

British Guild Of Beer Writers

**Newsletter
July 2013**



IT WAS good to see so many members at our AGM, both regular faces and new ones. I also would like to thank Fuller's and the staff at the Hand & Flower for their excellent hospitality.

The meeting elected: Chairman, Tim Hampson; Secretary, Adrian Tierney-Jones; Treasurer, Paul Nunny. Committee members are Dave Bailey, Frances Brace, Paul Hegarty, Robert Humphreys, Ros Shiel and Sophie Atherton. A change was made to membership, which means that members over 65 and who had been members for 15 years or more would have, if they so choose, free membership. The meeting also decided not to change the member's subscription. The meeting also discussed the paucity of regular print media about beer in the UK, a topic motivated by the news that the renewed *Beers of the World* had ceased publication after only two issues. One of the new committee's tasks therefore in the coming year is to find a way of dealing positively with this problem.

Special thanks should go to former committee members Pete Brown and Larry Nelson for their work in past years.

Guild dinner Our awards dinner will take place on 5 December at the Jumeriah Carlton. Adrian Tierney-Jones and Mitch Adams are using their expertise to develop the beer and food menu for the evening.

Guild awards Entries are now invited in seven categories for the awards, with a total of £8,500 prize money for those whose work is judged best to further the Guild's declared mission: 'to extend public knowledge and appreciation of beer and pubs'.

ENTRIES AND NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR SEVEN CATEGORIES

Molson Coors Award for Best Writing in National Media: prize £1,000 for winner and £500 for runner-up

Adnams Award for Best Writing in Regional Media: prize £1,000 for winner and £500 for runner-up

Fuller's ESB Award for Best Writing for the Beer and Pub Trade: prize £1,000 for winner and £500 for runner-up

Brains SA Gold Award for Best Use of Online Media: prize £1,000 for winner and £500 for runner-up

Greene King IPA Travel Bursary: prize £1,000 for winner and £500 for runner-up

Shepherd Neame 1698 Award for Beer and Food Writing: prize £1,000

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Thwaites Award for Corporate

Communications: prize trophy to winner

Full details of all seven categories in the Awards, and how to enter, can be found on the website www.beerwriters.co.uk. Entries must be received by the closing date of Friday 6 September, and must have been published between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013.

Awards judges An excellent panel of judges has been collected, comprising *Delicious* editor Karen Barnes, *Sun* political correspondent Craig Woodhouse, BBPA director of public affairs David Wilson and Brain's head brewer Bill Dobson, who will be overseen by the current beer writer of the year Peter Brown. Ros Shiel is managing the awards on our behalf.

Summer event To mark our 25th anniversary we are holding an event on Monday, 12 August the night before the Great British Beer Festival at the Parcel Yard, Kings Cross, London, starting at 6.30pm, going until 9.30pm. The event will feature one unique or rare beer from the majority of our corporate members, several of which will have been done in collaboration with Guild members. There will also be a buffet. If you intend to come to this event, please email angie@cask-marque.co.uk

Seminars Paul Hegarty is working on a series of seminars including one on hops, though the date and location has to be decided. Several other ideas are under discussion including beer flavour and a history themed event.

Trips We will continue to look at trips and currently Dave Bailey is in discussion with a regional tourist board about the funding for a comprehensive trip.

Guild Year Book Production work is underway for the 2014 edition, which is produced by Advantage Publishing on our behalf. It should be available before our summer event. **Tim Hampson**

NEWS

• **ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED** solely in e-book format, Evan Rail's essay *Why Beer Matters*

has made the leap into the world of fine publishing with a limited, hand-set letterpress edition put out by Sharp Tooth Press in San Francisco. Anchor Brewing donated hop sacks that the press used for the book's binding, and the city's Thirsty Bear brewpub will put out a special Grodziskie — an obscure Polish style and one of the essay's leitmotifs — to help launch the limited edition, which costs \$100. A bestseller in Amazon's Kindle Singles series, the e-book version of *Why Beer Matters* will also be published in German translation later this summer.

• **CASK ALE WEEK, 27 Sept-6 October.** Don't forget to use Cask Ale Week as an angle to sell in your stories to press and radio. If members need any more information on the event, please contact Frances Brace, Red Flame Communications 07432 692309 or Heather Ryland, Red Flame Communications 07527 37584.

