

ADRIAN HENNESSY

18th February 1953 – 27th March 2023

Many CAMRA members will be saddened to learn of the passing of my good friend Adrian Hennessy who had just turned 70. I first met Adrian some 50 years ago when (as a teenager) we helped out with sales stands on the rail tours that were organised to raise funds for the nascent Sheringham heritage railway. Upon moving from King's Lynn to Norwich in 1979 I began to meet Adrian (and others from the North Norfolk Railway) each week in the much missed "Horse & Dray" on Ber Street. At some point in the early 1980's we all decided to descend on the annual Norwich Beer Festival to offer our services.

Initially Adrian served behind the bars but soon put his expertise in organising sales stands to good use by taking over the CAMRA Products stall. Adrian ordered goods and ran this stand for several years. Adrian spent his entire working life with Eastern Counties Newspapers, so with his print background it was inevitable that he would also take over the editorship of "Norfolk Nips". Adrian was handed the reins in October 1995 (Edition 81); the mag then was just a 16p black type (no photo's!) mag printed on coloured paper. Adrian oversaw the introduction of colour to "Nips" before relinquishing the role of Editor (after a run of 13 years) in 2008. It was also back in the 1990's that Adrian took over the organising of the monthly "First Friday Fives" which he continued to do until only a few years ago.

Adrian and I shared an interest in sci fi but Adrian went much further than me and embraced emerging technology. He was the first person I knew to own a home computer (an Atari) and a mobile phone – this "house-brick" even had a torch! According to the internet by mid-1994 there were 2,738 websites and by the end of the year more than 10,000. It's a safe bet that one of these was our branch website which was set-up by Adrian around about that time. He continued to update our website until very recently. He was also ahead of the curve with social media and did daily tweets etc during the course of each years' beer fest.

Away from CAMRA Adrian enjoyed rail travel, visiting towns and cities across the UK and Europe in search of beer and pubs. He was a keen canal enthusiast and I and my friends enjoyed many years in his company cruising our inland waterways. Adrian was also interested in Romano-British history, aircraft and space travel (although he hated flying!), cycle racing, indie music and gig going (I don't think he ever missed a tour by "The Wedding Present"), politics (with a distinct lean to the left), pub and brewing history, Citroen 2CV's (although he never owned one!), American freight trains and electric traction in all its forms. In short, time spent with Adrian over a beer or three was never dull.

Sadly, Adrian was not blessed with the best of health although he managed to beat non-Hodgkin lymphoma twice, once in the mid 1980's and again in the late 1990's. More recent radiotherapy damaged the nerves in his right arm leaving him disabled although he mastered living one handed and still enjoyed trips away and days out. His last battle with cancer reduced his mobility but he kept abreast of current events, cycle racing and progress with space exploration right to the end. CAMRA & Norfolk Nips send condolences to his elder sister Brenda and her family in their loss.

Peter C Wells