

CAMRA Northamptonshire Branch Diary August 2020

Dear All,

Hope you are all well and have managed to return to the pub safely. My last diary was February and the August one should have seen us meeting-up at Olympia for the GBBF and Rushden HTS for the Branch Meeting, but alas this is not to be. I had also pencilled in a Hop Yard Trip for September, but current restrictions on coaches and group sizes makes it in practical. The current guidelines from HQ also prohibits me from arranging any local events, so please arrange your own social distancing meetings with your friends instead.

On Monday 3 August the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme starts with the government paying half your bill up to £10 per person. You can show your support for your favourite pub, both local and not so local, by going out and tucking in. Use the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme at a participating establishment:

- to get a 50% discount on food or non-alcoholic drinks to eat or drink in (up to a maximum of £10 discount per diner)
- every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 3 and 31 August
- as many times as you like

You do not need a voucher to use this scheme and you can use it at the same time as other offers and discounts. There is no minimum spend.

You cannot claim discount on alcoholic drinks or service charges.

The discount will be automatically available to you at participating establishments. Establishments will then claim a reimbursement from the government for the discount they've given you.

Participating establishments may include:

- restaurants, cafés, bars or pubs
- work and school canteens
- food halls

All diners in a group of any size can use the discount.

https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/?ga=2.156012155.114623029.1595934230-680302695.1588755175?WT.mc_id=E013T24D01N91_Spend%20Engagement%202-&WT.tsrc=Email

Have you got any stories? The first week of re-openings saw me visiting a pub a day, purely for research purposes! Along with my fellow PLOs (Pub Liaison Officers), I have since been visiting pub websites/facebook pages to ascertain their current status. If you check Whatpub, this is where any known re-openings have been entered for such pubs, and can be selected using the "Only show venues with **information about COVID-19 temporary arrangements**". All pubs in the branch area except Northampton have so far been checked. Quite a few are still closed until they can put in Covid-Friendly policies, while others continue to offer takeaway services only. If you come across a pub that needs updating, then please let me know.

To get out and about, last weekend we went to Bournemouth (before the crowds) and enjoyed some new GBG pubs, plus re-visited some of the great villages and pubs that we encountered on last year's Hampshire New Forester weekend trip.

This forthcoming week I was to meet friends from Manchester and Leeds in Chesterfield for a post lockdown drink, but with both their home areas having new rules implemented, this plan has been put on hold. I'll still go out though to find a few new pubs in the East Midlands and to get a railway fix which I have missed so much since March.

So, stay safe and keep in touch and I look forward to seeing you all in a pub in the future, assuming that they are not forced to close again based on some comments from government advisers that have appeared in the media.

Karl