



WIRRAL



CAMRA DIARY

For updated details and any changes, please check our new website
www.wirral.camra.org.uk/BranchDiary.php



- Thu 15 Feb; Pub of the Year Presentation, **Lazy Landlord**, Liscard, 8 pm
Sat 3 Feb; Pub Of The Year Highly Commended Award, **West Kirby Tap**, 3 pm
Thu 8 Mar; Branch Meeting at Gallaghers, 8:30 pm
 Pub Of The Year Highly Commended Award will be presented.
Sat 10 Mar; Pub Of The Year Runner-up - Presentation to the **Harp**, Neston, 3 pm
Sat 17 Mar; Pub Of The Year Highly Commended Award
 – Presentation to the **Magazine Hotel**, 3 pm
Sat 24 Mar; Coach trip to **Huddersfield**,
 coach leaves from the Brass Balance at 10:20 then Liverpool at 10:30.
Thu 12 Apr; Branch Meeting at **Gallagher's**, 8:30 pm
Sat 21 Apr; Public Transport trip to **Wigan and St.Helens**.
 Meet at Lime Street for 11:32 train to Preston.
Thu 10 May; Branch Meeting at **Gallagher's**, 8:30 pm
Sat 19 May; Coach trip to **Ulverston**;
 coach leaves Brass Balance at 9:45 then Liverpool at 10:00.

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Bookings for organized trips to Dave Hutchinson (07769 617986)/
davehutchinson@wirral.camra.org.uk
£5.00 deposit secures place (subject to sufficient numbers);
cheques payable to CAMRA Wirral Branch

Wirral CAMRA is an active group run by a committee of local members.
Our area covers the whole of the Wirral Borough Council area
plus post code CH64 (Parkgate, Neston and Willaston).

We regularly survey all the pubs within our branch and we are always looking for active people to help by keeping us informed of any local pub news you may have. We try to support other branches by helping out at other local beer festivals. We have regular socials, pub crawls, trips to breweries & other amazing real ale destinations. All our trips are open to both CAMRA and non CAMRA members.

Chair: garethowen@wirral.camra.org.uk
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 Membership: paulmossman@wirral.camra.org.uk
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Neil Young

It is with great sadness we report that Neil Young, founder of **Brimstage Brewery** has died. Neil had battled for some years with lung fibrosis and needed a transplant in March 2017. The operation was successful and gave new hope that Neil would find better health. He progressed well and enjoyed several holidays in his beloved Anglesey. Sadly Neil caught a virus which compromised his transplanted lung. After spending nine weeks in Wythenshawe Hospital, Neil passed away at home on Wednesday, 17 January. CAMRA's deep condolences go to his wife Caroline and his whole family.

Dave Goodwin first introduced me to Neil at the Birkenhead Beer Festival in 1996. At the time, Dave and I were organising CAMRA Wirral's annual festival and Neil came along to meet us and outline his plans for the peninsula's first micro-brewery. It took Neil a further ten years of hard work to achieve his ambition.

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>>> In 2006, the brewery opened in a refurbished dairy on Home Farm, overlooking the fields of Wirral's countryside. Neil was very patient in acquiring a site that met his aspirations; he wanted to brew excellent beers and the setting only added to his vision of what real ale should portray. The brewery was equipped with state of the art equipment from Moeschle in Germany and the brew plant design was done with Brew consultant, David Smith's guidance.

The first brew, Trapper's Hat sold out very quickly. It became a firm favourite and can be found, with other Brimstage beers, throughout Wirral as well across Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales. It was swiftly followed by Rhode Island Red and Scarecrow Bitter, and a little later by Oystercatcher Stout and Sandpiper. Neil did not want to flood the market with ever-changing beers; his aspiration was to brew a good range of beer styles from a brewery that did not have to 'hang its hat' on producing multitudes of brews to become memorable.



The beer quality has been recognised, winning numerous awards from CAMRA branches ranging from Wirral, Southport and Oxfordshire as well as the Great British Beer Festival and latterly SIBA. Neil's attention to detail also resulted in distinctive pump clips and other awards including the 'Beer Mat of the Year' being received from the British Beer Mat Society, with Brimstage competing against such giants as Guinness!

Although Dave and I assisted with brewing (sometimes going solo!), it became clear that the brew team needed to expand, Adam Williams now carries the mantle of Head Brewer at Brimstage with Tom Menaul and Chris Brown as integral members of the team. They have carried the brewery forward with innovations, including Brimstage IPA and production of the full range of beers in bottle-conditioned form.

At the present time, plans are afoot to take the brewery to further success with Neil's two sons, Ben and Nat, having become closely involved in directing the business. Neil will be greatly missed but his legacy of brewing highly respected quality beers will continue.

