



This edition of the newsletter has been delayed whilst we awaited clarification on the end of restrictions

## Chairman's Introduction

Whilst some of us maybe grumbling about the delay to removing the final Covid related restrictions, for the most part we have been able to enjoy a pint or two at our local pub and actually experienced sitting outdoors to eat and drink during the beautiful weather most of us have enjoyed.

The majority of pubs in our branch area are open again for food and drink and this has definitely been made easier with a return to indoor dining, safely delivered within the remaining Covid rules.

Despite the fears being aired regarding the Covid Delta variant, I am at last personally feeling more positive about planning our Branch activities and returning to some interesting and sociable gatherings, whilst enjoying the wonderful range of ales brewed in our region.

Which brings me to an interesting point, during Covid lockdowns and the operation of the Tier System, we have actually seen an increase in the number of breweries to fourteen in our region, surely the most for decades? Please take a minute to visit the "Breweries in our Branch Area" page on our CAMRA West Suffolk Branch website, where you will find a list of our local breweries and a link to take you directly to their websites.

As you probably already know, despite restrictions, the Branch has remained remarkably busy, maintaining awards for "Pub of the Month" and "Pub of the Year" and a host of other initiatives that you can read about in this newsletter and on our [website](#).

Finally, I would like to end by offering my sincere thanks to all our volunteers who keep the Branch

running smoothly and especially those who are working hard to deliver a fantastic 2021 East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival in the beautiful Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, the planning is complex and challenging, but we know it will have all been worthwhile when we see our Branch members, friends, families and visitors enjoying what will be one of the best ever festivals to be held in our area.

*Chris Bailey  
WSC Chair*

## Branch News

### Branch Meetings Resume

After a couple of false starts we're delighted to announce, with the anticipated further easing of lockdown from 19th July, face to face Branch Meetings can recommence. We're kicking off with a summer programme of members' social events, culminating with our branch beer festival, being held this year in St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Cathedral precinct, daily from Wednesday 25th until Monday 30th August. Make sure the dates are in your diary now.

Our Autumn/Winter programme will follow in the next issue of this newsletter.

## Summer Programme

### Wednesday 21st July 7.30pm Beer & BBQ Evening.

Nethergate Brewery, Rodbridge Corner, Long Melford. CO10 9HJ

An informal social evening in the delightful Suffolk Countryside, combined with an optional Nethergate Brewery tour. After will follow the opportunity for a beer or two and some BBQ food kindly sponsored by Nethergate Brewery. This is primarily an out-

## East Anglian Beer Festival Member Benefits

This year there is no admission price reduction for CAMRA members for their first visit to the festival. However there is an exclusive benefit for CAMRA members who, on production of a valid membership card, will receive a printed programme and souvenir limited edition etched ½ pint glass festival tankard (while stocks last). Non-members will receive a "virtual" programme and non-souvenir glass as part of their admission package and can purchase a paper programme and souvenir glass if they wish.

Members will also get free entry to any subsequent session (except the Saturday night) after their first visit. In summary, they can obtain their £5 benefit on first visit then get free entry thereafter.

We have increased admission prices this year as the festival is costing more to stage in a post Covid environment. We also have to cover the overheads of running a festival at scale - including toilet hire, glass washers, health & safety, Covid security and single use glasses. Many of these costs were previously included in the venue hire charge.

You can find out more about the festival and volunteering at our website: [www.burstedmunds-beerfestival.com](http://www.burstedmunds-beerfestival.com).



side event although some elements, including the Brewery Tour will be indoors.

To assist with catering and ensure we can control numbers to ensure our Covid safety members must pre-register to attend using the link [here](#)

## **Wednesday 4th August 7.30pm Beer Festival Preview Evening & 'Festivale' Launch**

The Five Bells, High Street, Rattlesden, IP30 0RA

Another primarily outside event. The evening will be looking forward to the 29th East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival. Our Festival Organiser, Martin Bate, will be on hand to update members on the final plans for the first Cathedral Beer Festival - including details of the Bar layouts; Brewery and Cider producers; Brewery Bars and the entertainment programme.

We will also be launching 'Festivale' our Beer Festival preview ale which will be promoted and sold in pubs and clubs throughout the branch area in the three week run-up to the Festival.

Light refreshments will be provided. To assist with catering and ensure we can control numbers to ensure our Covid safety members must pre-register to attend using the link [here](#)

## **Introducing 'Festivale 21'**

'Festivale' is a specially commissioned, 3.9% ABV light golden summer beer with hints of fruit and Citra, which is being brewed exclusively for us by Brewshed Brewery to celebrate the 29th East Anglian Beer & Cider Festival. Through the generosity of one of our main festival sponsors, Pauls Malt, who are donating the brewing ingredients, and the support of Brewshed who are

brewing for us at no charge 'Festivale' will raise in excess of £1,000 for our Festival charities and good causes.

