by dropping us a line or providing an update, this too can be done using the Submit Updates tab on the WhatPub website (whatpub.com).

If you fancy a slightly more involved role, we're always looking for people to help deliver *ALE* magazine to pubs. As well as delivering the magazine it's a chance to pop in and see what's going on in your local.

If you feel like writing an article for the magazine, our editor would love to hear from you.

As well as pubs we also have a number of breweries in our branch area. CAMRA aims to appoint a brewery liaison officer, who works with the brewery to keep both CAMRA and the brewery up to date. If you're interested in doing this then please contact the branch.

If none of that appeals you can still help the campaign in a very simple way: pop to the pub and have a beer!



Paws for thought. The wonderings of

Regular followers of my pawings will remember that in the last issue I told you about the friends I met at The CAMRA Cambridge Beer Festival Summer. It seems a long time ago now and we are chasing towards The CAMRA Cambridge Beer Festival Winter. It runs from 13th to 16th November and is in the University Social Club, Mill Lane. Cheekily, the organisers have used a cartoon picture of me on the advertising and the glasses. I should be proud, but to be honest I am a little put out - my tail is much bigger than that!

As usual I and my male human will be looking after the membership stand. Please do come and give me a fussing. I also like treats if you happen to have them on you...

It has been a woofingly good month and I have made lots of new friends in lots of different pubs.



I would like you to meet Chris. He is the new landlord of The **Three Horseshoes**, Stapleford and is very much a dog lover. My male human tells me that Chris has "turned the pub around". I thought he

meant Chris was very strong, but apparently it means that both food and beer has improved so much that the pub is doing really well, so it is worth a visit by humans too.

I recently took my humans to Tideswell, which is a lovely place in the Peak District. It has four pubs and can be found between Buxton and Bakewell which means that both Buxton Brewery and Thornbridge Brewery are practically on the doorstep. You may be interested to know that there



are also countless dry-stone walls - perfect for clambering over - and some shallow rivers for doggy paddling in, nearby. We met this female human there, I think her name is Abigail, but I am not sure ... my dozy human

forgot to take notes again! Funnily enough, he remembers the pub we were in.

I was very sad to find out that my friend Sophie the lurcher had passed away whilst I was on holiday. We used to see each other in The **Mill**, Cambridge. Her humans, John and Lynn were heartbroken and I could tell they didn't know what to do without her.



Luckily, they were found by young Sonny, pictured above with Lynn. He soon sorted them out and we now meet up and growl at pub dog Stevie most Thursday lunchtimes.



Summer is the time to go to the seaside. For obvious reasons - all of them Adnams pubs - my male human likes to go to Southwold. We always go to Southwold pier where my female human likes to

a pub going dog

have a go on the quirky arcade rides. I wasn't impressed. This dog hardly barked a word and started to run as soon as he saw a cat! Not well trained at all.

We returned to Cambridge to make our annual visit to the Histon Beer Festival, which is held in September in The **Red Lion**,



and where we met this lady. She told us that my male had taken photos of me with, and forgotten the names of, her children the previous year. He said he would do the same for her this year - and he has.



It is always a nice surprise when we go to a pub that we think isn't dog friendly and we find out it actually is. This was the case in The **Boat**, Histon. I hope you notice that, being a polite little dog, I am waiting for permission before

raiding their doggy treat jar.



The lady human in this picture is called Leanne. She works for Norfolk based Grain Brewery and travels around the region supporting pubs that sell Grain beer. I first met her in The **Plough**, Shepreth when the

landlady had invited me to try her sausages during their September beer festival.



Like the Histon festival, there was very much a family welcome and I really enjoyed the

company of these young humans whilst my human slurped his beer.



We then bumped into Leanne at The **White Lion**, Sawston, where I also met this lovely

couple and received a lot of fuss from local customers. It is, my human told me, a proper village pub.

And just a little whine to end with. I am sure you know that I am not politically motivated. As long as the doggy treats are equally shared, I am a happy pup, but I did find myself asking when I was being petted



by Austrian student Julia, and her relations Paulina and Barbara whom I

bumped into in The **Free Press**, Cambridge: Why on earth do UK humans want to leave the EU? Have they lost their bones?