Allan Machin

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HARP INN

19 Quayside, Little Neston, CH64 0TB

0151 336 6980

Opening hours:

12pm - 12am Monday - Saturday

12pm - 11pm Sunday

Food Served 12pm - 3pm daily

Monday night - fun quiz in aid of Cancer Research UK
and Clatterbridge Cancer Charity

Tuesday night - Curry night



A traditional pub overlooking the Dee Marshes with a warm friendly atmosphere and a strong sense of community. Five cask ales. New patio area leading to beer garden. No TV, no games machines, dogs welcome.



**WIRRAL CAMRA BRANCH RUNNER UP
PUB OF THE YEAR 2018**



**CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE**

Wirral Pub of the Year

Every CAMRA Branch has its own way of deciding its Pub of the Year and this is what we do in Wirral.

The most important factor for CAMRA is of course the beer quality. Beer quality scoring is a year round process which assists us in selecting pubs for the annual Good Beer Guide. Wirral CAMRA has about 125 pubs serving real ale and each of those pubs has been visited by members in 2017. Between March and December we received over 2000 reports on beer quality.

In November we ask all members via a direct email, on our website, through social media and at Branch meetings to nominate their favourite pub for our Pub of the Year. This year 16 pubs were nominated. We compared the nominations with the average beer scores we had received for each pub to narrow down the list to those serving consistently the best beer. That left us with ten pubs to judge.

We formed three small judging panels consisting of committee members and non-committee members who had volunteered to join us and started our pub visits. Apart from beer quality, each pub is judged in various categories using the same criteria as the regional and national competitions:

- **Style, Décor and Cleanliness**
- **Service, Welcome and Offering**
- **Community Focus and Atmosphere**
- **Alignment with CAMRA Principles**
- **Overall Impression**

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Some pubs were revisited and comparisons made between the three panels to ensure consistency.

The judges noted some good points; overall hygiene and cleanliness was excellent, price lists and opening hours were usually displayed – although there were some notable exceptions where points were lost. Evidence of community activity was not always evident and sometimes little evidence of local information to promote the locality to visitors. Most pubs visited were active in promoting their real ale and cider by listing beers on notice boards, having small samples on the bar to show the colour of the beer or offering customers a taster before purchase.

On a not so positive note, there were some examples where the bar staff didn't engage with customers on arrival and seemed to do everything possible to avoid eye contact. There were also examples where tables were not cleared of empty glasses and cleaned, even where bar staff weren't busy. Overall though these were isolated complaints and the impression of all the pubs was very high.

Wirral CAMRA is pleased to announce our Pub of the Year results as follows:

- Overall winner: the **Lazy Landlord**, Liscard
- Runner up: the **Harp**, Little Neston (Cheshire)

The judges also Highly Commended three further pubs:

- **Gallaghers**, Birkenhead
- the **Magazine**, New Brighton
- the **West Kirby Tap**, West Kirby

Congratulations to these five excellent pubs which made it to the top of the pile.

The dates for presentations will be announced later – watch our website for details.





The Red Fox

Thornton Hough • Wirral



Daily menus of fresh food, 9 cask beers,
10 real ciders and a decent wine list.

Wirral CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2017.

Don't miss our beer festival 10–13th May 2018
featuring 60 real ales and 12 ciders.

www.redfox.pub ~ 0151 353 2920

The Red Fox, Liverpool Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH64 7TL

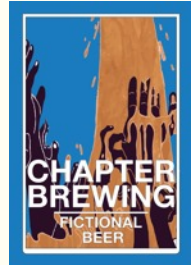
Brewed in Cheshire

Brewers – if you have any news about your brewery that you would like to see reported please email gary_chester@outlook.com or contact your CAMRA Brewery Liaison Officer.

Sutton Weaver's **Chapter Brewing** were on the winning side at the end of January. Two awards in three days gave the brewery a well-deserved boost in the gloom of winter. RateBeer, the globally renowned rating site, named Chapter as Cheshire's Best New Brewery and The Chester Beer Awards, hosted by Chester Beer Blog and housed in the Deva Tap, Chester, named Chapter Brewing as the Best Local Brewery.

Noah Torn, founder and head brewer, was delighted to be recognised by the drinking public *"It's very flattering to get any award - we're trying our best to make exciting and engaging beers and will keep on improving and developing as we go along. Our thanks go out to the public who nominated us and the judges who voted for us. Keep an eye out - we're not done yet."* Only a year old, this brewer offers a reading suggestion with each beer- something that inspired the beer, the style or the design.

You can find Chapter's beers across Cheshire and Merseyside. Keep up to date by following their various social media streams or contacting them at chapterbrewing@gmail.com



Lymm Brewing Co is producing a new beer. Brewed with modern English hops, the 4.8% straw-coloured Lymm IPA is *"a traditional hoppy pale ale with hints of tropical fruit"*.

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Offbeat

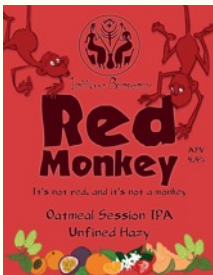
Sad news is that Michelle has decided to call it a day. She has listed the brewery and taproom for sale as a going concern.