Look out for the 'Festivale' pump clip and beer in a pub near you! On sale, while stocks last, Friday 6th - Friday 27th August 2021.



Please remember, and remind your friends, that every pint of 'Festivale' you drink helps raise money for our Festival Charities - St Nicholas' Hospice, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and The Round Table, plus numerous smaller local charities and good causes.

Did you know? Since the East Anglia Beer & Cider Festivals inception we have donated more than £100,000 to local charities and good causes, large and small. Please help us in our quest this year to raise a record amount as so many charities have been adversely impacted by the pandemic and, for many, their continued survival depends on our fundraising and your generosity.

## **Beer Festival Preview**

Preparations for the beer festival in August are proceeding well. Members may be interested in the planned format for the festival, which is fast becoming "three festivals in one!"

## **Collectors Items?**

Any Collectors out there?

Before I throw these out I have the following available free to anybody interested:

Last Orders Vol.22 (1999) onwards (incomplete); various Beer Festival programmes from Norwich, Derby, Chappel, Cambridge, White Horse, Edwardstone and National Summer and Winter GBBF. Also GBG, 2017, 2019.

Please contact Andy via [andyparrett@rocketmail.com](mailto:andyparrett@rocketmail.com)

## **The Festival**

The festival opens at 4pm on Wednesday 25th August with a trade session (until 5.30pm) where we welcome guests from the pub and brewery trade, plus CAMRA members, to have exclusive access to the festival. The festival will open to the general public at 5.30pm and will be formally opened by the Dean of the Cathedral at 6pm.

From Wednesday until Saturday at 6pm we will be operating a 'traditional' beer festival with a wide range of beers and ciders available from bars situated in the Cathedral Nave and also outside in a large marquee.

The bars in the Nave will be used for regional beers, plus two brewery bars - Woodforde's (celebrating their 40th year) and Mauldons (Suffolk's oldest brewery). In the marquee we will have a large East Anglian bar plus Three Blind Mice from Cambridgeshire brewery bar, a craft beer bar and London bar. There will also be a bottled beer bar and, for the non-beer drinkers, a gin bar with Pimms and prosecco,

On Saturday at 6pm we will close the bars in the Nave and the festival will continue outside. Satur-

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day evening we are planning a live music evening with a notable tribute band (as yet unbooked).

On Sunday we will be open 12-8 and Monday 12-6 when we will be operating alongside the Bury St Edmunds Food & Drink Festival. There will be free admission to the beer festival on these days.

We are planning Sunday as a 'family day' with some light children's entertainment and a Songs of Praise style 'big sing' in the evening.

You can find out more and buy tickets through our website [www.burystedmundsbeerfestival.com](http://www.burystedmundsbeerfestival.com).

## Volunteers

We will need even more volunteers this year, with a larger venue and more activities required to keep the festival safe and flowing freely. If you can spare just a few hours it will be very helpful, particularly on the set up and take down days when we need a lot of able bodied people.

Set up is on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August.

We will be asking for beers to be delivered on Monday and Tuesday so we can get them up and tapped in plenty of time.

We are taking down the stillage and bars in the Nave on Saturday evening from 6pm.



Take down of the outside bars is Monday evening and Tuesday. We also need staff to man the bars and help across the site when we are open.

You can find the volunteer form on our website [www.burystedmundsbeerfestival.com](http://www.burystedmundsbeerfestival.com).

## Getting to the Festival

We are fortunate in Bury St Edmunds to have good transport links by train and bus. The festival has arranged preferential deals with a local bus provider for groups of drinkers to be ferried from and to the villages around Bury St Edmunds.

If you can arrange for a group of 8 or more people, maybe through your local pub, to travel together for the festival you may be able to take advantage of this offer. For example the bus would enable you to arrive at the festival at 8pm and leave the festival at 23.15pm.

To find out more please contact [festival@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:festival@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk).

Finally I'd like to thank the Beer Festival Working Party who have been meeting virtually for the past few months and working hard to pull together all the elements we need to make this festival our best ever!

*Martin Bate*

*Beer Festival Organiser*

## Calling all Facebook users.

We need you to be the eyes and ears of the branch and keep us up-to-date with what's going on in your local pub. Like and follow [@WestSuffolkCAMRA](https://www.facebook.com/WestSuffolkCAMRA) and share with us any post the membership will enjoy, and keep everyone in the loop by using #WestSuffolkPubs

If you would like to get involved in the admin side of our Facebook feed and help to promote the excellent work being done by pubs and breweries on our patch just message us on FB.

