

British Guild Of Beer Writers

Newsletter March 2014



THE NEXT GUILD SEMINAR — Are reports of the death of beer and pubs exaggerated? — which will be held on Thursday March 20 at the White Horse, Parsons Green, looks like it might be a sell-out, so if you have said you are attending and now do not want to come please could you let Angie Armitage at Cask Marque know at angie@cask-marque.co.uk.

Anyone who would like to come and hasn't yet responded should also contact Angie and we'll put you on the waiting list!

Future of beer writing A further seminar on beer writing is being planned for the autumn, which would be organised with the Brewery History Society. A likely venue is the Hook Norton Brewery in Oxfordshire. Full details will be announced shortly.

Research on pubs and beer A useful piece of research on pubs and beer can be found on the British Beer and Pub Association's (BBPA) website. The report shows beer and pub jobs in every Parliamentary constituency and every local authority area. It also includes information on the number of breweries

and pubs and highlights employment by age and type, and huge positive impact on local economies. The figures form a comprehensive study by economic experts Oxford Economics for the BBPA. Nationally, the report reveals that 900,000 jobs depend on British beer and pubs — and almost half (44%) are younger workers aged 16-24.

Visit www.beerandpub.com for information.

Brewing in Europe Beer creates two million EU jobs according to a Brewers of Europe report, which discloses that the EU's beer sector is responsible for creating two million jobs, equal to 1% of all EU jobs. It also reports good news on beer production too — it finds that after three years of decline where beer consumption declined by 8% the beer market is now picking up with a modest increase of 1% over two years.

Production has also increased by 2% during the same period. For more information visit: www.brewersofeurope.org/asp/publications

Beer in Britain In Britain beer sales have increased for two consecutive quarters — the first time in ten years reports the BBPA. Overall UK beer sales rose by 0.8% in the quarter, some 15.3 million extra pints on the same period in 2012. And much of this increase must be down to members of the Society of Independent Brewers. According to its Beer Report

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2014 beer production in 2011-2012 was up by 5.7% and 4,000 permanent cask brands are now produced by SIBA brewers. In addition there are more than 2,500 bottled beer brands while 'craft' keg brands number more than 300. No doubt many of these beers will be at SIBA's BeerX festival in Sheffield: March 12-15. **Tim Hampson**

News

• IN CELEBRATION of International Women's Day 2014, on March 8, a unique international event will take place when brewsters in countries across the globe brew the same beer recipe on the same day, March 8. The beer is called Unite Pale Ale, it is 4% and hopped with Cascade. The project is called International Women's Collaboration Brew (Twitter hashtag #IWC). Profits from beer sales will be donated to a charity of the brewster's choice. Several brewing suppliers are donating ingredients, including UK hop merchant Charles Faram.

The idea for this collaboration was Sophie de Ronde's, head brewer of Brentwood Brewing Company in Essex, who recruited members of Project Venus and Pink Boots Society to participate. Dozens of brewsters in Britain, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and the USA (including Stone and Dogfish Head) are taking part and inviting beer loving women intrigued by the idea of brewing to join them for a sociable brew day. This link shows the locations of participating breweries: https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=znVsS6usODek.kmL2v_Wz6YmY

The aim of the event is to raise the profile of women in the brewing industry and to enthuse about brewing and beer to women who may never have considered a career in brewing, or indeed considered drinking beer! For more information contact Jane Peyton: jane@school-of-booze.com.

• BGBW MEMBER Su-Lin Ong and Craft Beer Rising would like to thank BGBW members for helping make the 2014 festival a huge success. The festival was larger this year and completely sold out of public tickets again. It welcomed an ever-wider audience of trade visitors too — from pub groups

through to buyers from five star hotels.

Thank you for such awesome tweets, thanks and drinking with us.

