

# British Guild Of Beer Writers

## Newsletter January 2016



### GLENN PAYNE

**Glenn died the at the beginning of December and many have paid tribute to a man who helped change the world of beer. Below we publish some of the many tributes that were paid to him. A celebration of Glenn's life is currently being planned, and is likely to be held on 17 February at Meantime Brewery. Full details will follow when they are available.**

**'Glenn's greatest** contribution was to change the way supermarkets viewed beer. Before he took charge at Safeway's, off-trade beer in the multiples was confined to heavily-discounted brands from big brewers. Glenn introduced drinkers to great beer from independent brewers and showed, above all, that American beer did have taste. He became an expert in the field by visiting major brewing countries to seek out the finest brews. When Safeway's morphed into Morrison's, Glenn used his time to good effect by judging at beer festivals, in the US in particular, and by using his experience to help guide Meantime in London. I will miss his knowledge and experience of the world of beer and his uniquely droll sense of humour.' **Roger Protz**

**'Sometimes an** individual makes an immeasurable difference to their chosen field. Sometimes a single human spirit can make the lives of those around them a better place with their presence. Glenn had the supremely rare quality of contributing both to this world. He had an eye for the finer detail in life of laughter and compassion. He embodied everything that was good about the beer world and friendship and I,

along with many others, will miss him more than words can convey.' **Jo Miller**

**'Glenn Payne** probably made more introductions than Tinder, and was certainly responsible for a lot more lasting relationships, because he was selfless with his time, expertise and friendship. I adored him, the beer industry loved him and there is a massive hole in all our lives — and not just where ticks, whistles, bad impressions and awful accents should be either.' **Melissa Cole**

**'Personally and** as a result of his actions, Glenn welcomed thousands of people to great beer. The response on social media to this awful news consisted of people paying tribute to him from all around the world. I'm so glad to have drunk with him.' **Pete Brown**

**'Glenn Payne** was everyone's friend — a completely lovely man. He was supremely generous, kind, thoughtful, and always good company. He excelled at connecting people and went out of his way to help his friends. I will miss his daft sense of humour, our conversations in East End gangster accents and his enthusiastic use of mwah mwahs.' **Jane Peyton**

**'Glenn was** a very giving individual who delighted in helping others. Whether in beer, music, art, food or academic things like history, his wealth of knowledge and interest was vast. I always enjoyed talking with him about a multitude of subjects. We would go to the RA or the Tate where we were both members, and he would astound me with his knowledge. His work in beer meant he brought the craft scene to these shores before anyone had even thought about craft. He was a tireless ambassador for Meantime. It could be argued that Meantime's presence globally was down to Glenn spreading the Meantime gospel wherever he roamed. Whatever he did he did

---

**CHAIRMAN:** Tim Hampson Tel: 01865 245711; 07768 614283 [hampson.tim@gmail.com](mailto:hampson.tim@gmail.com)

**TREASURER:** Paul Nunny [paul@nunny.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:paul@nunny.fsbusiness.co.uk)

**SECRETARY:** Adrian Tierney-Jones Woodcote, 2 Jury Road, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9DU  
Tel: 01398 324314 [tierneyjones@btinternet.com](mailto:tierneyjones@btinternet.com); [atierneyjones@gmail.com](mailto:atierneyjones@gmail.com)

[www.beerguild.co.uk](http://www.beerguild.co.uk)

100%, never less, he was a real gent in an era when the “it’s all about me” syndrome exists. He loved music, Neil Young being his favourite, and again we went together on several occasions. From his days at Safeway, stretching the boundaries, to judging beer all over the world, as one of the most respected of judges, and to helping anyone he could, that is what he will be remembered for, and I will dearly miss him.’

**William Simmons**

‘**Glenn was** a gentle, generous and erudite beer hero whose company was always enjoyable and always sought after. His contribution to the sector is almost immeasurable and his importance is as noteworthy and as influential as the late great beer writer Michael Jackson.

His knowledge of beer, breweries and brewers was unparalleled and it came not just from reading books, but by travel to faraway places where he drank local beer and talked to producers and retailers. The range of beers on sale in pubs and off-licenses is better today because of his constant quest to find new and interesting brews, for 25 years ago his work as a supermarket buyer was trailblazing and ground breaking. And he loved to share, his adventures, knowledge and contacts. And in doing so, he forged countless lifelong friendships and created a community of beer friends worldwide who will miss him.

