

Beer Investigation group – 2019/20 Outings

The group met regularly in 2019 and the start of 2020 until the Covid pandemic meant that all pubs were closed so we had to curtail our outings. We did start holding meetings online over Zoom where members were able to enjoy a drink at home and have a chat with other Group members. During these sessions we visited the Lockdown Inn, the Zoom Inn and others. We had beer themed quizzes and we diverted with a Cider meeting.

Details of the outings we did have in 2019/20 are as follows:

- **February 2020** - the **Eel Pie** inn in **Twickenham**, a Hall and Woodhouse pub which serves Badger Ales from Dorset. This was followed by a walk by the Thames, near Eel Pie island (of music fame) then through York House gardens (where we saw the "Naked Ladies" statues) to the **White Swan**, a free house by the river. After that a small group of us went to the **Eel Pie Island Museum**, which has lots on the history of music related to the island.
- **January 2020** - **The Black Dog**, Albany Road in Brentford. A return visit to this pub with a great selection of beers and ciders, and a good range of interesting food.
- The **December 2019** outing was to **The Wheatsheaf**, in Haven Lane, Ealing; a nice cosy pub with a varied menu and Fullers beers.
- The **November 2019** outing was to pubs in **Hammersmith**, starting at **The Draft House** - a modern craft beer offering, modern style pub where there was a chance of hearing each other talk! Afterwards to **The Swan, King Street** - traditional, more history and good ale offering, but very noisy; music and traffic.
- The **October 2019** outing saw us visit **The Tabard** in Turnham Green and the **Packhorse and Talbot** on Chiswick High Road.
- After a break in August we resumed in **September 2019** with a visit to **The Forester beer festival** - a smaller beer festival than the main Ealing one, but none the less an interesting one. Recommended by our Chairman, Derek and others.
- **July 2019** saw the highlight of the Beer Investigation group's activities with our visit to the **Ealing Beer festival** in Walpole Park (right on our doorstep). One of the biggest beer festivals in the country with over 400 Beers available plus Ciders, Perrys and English Wines - those who attended on a warm and sunny afternoon had a pleasant time sampling a variety of the beers on tap.
- **June 2019** saw us visiting a number of pubs in the **Chancery Lane and Smithfield** area of Central London. Pubs visited were:
 - 1 **THE CITTE OF YORKE** - A characterful Sam Smiths pub, Victorian medieval style.
 - 2 **THE VIADUCT TAVERN** - a lovely old Gin Palace, decoration well-preserved.
 - 3 **THE BISHOPS FINGER, WEST SMITHFIELD**. Once the only London home of Kent's Shepherd Neame. The name refers to the Canterbury pilgrims' signposts.
 - 4 **THE HAND AND SHEARS**, welcoming little multi-roomed gem. Timothy Taylor, a Stroud bitter and others on recent visits

- The **May 2019** meeting was to riverside pubs in **Strand-on-the-Green** (near Kew Bridge). The pubs visited were **The Bulls Head**, **The City Barge**, and **The Express Tavern**. Thanks to Ed Baker and Sue for the research and organisation of this outing; a document with the history of this area and these pubs that Ed produced is also available through Links on the Beer Investigation group page.
- **April 2019** saw us visit 3 pubs in **Hanwell**, which were **The Green**, **The Dodo Micropub** in Boston Road, and **The Kings Arms** on Hanwell Broadway.
- **March 2019** - pubs in Isleworth; The **Ailsa Tavern** (Shepherd Neame), the **Town Wharf** (Sam Smiths) and the **London Apprentice** (Greene King), all near the Thames.
- **February 2019** - The **Six Bells** and the **Magpie & Crown** pubs in **Brentford**. The Six Bells is a Fullers pub, with a good choice of food, whilst the Magpie & Crown is a free house with plenty of beers for us to sample.
- **January 2019** - The **Grosvenor** pub in **W Ealing/Hanwell**, free house with a wide range of beers and a good menu.