

Beer Investigation group – 2018 Outings

For our final visit of the year, **December** saw us return to **The Rose and Crown** in **South Ealing** – a Fullers house but they had a couple of seasonal beers available, Three Wise Men (a light beer) and Bengal Lancer (a stronger beer with a good flavour). This was another well attended gathering and many of us enjoyed the food on offer here.

November saw a change of day when we visited **The Owl and The Pussycat** in **Northfields** – this is a former book shop that is now a bar which has its' own on-site brewery. As they don't open on Thursday lunchtimes, we visited on a Friday and it was a well-attended outing. We sampled many of the beers they brew including Northfields Bitter, Blondin's Barrel and their own Mild.

The **October** visit was to a newly (re-)opened pub, **The Black Dog** in **Brentford** – this used to be called The Albany (as it's in Albany Road) but it had been closed for some time. As the Black Dog, the pub had only been opened 8 days before our visit. It's an independent free house which had a selection of 6 real ales, 5 ciders, and around 10 keg beers. Most of these ales were new to our group, so we took the opportunity to taste many of them – they included two ales that were brewed locally, one by the Weird Beard brewery in Hanwell and the other by Reunion Ales based in Feltham. The pub, which is run by an Australian/Canadian couple, also has an interesting menu containing a number of 'fusion' dishes.

We preceded our **September** investigation of **The Viaduct** pub, **Hanwell**, with a look at the amazing Brunel structure, the Wharnccliffe Viaduct after which it is pub now named. Sue enlightened us with some history of the construction and following discussion included some railway history. We enjoyed our Fullers Ales and lunch, then walked along a short stretch of the river Brent to its junction with the Grand Union Canal and sampled more ales in **The Fox**, Green Lane, a Free House with a variety of beers that regularly change.

For **July** it was again time for the **Ealing Beer Festival**, in **Walpole Park**. 500+ Real Ales, Ciders, Perries, Wines and Imported Beers. There were more beers this year and a bar serving beer from wooden casks. There was also Live Music, Food Stalls and Pub Games.

In **June** we visited **Hammersmith** riverside - 2 pubs and a riverside walk.

- **BLUE ANCHOR**, 13 Lower Mall,
- **THE DOVE**, 19 Upper Mall W6 9TA

Good range of beers at the Blue Anchor; the Dove is a Fullers pub.

Visit to the **Express Tavern, Kew Bridge** in **May 2018**. Free house which has 10 cask ales, 15 keg lines and 5 ciders.

2 **Ealing Broadway** pubs in **April 2018**, the **Kings Arms** and the **Drapers Arms**. The Kings Arms is actually named after King George III, and the pub sign displays his coat of arms. They also have a good selection of Thai food available, as well as 3 real ales - many of the group enjoyed the Windsor Knot ale.

Fullers Brewery Tour in **March 2018**. Around 15 people attended and had an interesting afternoon being shown the beer brewing process, then had the opportunity to sample some of the beers that Fullers produce and look around their on-site museum.

Pubs in **Brentford** in **February 2018**. We visited the **Watermans Arms** in Ferry Lane which offers a good food selection, as well as a choice of 2 real ales, then on to the **Magpie and Crown** which had a

wide variety of beers. We also had a walk around the back streets of Brentford with a few of the members providing some interesting information about some of the buildings and dock workings.

The Aeronaut in Acton in January 2018. This pub had a large fire in 2017 and was closed for some time but had re-opened recently. They used to have an on-site micro-brewery but, unfortunately this is no longer in use. The pub also has a show area and have regular comedy and cabaret evenings.

2017 Outings

In 2017 the group investigated: (yes, just 10 meets)

- The Wheatsheaf in Haven Lane, Ealing for our December outing
- 3 pubs on Kew Green: The Greyhound, The Coach and Horses, The Botanist
- The Grosvenor, West Ealing
- The New Inn, South Ealing Road for their Beer Festival
- The North Star, Ealing Broadway
- The Ealing Beer Festival in July
- Central London Pubs, Citty of Yorke, Ye olde Cheshire cheese, The Edgar Wallace, The Blackfriar.
- The Express Tavern, Kew Bridge
- The Foresters, Northfields Avenue
- The Rose and Crown, South Ealing