His company, humour, generosity, bad jokes, loud shirts and love of life will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his family and closest friends who will feel his loss tremendously. Today, many of us have friends and business links on four continents. And Glenn was the little bit of magic which bought us together.’ **Tim Hampson**

‘I first met Glenn at one of his Safeway’s beer tastings in 2002. The following year was when this tasting went stellar as it featured beers from Goose Island, Victory, Rogue, Alaskan, Dogfish Head and Brooklyn, all there ready to be propelled into the Safeway’s aisles alongside the bog-standard bitters and lagers. Not just American either, there were other world classics including Samichlaus and Schneider Aventinus. Whatever your views on supermarket beers this was a game-changer and I can still remember the sense of excitement as writers and publicans went around tasting the beers. But he was more than a beer visionary; he was also great company, funny, knowledgeable, engaging and just Glenn. He will be missed by many beer writers to whom he was a great friend.’ **Adrian Tierney Jones**

‘**The Lodger** (as some referred to him when he stayed with Richard and I in Rotherhithe over the years) says so much less than he was to us and, we know, many others. Always someone willing to listen, even if it was when we had all had far too many excellent beers — often introduced to us by him — he was someone you could talk to about plans, successes, fears and failures in the knowledge that it

would never go further that it was meant to.

‘Having seen some of the comments written from all over the world, and I mean all over it, I think one of his many skills was his incredible ability to introduce people to each other, then letting them get on with building relationships, sitting back and seeing them blossom — with no thought of personal gain. Indeed, it was only through him that Richard and I have met so many friends in the world of beer and beyond. Having been in “craft beer” (not a phrase I think he was ever entirely happy with) for a bit, we are of the firm belief that blooming of quality beer, both from within and without UK, is partly down to his work done when with Safeway’s, where he took the plunge to bring in the likes of Goose Island when most around would have said US beer was tasteless and fizzy — my haven’t times changed? It was his massive knowledge of the beer scene that often amazed us, if you needed a name, a brewery or some obscure fact if he did not know it he would go out of his way to find who or what you needed to speak to — and this always stuck us as odd as he always claimed “I don’t do details”. Frankly though, this information and help often came at a price, namely some extraordinarily bad jokes, even worse singing and really bad accents. His knowledge and expertise was not only in beer though, he was a bit of a gastro polymath.

‘Many of you will know he was a judge for the likes of the British Pie Awards and the Quality Food Awards both here and overseas and he acted as mentor to people looking to supply supermarkets and was always honest with them about the reality of that world. We would say he was a shopper of style... his own. When staying over he would often kindly volunteer to go to get the Sunday papers, although never from the local Nisa literally one minute away, ‘I do not shop there,’ so he would walk an extra few minutes to get to a Sainsbury’s — even if that meant Sunday papers were not available till after eleven when they opened. And his food shopping skills would best be described as “careful”; there was often a preponderance of yellow stickers which resulted in some rather bizarre combinations... trust me, they did not always work. However, I think we would all forgive him all of those jokes, songs, accents and shopping just to have him in our lives again. I hope we are all able to find a suitable way by to remember this true friend of all and one the world’s good guys.’ **Mike Hill**  
**Richard Dinwoodie, Utobeer, The Rake**

#### **CALENDAR 2016**

- SIBA BeerX, Sheffield, March 16-18
- Craft Brewers Conference, Philadelphia, May 3-6
- Great British Beer Festival, London, August 9-13
- British Guild of Beer Writers awards and dinner, London, December 1

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

**'Not everyone** involved in expanding our range of drinks is a brewer, an operator or a writer. There are unsung, but incredibly important, people who do work behind the scenes — mostly because they believe in something. They believe in the possibilities and not the limitations. Glenn was important because he brought people together. He was a people person.

'So, next time you're thoughtfully sipping a beer in a pub, remember not just the person who made it, or the person serving you. Think of the person who first remarked on that drink being worthwhile. That person was probably Glenn. He greeted everyone warmly and helped whoever he could and it never had anything to do with what he could get out of it himself. He was fun to be around and very considerate. It is wonderful to have been able to call him a friend.' **Jessica Mason**

**Chris Marchbanks: a long road to recovery** Guild member Chris who suffered a serious stroke in May last year, is continuing to recuperate. He is currently a resident of Poplars Nursing Home, Rolleston Road, Burton-on-Trent, as he needs full time nursing care. Chris and his wife Vicki are very grateful for the messages of support they've received from members over the Christmas period. According to Vicki, 'Chris is making very slow progress, but neuro-physiotherapy is helping us to understand his motor problems and overcome them. Chris would be delighted to receive messages from members, and he can be contacted on [cjmarshbanks@aol.com](mailto:cjmarshbanks@aol.com). He might not reply to every email, but they will be read to him.'

