

British Guild Of Beer Writers

Newsletter March 2016



TODAY'S BEER WORLD HAS NO BOUNDARIES

I've recently returned from Greece and the excellent BeerBartender Awards, an event created in 2012 by Guild member Nicola Radisis. The event is devoted to promoting the culture of beer in Greece, while at the same time supporting Greek beers beyond the country's borders.

There are now around 30 new small breweries in Greece, where beer is regarded as the drink of choice for many aged under 35. The awards include categories for the best Greek brewer, importer, label, home brew and cider and there is no doubt that the awards are increasingly being recognised by producers and consumers and that the event will grow in size and prestige.

Many of the new Greek breweries are looking to see how they can put a local twist into the beers they brew — and many are turning to local herbs and spices to see what they can add to a beer. One brewer has even planted his own hop garden and is experimenting with different varieties from the US and England. It won't be long before a Greek beer flavoured with locally grown Cascade will be on sale.

Do not beware the Greeks bringing gifts — instead celebrate the growth of beer culture in a country better known for its wine. www.beerbartender.gr/en

The Prince of Wales becomes Liveryman of the Brewers' Company I've never been the 'pool correspondent' for a Royal visit before, but I was one of two journalists recently invited to the Brewers' Company to report on the visit of The

Prince of Wales, where he was made a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Brewers. The company was established by a Royal Charter granted by Henry VI in 1438, although the origins of the Guild preceding it can be traced back to 1292.

The Prince of Wales was given the honour in recognition of his participation in, and support of, the brewing industry including founding The Pub is the Hub.

I have to admit I hadn't realised how much the Company supports charities. It is the trustee for 11 separate trusts and administers a number of others; it is responsible for nearly £100 million worth of assets and, in 2014, distributed over £2.5 million.

With an educational remit going back to the 16th century two schools are its principal beneficiaries: the Dame Alice Owen School, originally Islington but now based in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, and Aldenham School, Aldenham, also Hertfordshire.

The Company is the trustee to the Brewers' Research and Education Fund, a major brewing industry charitable fund that grants awards to support the brewing industry through relevant scientific research and education. It also supports higher and technical education initiatives relevant to the brewing industry. Clearly the brewing industry does reach far and wide.

And as Prince Charles reminded those present of Benjamin Franklin's quotation, 'Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy'.

Go to www.brewershall.co.uk for more information. **Tim Hampson**

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NEWS

- **Norwich City of Ale:** May 26-June 5. Launch Event, May 26. Email Frances Brace to reserve a place: frances@redflamecommunications.co.uk.
- **Cask ale week:** Thursday, September 22-Sunday, October 2. **Cask Report Seminar:** Wednesday, September 21. Hoping you'll make the most of the opportunity when you're talking to editors and broadcasters over the coming weeks and months. If you'd like any more info please contact Frances Brace 07432 692309 or Heather Ryland 07527 375847; twitter@caskaleweek.
- **Guild member** David Muggleton has a new book, *Brighton Pubs*, coming out in March from Amberley Publishing of Stroud. At 25,000 words with nearly 100 images, the focus is mainly historical with information taken from archive resources. More information and a special price for pre-orders can be accessed at www.amberley-books.com/brighton-pubs.html.

EASTER BEER AND BEAN WITH DEA LATIS

Tuesday 22nd March from 6.30 to 8.30pm at The Clarence, 53 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HP.

Break any Lenten chocolate-fasting you might be suffering through early and join us for a pre-Easter Beer & Chocolate tasting that will be both enjoyable and educational.

We will taste a selection of delicious chocolates, each matched with an equally delicious beer. Expect the unexpected as we reach beyond the classic 'dark chocolate with porter' combination (excellent though that is!).

Leading us through the beer and choc matches will be Beer Sommelier Jane Peyton (chocolate fan), and Claire Dixon, head chocolatier (beer fan) from London chocolatiers Paul A. Young. So whether you're a lover of beer, or chocolate, or both, please join us for this enjoyable and informative event.

Tickets, including beers, chocolates, expert talks, tea/coffee and light refreshments, cost £18.50 per person. Complimentary tickets for journalists (choose 'press ticket') — find them here <http://bit.ly/1QAHeFG>.

MANCHESTER BEER WEEK ANNOUNCES MAIN SPONSOR

Event organisers have secured the support of one of Manchester's leading brewers to help support and promote the first Manchester Beer Week. The sponsorship will help fund the event, enabling the organisers to promote it as a major festival for beer

lovers and attract more of the city's brewers and venues to participate.

Manchester Beer Week will take place June 10-19, with the objective being to champion the city's breweries, pubs, bars and restaurants, while attracting thousands of visitors to the city to experience the full array of different beers brewed locally.

Unlike most beer festivals, which are tied to a single location, Manchester Beer Week will include a series of headline events at different venues across the Greater Manchester area, including a brewers' market, street parties and beer festivals in addition to dozens of bespoke events taking place in supporting venues.