• NOTTINGHAM GAINS its first, fully accredited Beer Sommelier. Having successfully completed the Institute of Brewing & Distilling (IBD) courses over the last few years, culminating in a final examination in London last Thursday, John Westlake has become Nottingham's first, fully accredited Beer Sommelier. John is an award-winning member of the British Guild of Beer Writers and back in the early 1970s, a founder member of the Nottingham Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). He has travelled widely, having visited well over 150 countries where beer is brewed, and since retiring from the financial services industry almost two years ago, he has been able to devote more time to his passion for beer in all its many and varied styles, its promotion as our national drink, its responsible consumption and its ability to be just as good as wine, sometimes even better, as an accompaniment to food. He has contributed to a number of international books about beer and is a regular columnist for the highly acclaimed *Nottingham Drinker* magazine.

• THE INDEPENDENT Dutch magazine about specialty beers *Bier!* is now available as an app in the Apple iTunes store. Alongside the Dutch edition, an English edition will also be available. For more information please contact Fedor Vogel, publisher and editor of *Bier!* at info@birdypublishing.nl.

• THE CRAFT BEER Co is creating the UK's biggest Pub Beer Festival at its site in Clapham, London. Going under the name 'Craft 100'. The festival will run from April 3-6 and will showcase 100 beers at the same time, from the very best breweries across

CALENDAR 2014

- SIBA BeerX, Sheffield, March 11-15
- BGBW lecture: Are reports of the death of beer and pubs exaggerated?, London, March 20
- World Beer Cup, Denver, USA, April 7-8
- Craft Brewers Conference, Denver, USA, April 8/11

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

the UK along with a few international guests. Craft Beer Co MD, Martin Hayes, said: 'Craft 100 will deliver an experience at the highest level, with a range of beers that will blow people away — many of the beers will be brewed specifically for the festival. It's part of our ethos to break new ground, so when this idea came up, it was obvious that we needed to make it happen. The Craft Beer Co has a reputation for being the place to discover what the best brewers in the UK, Europe and the World are creating — the launch of 'Craft 100' will support this in every way. The four-day festival is structured in a way that there are 'No tickets, No tokens, No hassle'. Just pay a deposit for your glass and then go discover.

• The IBD is having its annual secondhand beer book auction No 15 with bidding closing on April 30. Details of this 2014 auction can be found on the following IBD website link with the 140-plus book list detailed through a pdf link at the foot of that page:

www.ibd.org.uk/publications/brewer-and-distiller-international/2175/ibd-book-sale-no-15/.

OP-ED: got something you want to get off your chest about beer, pubs and brewing then here's the space

I WRITE THIS as one of the most stupid of silly seasons disappears into our wake. The thing in question is the bonkers 'not drinking alcohol for a period of time after new year' that seems to have become established of late. How ridiculous is this?

January and February are ghastly, long nights, short days, some days it doesn't get properly light, the central heating and lights are on all day. And the weather can be vile, 2014 has come up trumps in that department. What untold harm do we do to our wellbeing by not counteracting it with pint, a glass of wine or a wee dram? And what arguments does it cause when one wavers? 'Look, you promised...' It is all a terrible con whipped up by slimming clubs to generate business.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm all for responsible drinking and giving the stuff a miss for a while, one of our myriad of local non alcoholic brews on a warm summers

evening is a delight. But when the windows are rattling, hail hammering against them and the wind is howling on a dark January night, well, that calls for sterner stuff.

If it just stopped at that maybe it would be OK for this self punishment. But it doesn't. Our local pubs, having enjoyed the benefits of the festive season, are desperate for business during the drab, dark winter months. To avoid them and a warming pint at this time just to satisfy the lycra clad desperados of the slimming world is really not on.

Yes, of course, rents, rates, the tie and so on are causing problems for our struggling pub trade, but just as corrosive is the self imposed abstention at one of the times of their greatest need.

Make it a New Year resolution; don't let this happen again in 2015. **Roger Davies**

Views expressed in Op-Ed are individual members' and do not necessarily reflect those of the British Guild of Beer Writers — if you want to contribute please contact the Secretary.

Beer Academy news

March 8, One Day Foundation Course

(Accredited by City & Guilds at NVQ Level 1),
Leeds

March 11/12 Two Day Advanced Course, London

March 18 One Day Foundation Course

(Accredited by City & Guilds at NVQ Level 1),
London

March 23/24, Two Day Advanced Course, London

March 27, Half Day How to Judge Beer, Leeds

For details on venue, time and cost plus on other events visit www.beeracademy.co.uk

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FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
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