Lost pubs of Cambridge(shire)



Last issue's mystery lost pub was . . . well, it's had lots of names, as we shall see, but it is probably best known and most fondly remembered as the Boat Race. In its dozen or so years as one of Cambridge's favourite music venues it played host to musicians both local and from further afield, a number of whom later went on to greater things – though it must be admitted, an awful lot more didn't. Volumes could be written about those days – and quite a lot had better remain unwritten, too – but that's a task for someone else. If you remember those days, there's no point me telling you, and if you don't, well . . .

Older readers might remember it before that as the Falcon, but its original name was the Waggon & Horses, the first recorded



proprietor a certain Henry King. And how old is it? Well, it's always handy when a building itself gives you some clues.

Hands up who's noticed that before? (Confession: I hadn't until a couple of months ago.) So, we have a date of 1827, for the completing of the building at least. However, there is a reference to Henry King, of the Waggon & Horses, as executor to the

will of one John Ward (deceased), gardener, in a newspaper announcement from 1825. Did he somehow come into enough money to rebuild an existing property, or did it just take him a long time to finish building it?

Today the name 'Waggon & Horses' might seem inappropriately rural for that area, but not back then. That very same 1825 newspaper also carries an advertisement for a 'substantial' new-built residential house somewhere on Parkside (probably where the fire station is now) whose location is described as 'completely in the country'. Yes, really! This was when the Kite was still the Garden of Eden, though that was soon to change. For its time the Waggon & Horses was a substantial building, and also, with little else surrounding it, especially to the south, very prominent.

With the pub built, Henry turned his attention to building a brewery to supply it. To this end in 1834 he purchased land on James Street, and in 1838 he supplied three barrels of beer to the Coronation Feast on Parker's Piece. Brewing continued there until around 1878, long after Henry's death.

As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he (along with his wife, Sarah) produced several children, including three daughters. The third daughter, Adelaide, married George King (no relation so far as I can work out), son of Charles King, a brewer in Ely, in 1850; more of George shortly. Two years later the eldest, Martha, married John Moden, who could be related to Henry Moden, later of the Tiger Brewery (and pub) a little further down East Road. And to complete this little dynasty, the youngest son, Augustus, was running the William and Mary on Maids Causeway in the 1880s.

Henry died in 1854. Sarah held the license briefly until son-in-law George took over in 1855, whereupon she moved next door and lived off rental income from the pub and the other properties Henry had amassed – no

doubt a very comfortable retirement, which she enjoyed for some 30 years.

As well as marrying into the family, George also joined the business, working as brewer and living next door until he took over the licence, which he held for a quarter of a century.

At this time Barnwell was a notoriously rough part of town, and even somewhere as relatively upmarket as the Waggon & Horses was not free from the occasional outbreak of fisticuffs; at least once George seems to have been more involved than a respectable publican ought to be.

He died in 1881 and the pub passed to a Charles King, who was not, so far as I can tell, any relation even by marriage. On Sarah's death a few years later all her estate was put up for auction, and Charles secured both the pub and the house next door for £1,559.

Ruffians continued to frequent the place, though they were swiftly shown the door, sometimes requiring Police assistance; but surely the highlight of Charles' time in charge came in 1888, when the Cavendish Whist Club, no less, held its annual supper in the Club Room. *"Host King had prepared an excellent repast, and it gave every satisfaction. During the evening several members and friends sang capital songs, and altogether the meeting was of a most enjoyable nature."* Oh for a time machine!

By the 1890s the age of Kings was over. Charles, 'much loved and respected', had retired to Melbourne Place, where he died in 1892 after a lingering illness, and Walter James Douglas assumed the mantle. Now he may not have been related to any of the Kings, but he was no stranger to the trade: his father, James, was a brewer's man and beer seller from Hauxton. In 1881 his occupation was given as cellarman and he was living next door to the Alexandra Arms on Gwydir Street, along with his wife and daughter and his brother, Frederick (also a cellarman). When Walter took over the Waggon & Horses he brought them all with

him, and Frederick was promoted to brewer.

