

# British Guild Of Beer Writers

## Newsletter February 2015



**T**housands of historic pub photographs are being digitalised as part of a move to honour the country's pub heritage, though it could all have been so different as the entire unique collection was only moments away from destruction.

This act of preservation started, almost by chance, 25 years ago, when the phone rang in Robert Humphreys' office. It was a colleague who was alerting Robert to the fact that Charrington's collection of over 5,000 priceless pub photographs, some dating back to Edwardian times, which had been housed in an overstuffed filing cabinet and had been casually tossed into a skip in the yard at the old Charrington brewery in the Mile End Road in London.

Thankfully, Robert was able to retrieve them and arranged for the photos to be delivered to the National Brewing Centre in Burton upon Trent, where the pictures have safely survived for the intervening years, but beyond public access. Now, at last, the collection is to be made available on-line to all of us. It is one of the first major projects to be undertaken by the National Brewery Heritage Trust (NBHT) of which Robert and I are trustees.

The NBHT has agreed plans that will see 5,500 photographs and associated historical information of the former Charrington pubs, many of which are in London, to be made available online.

In 2014, the NBHT, Save Photo and Historypin agreed to digitise the Charrington collection. This digitisation is due to be finished soon. Save Photo will then return the collection and the transfer of the digital assets to the NBHT and Historypin. In the meantime, Historypin is working with the Europeana project to develop a book and

e-book based on the Charrington collection and on additional material sourced from the pubs themselves, the pub regulars, the National Brewery Heritage Trust and other organisations. The book and e-book are scheduled to be ready for publishing in August 2015.

To collect this material, Historypin will organise events in selected pubs that invite landlords and regulars to come and admire the Charrington collection photographs, as well as ask them to contribute their own memories, photographs and stories.

Two events are already scheduled: 18 February at 5pm in the Magpie and Stump at the Old Bailey and 25 February in the Old Eagle in Camden, also at 5pm. In the meantime, a few pubs have expressed their interest in having a high-resolution image from the Charrington collection on their wall.

**White Beer Travels website** For the last seven years the Guild has hosted John White's website *White Beer Travels*, since his untimely death in 2007. The website, provided information on speciality beer, Belgian beer, Rauchbier, real ale from the UK and Craft Beer from the USA. John was well regarded by many writers, including the late Michael Jackson, who often would use him as a researcher.

Unsurprisingly much of the information is now out of date. In addition, the site, which was built by John in his own inimitable style, was prone to virus attack and near nigh impossible and expensive to maintain, because of the web technology used to build it. Due to this we have now decided to retire the site, after discussion with John's widow Joyce. However, she was keen that I find a home for it, as it is a large and unique collection.

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I have lodged the site with the National Brewing Library (NBL), housed at Oxford Brookes University. The NBL says that much of John's site will be of interest to researchers and they are currently, assessing how they can give appropriate storage to it and allow people to access it. I have also offered the contents of the site to the NBHT and the Brewery History Society. **Tim Hampson**

## News

• **The London Beer Week hub** If any members are in London from 11 February feel free to drop in that week to the London Beer Week hub which is being run by the Craft Beer Rising team (before their own festival 19-22 February). Writers can pick up a complimentary LBW Trade wristband offering all kinds of privileges around town, and hear the latest about the CBR festival. The LBW hub is at 14 Newburgh Street, off Carnaby St, London W1. For more details go to, [www.londonbeerweek.com/news/the-carnaby-hub?utm\\_source=mailjet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=lbw-29012015](http://www.londonbeerweek.com/news/the-carnaby-hub?utm_source=mailjet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=lbw-29012015). For highlights of numerous new launches at Craft Beer Rising visit [www.craftbeerrising.co.uk](http://www.craftbeerrising.co.uk) and to sign up for the media session on 19 Feb 2-5pm if you haven't already; please contact [sulinong@slo-london.co.uk](mailto:sulinong@slo-london.co.uk) for more details.

