

# British Guild Of Beer Writers

## Newsletter May 2016



### **I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM ST PETERSBURG, WHERE I EXPERIENCED SOMETHING OF A RUSSIAN BEER REVOLUTION.**

We rightly laud the growth of new breweries in many parts of Europe, North and South American and Asia. However, many might not realise that Russia now has 700 plus craft brewers — and the discussions as to what a 'craft' brewer is are as profound and energetic as they are here.

At one event more than 60 home and commercial home brewers had grouped together to showcase their creations.

There were beers made with lingonberries and ginger, imperial stouts, wood-aged beers in barrels which once contained homemade spirits and of course lots of IPAs laden with hops. The brewers were enthusiastic, informed and keen to learn more. And there were lots of collaborations between brewers eager to share knowledge and develop their skills while increasing consumers' awareness of beer.

There is also a developing bar culture too — with many of the young entrepreneurs involved seeing beer as a way of expressing a commitment to their local community, which helps to create employment.

**Brewers Association** Welcome to the US Brewers Association (BA), which has become the latest group to become corporate members of the Guild. The BA is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to small and

independent American brewers, their beers and the community of brewing enthusiasts. It represents more than 3,000 brewers.

Its Brewers Publications publishing arm also produces some great books. The latest, *Wood & Beer: A Brewer's Guide*, by brewing luminaries Dick Cantwell and Peter Bouckaert, explores the many influences of wood as a vehicle for contributing tremendous complexity to beers fermented and aged within it. From the souring effects of microbes that take up residence in the wood to the character drawn from barrels, or foeders, the book covers the history, physiology, microbiology and flavour contributions of wood. It is recommended reading.

**Guild dinner 2016** — December 1 at the Park Lane Hotel, London. **Tim Hampson**

### **GUILD AGM**

**The Guild's AGM** is now officially called for Wednesday June 22 at a venue to be confirmed; it will kick-off at 6 for 6.30pm with a buffet to be served at 8/8.30pm.

Of the current Committee, all have indicated the intention to restand apart from the Secretary, who is stepping down. The current committee is: Tim Hampson (Chair), Paul Nunny (Treasurer), Adrian Tierney-Jones (Secretary); Committee Members: Ros Shiel, Matt Curtis, Paul Hegarty, Robert Humphreys, Frances Brace.

Each re-standing Committee member will provide a short biography of themselves for the meeting. We always welcome new people

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**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 [atierneyjones@gmail.com](mailto:atierneyjones@gmail.com)

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

standing so if you are interested, please let me have your biography by June 15.

We also point out that as the recommendations at last year's EGM were passed the Guild is now a not-for-profit company. Thus, the new Committee will, in due course, become Directors of the Guild with associated responsibilities.

According to the Constitution, any motions that members want on the agenda for the meeting must be sent to the Secretary at least seven days before the AGM. Finally, if you are coming please try and let the Secretary know so that he can tell the pub how many people they can expect for the buffet. If you have never been to an AGM before please make an effort, it's a chance to meet other Guild members and make your voice heard, especially at such an exciting time.

## NEWS

• **Look out** for the Dea Latis Brewsters Brunch at the Birmingham Beer Bash on 23rd July. Times and ticket price details will be announced soon.

• **Women and Beer Survey** Please can you spare less than five minutes to take part in a women and beer survey to help us conduct some research? Dea Latis would like your opinion on whether attitudes by women towards drinking beer have changed over the last decade. We would be delighted if you could share the survey link with any other friends who you think might be interested in taking part and we are very happy if you want to share the survey on social media. When the feedback is collated we will share the results with you.

If you could complete the survey by Wednesday May 11 we would be most grateful. Please click here: [Dea Latis Women & Beer Survey 2016](#). If you have any other views, strong opinions or even your own research that you would like to add please drop a separate email to Ros Shiel at [ros@shielporter.com](mailto:ros@shielporter.com).

• **Norwich City of Ale** Guild members are cordially invited on Thursday 26th May to join the Guild committee at lunchtime for a pre-Norwich City of Ale event, then to join us for the launch party of the rather amazing City of Ale. Time and place: 1pm, Pembroke Suite, Georgian Townhouse, Norwich NR2 2RB Beer and bite to eat followed by presentation on malt from a maltster based here in one of the

best malting barley-growing regions in the world. Introduction to City of Ale by founders Dawn Leeder of Pintpicker and Phil Cutter of the well-known Norwich pub The Murderers.

*City Pub Company is kindly hosting the event and Adnams has kindly sponsored it.*

### City of Ale VIP Launch

Time and place: 3pm: Narthex, Norwich NR2 2PA Photocall (the organisers would love to see as many Guild members there as possible)

The event will include speeches, ales from the 36 participating breweries and a chance to talk to participating brewers and licensees.