• **INVITATION FOR VIP LAUNCH:** if any Guild member would like to come to the VIP launch of Urban Sessions at the Old Baths, Hackney Wick on July 11 from 6pm please email melissa@urbansessions.co.uk to get your name on the list.

• **INVITATION: TASTE NEW BEERS** from Shepherd Neame and beyond...the brewery is hosting an event at the Hoop & Grapes, Farringdon Street, before the British Guild of Beer Writers' 25th Anniversary event on August 12 and they would love BGBW members to join them. There will be a new range of beers they would like to share. 'There have also been some fairly major changes to our beer portfolio over the past two years (Generation, Classic Collection, Samuel Adams Boston Lager) and we'd like

CALENDAR 2013

- European Beer Bloggers Conference, Edinburgh
July 12-13
- BGBW 25th anniversary event, Parcel Yard, London
- Great British Beer Festival, Olympia, August 13-17

Please send details of any relevant events to
Adrian Tierney-Jones

to tell you more about them,' says the brewery's Communications Manager (and Guild member) John Humphreys. 'There'll be no 'death by Powerpoint', just a very short introduction to the whole range and how they all fit together. Other than that, it'll be case of trying some new beers and having a chance to meet the team, from brewers to brand managers.' The event will take place between 3-5pm on August 12 at the Hoop and Grapes, 80, Farringdon Street, Fleet Street, London EC4 4BL. Numbers are strictly limited so please RSVP to Moray Neame mneame@shepherdneame.co.uk by 15 July.

• ENJOY A weekend of outdoor activities from night hikes to mountain biking, in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales at the Yorkshire Dales Outdoors Festival taking place at Hawes, Wensleydale September 13-15. Organised by Guild member Mark Reid, author of *The Inn Way* guidebooks and Mountain Leader, all activities start and finish at a great Dales pub. Evening entertainment includes a quiz and supper night. Sponsored by Black Sheep Brewery and Wensleydale Creamery.

Visit www.yorkshiredalesoutdoorsfestival.com or call 01423 871750 for more details.

Beer Academy news

2 July 90 Minute Tasting: Uncle Sam's Beers White Horse, Parsons Green, London

8 July One Day Foundation Course The Sheffield Tap, Sheffield

16 July, One Day Foundation Course, The Beer Academy, Green Park, London

6 August, Hallelujah to Hops,

8 October, Old World vs New World Beers

For more details of venue and also of other events visit www.beeracademy.co.uk

Podge's Belgian Beer Tours

Beer and Heritage, Friday 9 August-Monday 12 August 2013 Based at Novotel Leuven this tour combines beer tourism with great visits to historic and cultural sites, including a visit to the Marl caves at Kanne where Grottenbier is aged and can be sampled; a meal at Dupont brewery tap; a beer and biscuit tasting; a visit to the historic

city of Tongeren; a visit to Kerkom brewery; a visit to the Archeosite and Museum in Aubechies which just happens to have a special beer Cervesia brewed for it; lastly a tour and tasting at the brand new brewhouse of Delirium Brewery in Melle.

The price of this four-day tour is £405 per person based on sharing a twin or double room with a single supplement of £100 if you want a room of your own. If you would like to secure a place, please send a deposit of £100 per person now.

The next tour will be **Totally Trappist**, 1 October-6 October, which as the title suggests is a celebration of all things Trappist. The price is £535 per person based on sharing a twin or double room, while there is a single supplement of £168. As this Tour will sell out quickly you need to send £100 deposit per person as soon as possible to secure a place. Priority will be given to those that have already registered an interest in this tour.

Finally, once again there is **Christmas in Belgium** with a four day break in Bruges 23 December-27 December. This tour has proved increasingly popular and the 2012 tour sold fast, so if you want to join us then book early. We will again be based at the four star Hotel Academie, near Minnewater in the centre of Bruges. The tour will include days out with our coach including a Christmas Day buffet, beer tasting and tour at the excellent Emelisse Brewery just over the Dutch border. The price of this five-day tour is £445 per person based on sharing a twin or double room with a single supplement of £128 if you want a room of your own. The balance for all these tours is due as usual five weeks before departure. For more details on all these events please contact Podge on 01245 354677 or email podgehome@blueyonder.co.uk.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY THE NEXT ISSUE IS
JULY 27, 2013**