Michelle has been an innovative and passionate brewer and a fantastic part of the Cheshire beer scene for years and will be much missed.

Out Inn Cheshire and all CAMRA members and beer

lovers in Cheshire will be saddened by this news. Matters will continue for the present, with brewing, Firsty Fridays and outside bars, but the end will come this year. Cherish Offbeat while you can!

Tatton Brewery's latest ale is Red Monkey. *"It's not red and it's not a monkey!"* This New Year beer is a an unfiltered, vegan-friendly, fruity, juicy, hazy, oatmeal Session IPA at 4.4%abv.



Note to Brewers

We are keen to publicise your lovely beers and tell people where to find them. We know you are incredibly busy, brewing, cleaning, selling and delivering, and that promotion is not always at the forefront of your mind. We will try to make it easy for you. **Just let your BLO or the editor have electronic copies of the images for your beers and a few words about them.** Publicity in this section of Out Inn Cheshire is free!



LocAle

Cheshire's Independent Craft Brewers

plus a few very close by

4Ts (Warrington)	07917 730184	www.4tsbrewery.co.uk
Beartown (Congleton) *	01260 299964	www.beartownbrewery.co.uk
Beer Refinery (Chester)	07939 875308	
Blue Ball (Runcorn)	01928 775628	www.blueballbrewery.com
Bollington Brewing Co *	01625 575380	www.bollingtonbrewing.co.uk
Borough Arms (Crewe)	07523 946730	www.borougharmscrewe.co.uk
Brew Foundation (Wincle)	0114 282 3098	www.thebrewfoundation.co.uk
Brewhouse & Kitchen (Chester)	01244 404990	www.brewhouseandkitchen.com/chester
Brewhouse & Kitchen (Wilmslow)	01625 441850	www.brewhouseandkitchen.com/wilmslow
Brimstage (Brimstage, Wirral)	0151 342 1181	www.brimstagebrewery.com
Britman Craft Beers (Neston)	07925 875836	www.burtonmanorgardens.org.uk/whats-here/britman-craft-beers
Chapter Brewing (Frodsham)	07791 516848	www.facebook.com/chapterbrewing/
Cheshire Brew Brothers	07890 567582	www.cheshirebrewbrothers.co.uk
Cheshire Brewhouse (Congleton)	07830 304929	www.cheshirebrewhouse.co.uk
Coach House (Warrington) *	01925 232800	www.coach-house-brewing.co.uk
Deva Craft	07841 384143	www.devacraftbeer.co.uk
Dunham Massey	0161 929 0663	www.dunhammasseybrewing.co.uk
Front Row (Congleton) *	07861 718673	www.frontrowbrewing.co.uk
Goodalls (Alsager)	01270 873669	
Happy Valley (Bollington)	07758 512080	www.happyvalleybrewery.co.uk
Lymm Brewing	0161 929 0663	www.lymbbrewing.co.uk
Manning Brewers (Congleton)	07946 278018	www.manningbrewers.co.uk
Merlin Brewing (Arclid) *	01477 500893	www.merlinbrewing.co.uk
Mobberley Brewhouse	01565 873601	http://mobberleybrewhouse.co.uk
Norton Brewing (Runcorn)	01928 579907	http://nortonbrewing.com/
Offbeat (Crewe) *	07502 096 438	www.offbeatbrewery.com
Peerless (ex Betwixt) (Wirral) *	0151 647 7688	www.peerlessbrewing.co.uk
Pied Bull (Chester)	01244 325829	www.piedbull.co.uk
Poynton Brewery	07722 050733	www.facebook.com/thepoyntonbrewery/
RedWillow (Macclesfield)	01625 502315	www.redwillowbrewery.com
Sandway (Blakemere) *	01606 301000	www.sandwayales.co.uk
Spitting Feathers (Waverton)	01244 332052	www.spittingfeathers.org
Storm (Macclesfield) *	01625 431234	www.stormbrewing.co.uk
Tatton Brewery (Knutsford) *	01565 750747	www.tattonbrewery.co.uk
Tipsy Angel (Warrington)	07917 730184	
Weetwood (Tarpорley) *	01829 752377	www.weetwoodales.co.uk
Wincle (Wincle) *	01260 227777	www.winclebeer.co.uk



Why are we listing these? Because we believe that beer brewed in the traditional way and sold locally is a better product, creates local employment and is kinder to the environment. We urge you to drink it when you see it and to ask for it if your local does not sell it.

If you are a licensee we encourage you to sell local beers where you can, and if you are not free to do so, then ask your masters why not.

Your PubCo may have flexibility if you press them hard enough.

LocAle will give your business an edge.

* SIBA member (Society of Independent Brewers)

There may be other new, "cuckoo" or occasional brewers in addition to this listing.