Connor Murphy, organiser (and Guild member) of Manchester Beer Week, said, 'JW Lees represents the ideal partner for Manchester Beer Week as both their brewery and pubs are such a major part of the city's rich beer scene. The festival will benefit greatly from JW Lees' vast experience and reach, helping us to connect with a wider audience and spread the word about the amazing range of great beer available in this wonderful city of ours.

'One of the festival's core goals is to break down some of the barriers between traditional and modern craft beer, encouraging drinkers to enjoy beers from across the whole scene. We've already had a massive amount of interest in this year's festival with over 50 outlets signing up to support but we're calling on everyone in Manchester with an interest in beer — whether drinkers, pubs, bars, restaurants or breweries — to get on board and make this something the city can really be proud of.'

William Lees-Jones, Managing Director of JW Lees, said, 'showcasing the incredible variety of beers and bars in Manchester draws attention to Greater Manchester as the number one city for brewing in the UK. It's really innovative the way Manchester Beer Week allows each brewer and venue to support the event in their own way, promoting the character and individuality that is on offer.'

Events for the inaugural Manchester Beer Week will start to be announced over the coming month, with details via event website www.mcrbeerweek.co.uk.

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

MAJOR NEW EXHIBITION REVEALS SCOTLAND'S HISTORY OF BREWING

The **Scottish Parliament** at Holyrood in Edinburgh is in an area once renowned all over the world for something else — beer. Memories of that time are to be revived, in a part of Scotland's capital where breweries once thrived, in a major new exhibition, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Raise Your Glass! event is open free of charge to the public at the Museum of Edinburgh, a City of Edinburgh Council venue that showcases the city's great past, on the Canongate, part of the Royal Mile, from Saturday, 5 March.

The exhibition, which portrays the untold story of one of Scotland's most important industries, is being prepared by a not-for-profit community interest company, Brewing Heritage Scotland, and Edinburgh-based creative agency 442 Design.

Brewing Heritage Scotland is linked with but is separate from the Scottish Brewing Archive Association (SBAA). Both, however, promote interest in Scotland's brewing history, The SBAA specifically fosters interest in brewing industry records held by the University of Glasgow Archive Services.

The William Younger company, later part of Scottish & Newcastle (S&N), once brewed on the site now occupied by the Scottish Parliament. S&N established its headquarters for several years at the same location.

John Martin, chairman of the SBAA and a director of Brewing Heritage Scotland, pointed out that the Museum of Edinburgh is on a site once surrounded by breweries, all of which were established to tap underground water supplies within an area once known to brewers as 'the Charmed Circle'.

'Edinburgh was once a major centre for beer production with dozens of breweries,' he says. 'The city's international reputation is continued to this day by some brewers and by Heriot-Watt University, a key centre for the training of brewers and distillers and for research in brewing and distilling.'

Artefacts and information from Scotland's brewing past are featured in new displays in the Museum of Edinburgh exhibition. Members of the public have already indicated their approval of the work of Brewing Heritage Scotland as 'very good' and 'really interesting'.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener of the City of Edinburgh Council also added: 'Brewing is one of the Capital's oldest industries and

it's incredible to think the trade hasn't been celebrated with its own exhibition in Edinburgh before. *Raise your Glass* will take visitors back to the days of Auld Reekie, when Edinburgh had no less than 35 breweries churning out a haze of smoke at the industry's peak in the 20th century. With a display of original brewing artefacts and advertisements and a series of talks and tours, it will document the brewing giants of the trade's past and how the future of the industry now lies in the hands of Edinburgh's micro-breweries.'

For more information contact Guild member Allan McLean of Brewing Heritage Scotland on 07531 129 892 or allanpmclean@gmail.com.

CAMRA'S PUB WALKS MARCH ONTO YORKSHIRE

Pub and beer-loving walkers in Yorkshire can now be helped on their way with a new guide, *Yorkshire Pub Walks*, published by CAMRA. It is the first book in the Campaign's popular series to be devoted to a single county and it also comes in a brand new eye-catching design for this series of books.

Published on 14 March, this is the sixth book in the Pub Walks series, produced by the publishing arm of CAMRA, with all the books written by Bob Steel.

Simon Hall, Head of Publishing at CAMRA, said: 'We're delighted with this fresh, modern design for the series which has already sold more than 50,000 copies. The books help to send a positive message about combining great pubs with healthy exercise and the exploration of Britain's countryside and towns.'

The book features urban and rural locations, as well as exploring Yorkshire's renowned national parks, and offers a vibrant and incisive insight into the culture and heritage of the county. It also contains information on local transport and accommodation.

The 25 walks are divided into North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and City Walks sections which include: Settle and Upper Ribblesdale; Whitby to Robin Hood's Bay; Brontë country: Haworth and Ponden; Sheffield: Kelham Island and the 'valley of beer' and Hull's old town: a fishy trail. The book (ISBN 9781852493295), RRP £9.99, is available from www.camra.org.uk/books

Launch dates

The main book launch will take place at two events in March. Bob Steel will be signing books at the following venues:

Thursday 17 March: Leeds Beer Festival, 12:00-13:30, Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA (www.leedsbeerfestival.co.uk).
The Talbot, 16:00, High Street, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9EX (www.talbotsettle.co.uk).