6pm: City of Ale Pubs, Norwich

A plethora of Great Pubs to Visit

More ales to try (over 250 local ales with quite a few brewed especially for the Festival)

*more details: [cityofale.org.uk/2016](http://cityofale.org.uk/2016)*

Please could you let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend either/or both

1. the BGBW gathering and mini-seminar
2. the City of Ale launch party

All you need to do is ping an email back replying 'yes'. If you decide to stay overnight, you can attend what will undoubtedly be fantastic talks and tastings by Guild members Roger Protz, Adrian Tierney-Jones and Matt Curtis with brewers from Poppyland, Adnams and Woodforde's respectively. Details from: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beer-talks-and-tutored-tastings-by-award-winning-beer-writers-and-brewers-tickets-24954238800?aff=es2](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beer-talks-and-tutored-tastings-by-award-winning-beer-writers-and-brewers-tickets-24954238800?aff=es2).

These are kindly hosted by St Andrew's Brewhouse and sponsored by Adnams.

Frances Brace, [frances@redflamecommunications.co.uk](mailto: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

## CALENDAR 2016

• 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

contact Frances Brace 07432 692309 or Heather Ryland 07527 375847; [twitter@caskaleweek](mailto:twitter@caskaleweek).

## HAIL TO THE ALE

**Beer Day Britain** (National Beer Day) is on June 15th. After a very successful inaugural event in 2015, this will now be an annual occasion. Brewers, pubs, bars, speciality beer retailers, maltsters and hop farmers are participating in a variety of ways to mark Britain's national drink on that day. The focus of Beer Day Britain is the National Cheers to Beer that happens at 7pm when people are asked to raise a glass of beer and send a Tweet or Instagram with the hashtag #CheersToBeer. Last year the National Cheers trended on Twitter so we hope to do that again.

New this year is an anthem to beer for people to sing during the National Cheers and at any other time that they feel the urge. I am the co-writer of the song Cheers To Beer along with composer Catherine Haughton. Downloads of the song lyrics, vocal score, karaoke backing track, telephone ringtone, and a performance of the song in a pub as a guide to how it sounds are available from the Beer Day Britain website: [www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk](http://www.BeerDayBritain.co.uk).

Glory will go to the people who post a video on Twitter of the most enthusiastic rendition of the song on June 15th using the hashtag #CheersToBeer. If you wondered why Beer Day Britain is on June 15th it is because that date is also Magna Carta signing day and ale is mentioned in Clause 35 of Magna Carta. Cheers to Beer!

Jane Peyton, instigator of Beer Day Britain

## BEVEXPO 2016

**Occurring June 15/16** at Manchester Central, BevExpo 2016 is a free to attend, two-day event showcasing the entire beverage supply chain and is THE forum for improving trade connections; discovering what is new and innovative; providing you with the tools you need to grow your business.

With exhibitors and seminar presenters from the UK, USA, Germany, Belgium and Spain, this is an opportunity to meet with the international supply chain on UK soil. The intention for this event is for it to be the platform for the entire drinks industry. Whether you're a dairy

manufacturer, vintner, micro brewer, cider maker, soft drinks or indeed anything involved in drinks — you need to be at BevExpo 2016! This event is free to attend. Simply pre-register online at [www.bevexpo.com](http://www.bevexpo.com). For further information please contact [organisation@bevexpo.co.uk](mailto:organisation@bevexpo.co.uk)

## BEER ACADEMY NEWS

- 16-May: How to Judge Beer, 09:30-16:30, The Caledonian Brewing Company, 42 Slateford Road, Edinburgh, EH11 1PH
  - 19-May: Advanced Course, 09:30-16:30, The Beer Academy, 44A Curlew Street, Butler's Wharf, London, SE1 2ND
  - 25-May: How to Judge Beer, 09:30-16:30, The Beer Academy, 44A Curlew Street, London, SE1 2ND
  - 1-June: Foundation Course, 09:30-16:30, The Vaults, 28a St Johns Street, Devizes, SN10 1BN
  - 1-June: Foundation Course, 09:30-16:30, The Beer Academy, 44A Curlew Street, Butler's Wharf, London, SE1 2ND
  - 2-June: Advanced Course, 09:30-16:30, The Beer Academy, 44A Curlew Street, Butler's Wharf, London, SE1 2ND
  - 2-June: Advanced Course, 09:30-16:30, The Vaults, 28a St Johns Street, Devizes, SN10 1BN
  - 03-June: How to Judge Beer Course, 09:30-16:30, The Vaults, 28a St Johns Street, Devizes, SN10 1BN
  - 6-June: Foundation Course, 09:30-16:30, Sentinel Brewing Co, 178 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SQ
  - 7-June: Advanced Course, 09:30-16:30, Sentinel Brewing Co, 178 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SQ
  - 14-June: How to Judge Beer, 09:30-16:30, The Beer Academy, 44A Curlew Street, London, SE1 2ND
  - 14-June: Foundation Course, 09:30-16:30, The Bierkeller Entertainment Complex, 6 Thomas Steers Way, Liverpool One, Liverpool, L1 8LW
  - 18-June: Foundation Course, 09:30-16:30, The Bull, 13 North Hill, London, N6 4EB
  - 24-June: How to Judge Beer, 09:30-16:30, Sentinel Brewing Co, 178 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SQ
- More details at [www.beeracademy.co.uk](http://www.beeracademy.co.uk).*