

Shakespeare

Newsletter of Shakespeare branch of CAMRA - Real ale in Shakespeare Country and The Vale



FREE
Please
take one

Coach hat trick! County Pub of the Year

Following selection of the **COACH & HORSES**, Harvington as the Shakespeare Branch Pub of the Year, the next round of judging has now been completed at county level. Each of the Pubs of the Year (selected by the different CAMRA Branches within the County) have been further assessed to identify the overall County Pub of the Year. The Shakespeare Branch was extremely pleased that the **COACH & HORSES** was recognised as the Worcestershire County Pub of the Year. This is the first time that a pub from our Branch area has achieved the Worcester county award since 2006.

SHAKESPEARE CAMRA first recognised the improvements that Steve and Di had achieved within the **COACH AND HORSES** by selecting them as Pub of the Season for Spring 2013. From this point, the pub continued to go from strength to strength whilst developing the range, variety and quality of beers on offer. The hard work of Steve and Di, together with all of their team, was further acknowledged in 2014 when it was first voted the Shakespeare Branch Pub of the Year, an accolade that they went on to achieve again in 2015. The significance of winning this award for three years running should be noted, as no other pub within the Shakespeare CAMRA Branch area has been recognised in this way. During both 2014 and 2015, the **COACH**

AND HORSES was runner-up in the county competition. However, on 29th June 2016, Lloyd Evans, Branch Chairman was delighted to be able to congratulate Steve and Di on achieving the Worcestershire county award. Lloyd

thanked all those present for coming along to celebrate the achievement, with a special mention for Lloyd's alter ego (a Welsh dragon) which had spent the beer festival sitting on Pete's shoulder. Lloyd then handed over to Jim Witt, CAMRA Area Organiser, who added his own congratulations before presenting Steve and Di with a certificate of their achievement.

Steve gave a heartfelt thank you to the Shakespeare Branch for all its support and for CAMRA members taking the time to submit beer scores. He stated that without the dedication of all the volunteers giving up their free time to fill the many Committee places and other posts, we



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Continued page 4 ▶



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Chairman's Letter

*For those of you who normally receive **Shakesbeer** in the post you will be used to a word from our Chairman, Lloyd Evans. We have decided to include this in the magazine so that those who might be thinking about coming and joining the branch in a more active way can see a small summary of what we get up to that previously may not have made it in here.*

Hello Everyone,

As I start to complete this letter I would firstly like to bring to your attention that the **COACH AND HORSES** in Harvington has successfully been voted County Pub of the Year for 2016 by all the CAMRA branches in Worcestershire. Having been voted our Worcestershire area Branch Pub of the Year for the past three years and twice county runner up this is remarkable achievement for this friendly village pub and we believe that it is due recognition for all the hard work that Steve, Di and all their staff have shown in making it the best pub in Worcestershire.

The branch AGM was held at the **HOLLY BUSH**, Alcester on the 27th April this year and it was encouraging to see that so many members had made the effort to attend along with both regional and county area organisers. Branch membership has continued to grow and the latest figures are now indicating that we have around 420 members with more still to come through after the beer festival weekend.

This year's beer festival again proved to be a very successful event for all concerned and it was a real pleasure to read the very positive verbal and written feedback provided by all those that attended. By the Saturday evening over 1500 people had visited the Racecourse and enjoyed the extensive range of ciders and beers that we had managed to provide along with the additional food outlets which were a significant feature of the changes that we were able to make for this year's event.

It has taken a small group of committee members just over six months to plan the event and after such a weekend I must commend and thank all the helpers who gave so freely of their own time to support, organise and staff the event as without their involvement there would never be a festival in Stratford. However, as we start to think about organising again for next year I would like to make a plea for extra support to come forward as a couple of our hard working "stalwarts" have indicated that for personal reasons they will not be in a position to help us in a similar way for 2017 – now is the time to please get involved!

Finally keep your eyes open for the launch of the 2017 Good Beer Guide if you wish to see which pubs in our branch area have managed to come through the selection process and been chosen for inclusion this time around.



Next Meetings:

Wednesday 21st September - Branch Meeting THE NEW BULLS HEAD, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6DT

Wednesday 28th September - Beer and Cider Festival 1st 2017 planning meeting - The Bear, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7LT

Wednesday 19th October - Branch Meeting BROADWAY HOTEL WR12 7AA

Best wishes as always, Lloyd

Royal Oak, Evesham

Pub of the Season Winter 2015

We'd like to start with bringing our reporting up to date and go all the way back to the Winter Pub of the Season which just missed publication in the last edition.

With a somewhat chequered past and after a period of closure **THE ROYAL OAK** opened again mid May 2014 under the stewardship of Chef Alistair Barlow and partner Stacey.

They got off to an excellent start offering three real ales – at the time *St Austell Tribute*, *Wychwood Hobgoblin* and *Sharps Doombur* together with a first class food offering with a promise that the ale choice would be become more adventurous – they stuck to their promise which now sees them with an exciting varied selection of ales.

The license trade faces challenging times and CAMRA is working hard to encourage pubs to stay open in one format or another and this means all parties have to identify the right format to appeal to customers in their catchment area. Fortunately for Alistair and Stacey they seem to have found the right formula with the **ROYAL OAK** - an excellent food offering, a pleasant environment to eat and drink, and most important, as far as we are concerned, good beer!