## Ian Hornsey Obituary and Memorial Award

This much respected Suffolk brewer and beer writer died on 17 April and will be much missed.



He was always a delight to talk to and was always highly enthusiastic and knowledgeable about beer. Following a successful academic career, culminating as a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Microbiology at Anglia Ruskin University, Ian decided to start a new career in brewing. Subsequently in 1985 he co-founded the Nethergate Brewery with Dick Burge in Clare. Ian was to remain the head brewer until 1999 when

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## Branch Officers 2021

Your Branch Officers are:

Chair - Chris Bailey [chairman@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Vice Chair - Martin Bate [vicechair@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Secretary - Paul Cooper [secretary@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Treasurer - Andy Parrett [treasurer@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Pubs Officer - Dan Heath [pubs\\_officer@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:pubs_officer@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Membership Secretary - Laura Hall  
[membership@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:membership@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Webmeister & I.T - Mike Shave

[webmaster@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@westsuffolk.camra.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor - Peter Phillips

oral cancer forced him to retire from brewing.

Soon afterwards he took to writing about the science behind the brewing industry. Early CAMRA visits to the original brewery, squeezed into an old commercial garage in the High street were always splendid events as he shared copious quantities of beer and some ancient recipe books to ever enthusiastic drinkers. He enjoyed full flavours and the IPA was very bitter, but if you didn't drink fast enough he rasped: "Ah so don't you like my beer?"

When Nethergate launched Old Growler (5%) it was based on a mid-18th century London recipe for a strong mild, but was re-branded as a porter. Ian was understandably very pleased with the new brew but also initially resisted adding coriander, which was in the original recipe. A short while later two additional versions of the beer were created, Umbel Ale (3.8%) and Umbel Magna (5%), with some of the hot wort being infused in about 4.5 kg of coriander seeds before fermentation. Both beers were absolutely fantastic, with an intensity of flavour that was almost overwhelming. Old Growler porter subsequently became CAMRA's Supreme Champion Winter Beer of Britain in both 1997 and 2003.

In 2004 the brewery moved to a larger site in Pentlow, with Ian eventually leaving the company in 2010. The brewery has since moved again to premises in Long Melford.

In recognition of Ian's lifelong commitment to Real Ale, your Branch is planning to honour him with a memorial award recognising the best of our West Suffolk brewers. Details of the award will be announced, fittingly, at our Nethergate BBQ evening on 21st July.

## Pub of the Month

### The Grumpy Goat, Bardwell

The Grumpy Goat bar is located on Spring Road, in the picturesque village of Bardwell near Ixworth.

It can be found at the Bardwell Sports and Community Club, a newly built community facility which opened in February 2020.



The new building has been the ambition of village resident and Cricket Club Chair, Stephen Larder, who is now the Grumpy Goat licensee. He said "building and opening such a fabulous community facility has been a remarkable achievement. It would have not been possible without the success of (local arts festival) Bardfest and the support of our sponsors. The unstinting efforts of villagers (many of whom now volunteer behind the bar), businesses and the whole community." "That we have been able to create a 'pub within a club' is a real bonus. The 'Grumpy Goat' is open to all whether your interest lies in sport, or being part of our community, or just enjoying an acclaimed pint of real ale or other tittle".

The 'Goat' is open every day of the week, with all day opening at the weekends.

*@TheGrumpyGoatBardwell*  
Bardwell, Spring Road, IP31 1AB

## Meet the Brewer

### Roughacre Brewery, Clare

Roughacre moved from Castle Camps in Cambridgeshire earlier this year and have set up a small modern brewery in Clare. The brewery is situated on the main road into Clare on the right when travelling westbound.

Sarah & Mark were brewing on a very small brewkit and have recently taken the opportunity to invest in modern brewing kit, which they use to brew a range of different beers, including a Belgian Pale Ale, a Coffee Porter and a hoppy IPA. See [Roughacre.com](http://Roughacre.com) for the full range.



The Roughacre shop is also open for bottle sales and outside table service drinks on Friday from 4.30pm to 7pm and Saturday from 2pm to 7pm. They also offer brewery tours, meet the brewer and tasting session on a Saturday. Get in touch for more details.

[Roughacre.com](http://Roughacre.com)  
07801 930091 or email  
[brewery@roughacre.com](mailto:brewery@roughacre.com)  
Clare Hall Barns, Clare, CO10 8PJ





**ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL**

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**25TH - 30TH AUGUST 2021**

**For opening times and admission prices  
Please visit our website**