• **You might** want to go to Burton on February 13-15, when the International Beer Festival is taking place at the National Brewery Centre. This event follows the International Brewing Awards, which will have seen brewers from all over the world judging hundreds of beers; the festival will have an equally global character, comprising perhaps the most international range of cask, keg and smallpack beers in the UK, if not Europe. Details: [www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk/events/the-international-festival-of-beer--168](http://www.nationalbrewerycentre.co.uk/events/the-international-festival-of-beer--168). Stephen Beaumont will be promoting *The Pocket Beer Book, 2nd Edition* (co-written with Tim Webb), through a talk he's giving at the International Festival of Beer in Burton-Upon-Trent on Saturday, February 14, at 4pm. Fellow Guild members Adrian Tierney-Jones and Roger Protz will also be in Burton on the same day and talking about Britain's Beer Revolution at 12pm and 2pm.

• **Trade magazines** are currently full of articles about wetstock image, repackaging and rebranding, however CAMRA as a consumer organisation holds taste, quality and variety as a central touchstone. Nowhere is this demonstrated better than at the flagship National Winter Ales Festival, The Roundhouse, Derby where over 450 different draught ales have been gathered from across the UK. Brewers, licensees, journalists and interested parties can apply for tickets to the trade session, which will run from 1-4pm on Wednesday

11 February. The winners of the prestigious Champion Winter Beer of Britain Competition will be announced about 3pm during this event. During the festival Roger Protz, Adrian Tierney-Jones and Christine Cryne will lead tutored tastings, plus on Friday and Saturday lunchtime historian Maxwell Craven will talk about the architecture of Derby's pubs. Note: The *Guinness Book of World Records*-listed Roundhouse is located beside the Pride Park exit of Derby Railway Station — couldn't be simpler really!!! To apply for tickets go to [nwaf.org.uk/trade](http://nwaf.org.uk/trade).

**Gillian Hough**, NWAFA Organiser, [nwaf@camra.org.uk](mailto:nwaf@camra.org.uk).

• **Nigel Sadler** has been elected Chairman of The Institute of Brewing & Distilling Southern UK Section (IBD SUKS). The IBD is renowned worldwide for its educational and training programmes, which cover all aspects from malting and distilling up to Master Brewer.

• **New events listing for Hop Hideout**

*Thurs 26 February, 7-9pm, Mad Hatter Brewing, Meet the Brewer.*

*Thurs 12 March, 7-9pm Beer O'Clock Show tasting.*

*Thurs 23 April, 7-9pm, Thornbridge hosted tasting.*

*Thurs 21 May, 7-9pm, Marble — Meet the Brewer*

Tickets available in the shop £10 per ticket,

numbers are limited: [www.hophideout.co.uk](http://www.hophideout.co.uk); @

[HopHideout](http://HopHideout). That's not all, founder and owner

Jules Gray also attended the *Off Licence News 'Celebrate British Beer'* event and came back with an award, North Retailer of the Year.

## Beer Academy news

**New Beer Academy** Sommeliers added to the ranks! The Beer Academy now has 78 accredited Sommeliers spanning 14 countries. The latest to qualify are Aaron Pitts, Shane McNamara and John Porter. Meanwhile over in Estonia, Beer Academy Sommelier Urmas Linnamgi has won the prestigious title of Estonian Beer Sommelier of Year!

### Up and coming events

*11 February, Foundation Course, The Beer Academy, London*  
*12 February, Beer Sommelier Assessment, The Beer Academy, London.*

*12 February, Beer Sommelier Assessment, The Beer Academy, London.*

*14 February, Beer & Food Matching, The Draft House, London*

*27 February, Advanced Course, The Beer Academy, London.*

For details on venue, time and cost plus on other events visit [www.beeracademy.co.uk](http://www.beeracademy.co.uk).

## CALENDAR 2015

• CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival, Derby February 11-14

• Craft Beer Rising, London, February 19-22

• International Beer Festival, Burton, February 13-15

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