**Best of beer writing honoured in British Guild of Beer Writers awards** — Belgium-based beer writer, blogger and photographer Breandán Kearney was named Beer Writer of the Year 2015 at the Guild's annual awards ceremony, staged on 3 December. This year there were nearly 150 entries and nominations across nine categories. Kearney lifted two category titles — for Best Young Beer Writer and Best Beer & Food Writer — on his way to the overall prize. Robert Humphreys, MBE, chairman of judges for this year's competition, said, 'we were impressed by the quality and variety of this year's entries. All the judges, including those who've worked around brewing and pubs for many years, were excited by what they read and also learned something new. The best writing demonstrates passion, curiosity and originality, and there was no shortage of these qualities among the entries. We're delighted to see beer writing in such good health and congratulate all our winners.'

Sheila Dillon, presenter of BBC's *The Food Programme* and one of this year's judges, said, 'Breandán's articles were a joy to read; informative, entertaining, full of quirky facts and written in a flowing, accessible style. He also understands that it's the people behind the beer that make for an interesting story.' Humphreys and Dillon were joined on the judging panel by:

Sarah Bridge, leisure correspondent at the *Mail on Sunday*; Toby Heasman, head brewer at Hall & Woodhouse; Nick Hower, *Countdown* presenter and lately of *The Apprentice*, and Larry Nelson, publisher of *Brewers' Guardian*.

The Guild's Brewer of the Year Award was presented to Jenn Merrick, head brewer at Beavertown Brewery. Guild chairman Tim Hampson said: 'in the last 12 months Beavertown has been transformed from a hip start up brewery into a brand that is becoming internationally recognised. This is in part due to Jenn Merrick's brewing creativity, skill and persistence to always make better beer.'

'Jenn has become an inspiration for many other brewers and she is a fantastic advocate for beer culture who has shown a great willingness to share her ideas, especially about slightly wild flavours.'

The winners and runners up in each category were also announced at the Guild's annual dinner, this year held at the Park Lane Hotel on Piccadilly. More than 200 guests enjoyed a four-course dinner prepared by the hotel's chef Andrew Bennett, with each dish accompanied by a beer selected by Guild Beer Sommeliers and other beer and food experts.

**Brewer of the Year:** Jenn Merrick, Beavertown Brewery

**There's A Beer For That Award for Best Beer Broadcaster** Sarah Warman

**Badger Ales Award for Best Young Beer Writer of the Year**

Winner: Breandán Kearney; silver: Daniel Tapper

**Guild Award for Best Beer & Travel Writer**

Winner: Des de Moor; silver: Roger Protz & Adrian Tierney-Jones

**Shepherd Neame Classic Collection Award for Best Beer & Food Writer**

Winner: Breandán Kearney; silver: Melissa Cole

**Guild Award for Best Beer Writer – Corporate Communications**

Winner: Richard Taylor for BrewDog

**Caledonian Brewery Award for Best Beer Communicator — Online**

Winner: Pete Brown; silver: Matthew Curtis

**Fuller's 1845 Award for Best Beer Writer — Trade Media**

Winner: Jane Peyton; silver: Robyn Black

**Adnams Award for Best Beer Writer — Regional Media**

Winner: Gavin Aitchison; silver: Alastair Gilmour

**Molson Coors Award for Best Beer Writer — National Media**

Winner: Martyn Cornell; silver: Tim Hampson



**The Michael Jackson Gold Tankard for Beer Writer of the Year 2015: Breandán Kearney Diary Date – 2016**

This year's annual awards dinner and presentations will be held on Thursday, 1 December, at the Park Lane Hotel, London. Full details will follow later.

**Friends of British Guild of Beer Writers** We now have a Facebook page — for use by members and supporters. To view it please go to Facebook and search for Friends of British Guild of Beer Writers. The pages will continue to be developed and evolved, but any ideas are welcome. The Facebook presence is not intended to replace the Guild's website but augment it. **Tim Hampson**

## NEWS

• **Manchester Beer** and Cider Festival Guild member and Deputy Organiser of the CAMRA Manchester Beer and Cider Festival, Peter Alexander would like to advise members that he can arrange Trade or Press passes if members require them. The festival, the biggest in the North, which is expected to attract over 11,000 visitors, will be held in the iconic Manchester Central (formerly G-Mex) from Wednesday to Saturday 20-23 January. With over 500 of the finest beers, ciders and perries, the festival will feature the very best beers from the UK's burgeoning craft beer brewery scene alongside a massive range of traditional ciders & perries. The Bière Sans Frontières bars will bring an even larger range of draught and bottled beers from innovative & exciting breweries around the world. Contact Peter at [peter@peteralexander.plus.com](mailto:peter@peteralexander.plus.com). Full details of the festival can be found at [mancheerfest.uk](http://mancheerfest.uk).