Sadly he didn't last long there, dying towards the end of 1894 aged a mere 38. Conveniently (for him) he died in hospital on the very day that he was due to appear in court charged with non-maintenance and desertion of his wife.

Now 1894 might be called the Year of the Three Licensees: his successor, David Harvey, died almost immediately, poor chap, leaving his widow, Jane Mary Harvey, in charge for the rest of the century. (Readers with long and excellent memories will remember her as licensee of the Golden Rose for the first decade of the 20th century, and then the Oak.)

In the 19th century the Waggon & Horses had been host to many meetings of the local Liberals, but in the 20th century the focus seems to have switched to more sporting interests. For example, in 1902 a classified advert announced that the "new and latest game of PING PONG is now being played", and in 1905 licensee (and vice president) Thomas Sutton hosted the fourth annual meeting of the Cambridge Hotspur Cricket Club.

Staffordshire-born Thomas Lunn was the next licensee of note, arriving from the Tailor's Arms, Norfolk Street, in around 1910. (Prior to the Tailor's Arms he had been at the Oak, where his young son had died in a fire in 1899.) A keen angler was Lunn, serving as secretary and treasurer of the Albion Angling Society (headquarters: Waggon & Horses, by some happy coincidence).

And that's not all: as well as being a well-respected local councillor for St Matthews Ward, he was also secretary and later president of the Cambridge and District Licensed Victuallers Association, whose meeting were also, conveniently for his till, often held in the Waggon & Horses. This was a difficult time for the licensed trade, faced with increasingly harsh wartime restrictions and then a strong challenge from prohibitionists and other temperance

Lost pubs ... continued

movements, but it seems from various newspaper reports that Thomas was more than robust in defence of the trade's interests. Good man!

It was also during his tenure in around 1924, that the pub had its first change of name, becoming the Falcon. The falcon is the badge of Lacon's Brewery, so perhaps this marks when it came into their possession.

Thomas retired to Great Yarmouth in about 1929, but returned to Cambridge at the end of his life.

Of his successors I can find very little, and the pub must have gone into something of a decline: the 1986 pub guide refers to it, by now renamed the Boat Race and recently done up, as "formerly the extremely grotty Falcon". Why the new name? Certainly it wasn't in celebration of any recent achievement on the Thames as Cambridge was enduring a prolonged losing run at the time, and the pub is nowhere near the river. Maybe the Whitbread marketing department just wanted to mark its refurbished look with a more Cambridge-y name.

Its transformation into dedicated music venue began in earnest towards the end of the 1980s. As noted at the beginning, there is no space here even to scratch the surface of what went on during that period, and much of it is probably unpublishable anyway (I value my wellbeing, thank you). All I will say is that I have particularly fond memories of the Sunday Afternoon Blues Jam, with its free roast chicken and roast potatoes on the bar to salve the hangover. And lots and lots and lots of Hamsters gigs – but maybe that's just me.

After a mere 15 years it all came to an end, and the Boat Race closing its doors for the last time in January 2004. Alas I missed the last night because I was on crutches and had my leg in plaster and, well, it probably wouldn't have been a very good idea...



A few months later it had metamorphosed into the Vine, a rather smarter 'bar and kitchen'. The bar boasted three shiny

handpumps, and although the beer quality was generally fairly good (according to reports in *ALE* at the time), the range wasn't always that exciting. Some questioned whether it could still be called a pub at all: one review in 2008 described it as a "bistro-cum-coffee-shop cum-wine-bar".

In 2009 it changed again, now called the Snug, a stablemate of the Snug on Lensfield Road. (When looking for a word to describe either place, 'snug' is not the first that comes to mind, it must be said.) Real ale diminished eventually to nothing, and well, it closed earlier this year, to a resounding shrug.

Here's the next one:



Tell me what, if anything, you remember about it at pub-history@cambridge-camra.org.uk. It's also not too late to send stories about the pubs I've previously covered, and if there's any other pub you'd like to know more about, do get in touch. Don't be shy, I like a challenge!



The Dyke's End

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The Dyke's End is a Free House in the idyllic village of Reach which sits at one end of the Devil's Dyke, a 7.5 mile Anglo-Saxon bank and ditch earthworks that is popular with walkers.

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