• **Manchester Beer 2** And later in the year, it's back to Manchester we all go for its first city-wide beer festival, which will also launch in 2016, transforming the city into a ten-day celebration of the nation's favourite drink. Manchester Beer Week will run from June 10-19 but, unlike most beer festivals, it will not be tied to a single venue. Instead, it will feature a series of events at pubs, bars, breweries, restaurants and street locations across the city, all designed to celebrate Manchester as one of the UK's best destinations for good beer. Already, more than 40 venues and almost 30 breweries have signed up for the festival, pledging to host a variety of different events across Greater Manchester.

'The early support has been overwhelming and we're already developing big plans for a number of unique events that will appeal to a wide spectrum of people, not just beer enthusiasts,' said festival organiser Connor Murphy. Manchester Beer Week is seeking sponsors to help fund a number of its larger initiatives and is calling on interested parties to contact [manchesterbeerweek@gmail.com](mailto:manchesterbeerweek@gmail.com). More information on the festival can be found at [www.mcrbeerweek.co.uk](http://www.mcrbeerweek.co.uk) or by following @mcrbeerweek on Twitter.

• **The Zythos Bierfestival** in Leuven, Belgium's annual consumer-run, brewer-operated national beer festival is planning to run a meet-the-author event this year in its Sunday afternoon session (24 April). The event (see [www.zbf.be](http://www.zbf.be)) is held at the Brabantia, a large exhibition hall on the outskirts of the city, just off the E40 motorway (exit 23), also reached by a regular free shuttle bus service that runs all day from the main station. The audience consists of 30,000 people over two days, roughly two-thirds Belgian, one-third international. For complex reasons buried in the minutiae of Belgian tax law the book shop is non-profit-making, so the authors and publishers take most of the money from sales. Could authors who would be interested to attend, with copies of their latest books for signing, please contact Tim Webb on [BelgiumGBG@aol.com](mailto:BelgiumGBG@aol.com), as soon as possible.

• **The Guild's** sole Greek member Nicola Radisis gets in touch about the 3rd BeerBartender Awards, which will be held in Athens at the start of March, with the Chairman being present. More info on the event is at [www.beerbartenderawards.gr](http://www.beerbartenderawards.gr).

• **Beer Sommelier** and British Guild of Beer Writers member Jacopo Mazzeo hosts an evening of Italian beer tasting at Draffhouse Westbridge on Thursday 28 January, with tickets now on sale to the general public. Showcasing six rare, artisan beers across a variety of styles, and including labels from Opperbacco, Rurale, and Elav, Mazzeo plans to give attendees a tasty glimpse of the exciting Italian beer scene, which now counts around a thousand independent breweries amongst its ranks. Early bird tickets are priced at £16.68 and are available to buy on [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-not-so-dry-january-italian-beer-tasting-tickets-20172233694](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-not-so-dry-january-italian-beer-tasting-tickets-20172233694).

• **Following** a sold-out year of events in 2015, award-winning North London pub The Duke's Head Highgate and beer-expert-in-residence Matthew Curtis return with a Burns' Night extravaganza: Pleading to the Duke of Alcohol. As part of their January kitchen residency at The Duke's Head, Scottish street food legends Deeney's will be whipping up a modern classic four-course Burns' Night menu. Not only has award-winning beer writer Curtis matched each dish to a beer but he has also chosen a complimentary whisky, as is befitting of such an occasion. As each dish is served, Curtis will lead a tutored tasting, explaining why he thinks each drink benefits each dish. There will of course be plenty of The Bard's wonderful verse read on the night, including the irrefutable address to the haggis. Curtis and the team at the two-times Timeout Highgate pub of the year have form in producing one of a kind, energetic events that often continue into the small hours of the evening — Pleading to the Duke of Alcohol looks to ensure this trend will continue. Tickets are extremely limited and already selling fast, we suggest that you don't delay if you don't want to miss out on the best Burn's Night party

in town. Tickets available here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/220922](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/220922); press contact: Matt Curtis, [matthewgcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgcurtis@gmail.com), 07876 383409.

## HOP HIDEOUT

**SHEFFIELD'S HOP HIDEOUT** is run by Guild member Jules Gray and hosts a series of tastings and talks featuring Guild members. There are several events on in the next few weeks.

**Friday 15 January:** Tryanuary Special with Five Points Brewing — Meet the Brewer (£12pp 8.30pm) Join Doreen from Five Points Brewing.

**Thursday 28 January:** Tryanuary Seattle & California Tasting (£10pp 7.30pm). Join Brand Ambassador Andy Young in this Tryanuary special sharing Seattle and Californian beers from breweries such as Reuben's, Two Beers, Mavericks, Hales and Pine Street.

**Thurs 18 February:** Chorlton Brewing Co — Meet the Brewer (£10pp 8.30pm). All details from [www.hophideout.co.uk/event-tickets](http://www.hophideout.co.uk/event-tickets).

Jules also says that she is also on the look out for any Guild Members who would like to be involved in events at Hop Hideout. 'I've hosted book launches, readings, writing groups, beer tastings and more,' she says. 'The events are going really well and it'd be great to feature more members too.' If you want to contact her it's [julia.w.gray@googlemail.com](mailto:julia.w.gray@googlemail.com).

## NEW GUIDE TO NEW YORK

**GUILD MEMBERS** Alex Hall and Jezza Gray, in conjunction with Californian IT programmer and craft beer enthusiast Fred Waltman, have launched a useful new website and iPhone/iPad app. *A New York Beer & Pub Guide* follows the same format as Jezza and Fred's popular *A London Beer & Pub Guide*, listing over 300 of the top places to find interesting craft beers in the five boroughs of New York City. The site is primarily designed for the beer tourist, but is also just as useful for locals. There is an emphasis on clarity of information, and the team has made careful choices regarding which places qualify for inclusion.

You can browse the database in multiple ways — by name, zipcode, geographical area, bus route (including sightseeing buses if there is a stop nearby), subway station, and also by a specific feature shown by an icon (e.g. 'cask', 'brewpub', 'top pick'). There is also a city-wide map, very useful for easy navigation or for planning a craft beer pub crawl. Comprehensive information on each entry is displayed, with detailed walking directions from the nearest subway stations.

There are other features on the site including a comprehensive brewery and brewpub list, articles, and links to other sites that the authors feel are relevant. An app for Android smartphones is being worked on for a future release. Go to [beerguidenyc.com](http://beerguidenyc.com) for more details.

## BEER DAY BRITAIN 2016

**SAVE THE DATE** — 15 June is Britain's national beer day and 2016 is the second in what will be an annual celebration of the national drink. The idea of Beer Day Britain is for beer drinkers, brewers, pubs, bars, and beer retailers to take ownership of the day and encourage people to spread the word, to drink beer, and mark the day in any way they want — as long as it involves beer! There will be a National Cheers To Beer at 7pm — but people can do it at whatever time they want. The significance of 15 June is that Magna Carta was sealed on that date in 1215 and ale is mentioned in Clause 35 of Magna Carta and ale was fundamental to life in 1215. You will probably agree with me that in 2016 it still is!

Beer Day Britain 2015 was a great success and there was much media and social media interest. The National Cheers to Beer trended on Twitter with #CheersBDB, the Daily Star devoted the front page headline and a page inside to Beer Day Britain; meanwhile newspapers, magazines, TV and dozens of radio stations printed and broadcast features about it. Several brewers brewed celebration ales; Tesco included the Beer Day Britain logo on its own label beers, and Twitter and Instagram users were very active in celebrating the day. There's a Beer For That was the key partner in 2015, and I am very grateful that they will be again in 2016. If you want to be involved with Beer Day Britain please visit [www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk](http://www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk), download a logo and help spread the word so we can have a national party on 15 June. Cheers to Beer. **Jane Peyton, instigator of Beer Day Britain.**

## BEER ACADEMY COURSES

**13 Jan** Advanced Course, IBD, London

**20 Jan** How to Judge Beer, IBD, London

**1 Feb** Foundation Course, Caledonian Brewing, Edinburgh

**2 Feb** Foundation Course, Purecraft Bar & Kitchen, Birmingham

**3 Feb**, Foundation Course, IBD, London

For more details go to [www.beeracademy.co.uk](http://www.beeracademy.co.uk)