So for becoming one of only four per year voted as Winter Pubs of the Season 2015 (as selected by branch members at a recent meeting) we wish them well and offer our encouragement with the hope they will have a long future here with great success.

Cheers!

Bob Kirby



County Pub of the Year (continued from page 1)

would not have a Shakespeare Branch. Business at the **COACH AND HORSES** has continued to grow since Steve and Di took over, the largest and strongest continuing growth being real ale. Steve thanked his team for their hard work, and thanked friends and customers for their continued support over the years. Steve also thanked the many brewers for their devotion, without which the pub would not be able to sell real ale; Glenda and Gerald Harvey from Canon Royall Brewery and Mark Mills from Stratford upon

Avon Brewery were present to join in the celebrations.

THE COACH AND HORSES, Harvington now goes forward to the next stage of judging for the West Midlands Regional Pub of the Year – our fingers are firmly crossed!

In this edition you can also catch up on our other "Pub of the Season" awards made over the last few months.



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Pub News & Beer Reports...

Beer Drinker, Reader or CAMRA Member - the reports and short stories below all come from people like yourself, so if you find yourself in one of our wonderful pubs, feel free to drop us a note about anything you think should be in this section! shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk

Alderminster

THE BELL

THE BELL has recently undergone a build project to provide a brand new two storey restaurant. There is now even more space to enjoy **THE BELL'S** own beers - *Aslcote Ale* and *Aslcote Monkey* alongside guest ales.

Alcester

ROYAL OAK

Since the last magazine we are pleased to report that this high street pub has only endured a short closure and has reopened under the tenure of Mandy Downes taking her estate now to 3 pubs in the town. We wish Mandy and her team great success.

THE WHITE LION

Having been sold in the last few months this once popular town pub still remains closed and with little outlook of reopening as a pub. We will keep you updated on this.

Ardens Grafton

GOLDEN CROSS

THE GOLDEN CROSS raised a magnificent £2400 for Acorns Children's Hospice at their annual Graftonbury event in May.

Aston Cantlow

KINGS HEAD

The new kitchen garden is proving to be a success. A prankster has even managed to cultivate a crop of plastic carrots in it. At least the ale in this popular venue remains real.

Childswickham

CHILDSWICKHAM INN

Landlord Kevin at the **CHILDSWICKHAM INN** is celebrating ten years at the helm of this popular pub and tells an interesting historical tale about

the Victorian inn. Until around 1900 it was located adjacent to the church in the village centre but the vicar at that time objected to hearing swearing coming from the pub. So the pub was reconstructed at the edge of the village where it is today. Our reporter recently enjoyed a pint of *Abbot Ale* as one of two changing cask beers and listened to the banter of local imbibers. Try as he might, he heard no swear words. Worth a visit to ensure good behaviour is witnessed.

Binton

BLUE BOAR

This cask marque accredited pub was recently the venue of the Knitted Character Folk Festival, a celebration of folk music with a knitting twist. There must be a joke in there somewhere.

Evesham

CROWN INN

A "For Sale" sign recently appeared here and is now showing as "Sold". We understand that the pub and adjacent hotel have been sold as one package, no news yet on the future of the site.

Great Wolford

FOX & HOUNDS

Locals are concerned about the future of this village pub and moves are afoot to make it an asset of community value.

Honeybourne

THE THATCH

Following a period of temporary management we learn now that Gina and Guseppe Scarale have taken over permanent residence as of the May Spring

bank holiday and are starting a program of works to refurbish this grand old pub. We wish them every success. At the same time going on in the background was an application for an ACV (asset of community value) order with Whycavon council. As of the 6th July we can report that the application has been successful so a big thanks goes out to the community and the Parish Council who were involved in the application. Thanks also to our source: Bernard McGraghan.

Salford Priors

THE BELL

This quaint once popular village local had a chequered past for the last 12 months and has been recently sold after a period of advertising. At this time its future is unknown but most likely to end up as a house conversion.

Lower Quinton

COLLEGE ARMS

Having previously reported on the closure of this pub, it is great news to report that it reopened in August putting this newly refurbished pub back at the heart of the community. This historic 1600's building having been closed since the turn of the year, reopened at the beginning of the month under the stewardship of new owners Ashok Naidu and Dean McDermott. They are hoping that locals and groups feel they can use it as a meeting place. The food offering is based on locally sourced fayre with a good Sunday roast contingent back on the menu. Of note is a new phone number: 01789-720066 and the pub is open all day every day 12noon - 11pm. *Doom Bar* is the one regular beer and a



second hand-pump serves a changing cask beer which so far (two weeks) have included *Ringwood Boondoggle*, *Purity UBU* and *Mad Goose*. No real cider yet. Food served daily 12-2.30, 5-9pm.

Sedgeberrow

QUEEN'S HEAD

New hosts Siobhan and Ian arrived in May 2016 to manage this pub after a lengthy period under a temporary manager. This is a sister pub to the **TRUMPET** in nearby Evesham. It is open lunchtimes and evenings Tues-Sat and all day at weekends with food available every day (closed Mondays). On a recent visit our reporter found an excellent pint of *Hooky Gold* on hand-pump alongside *Old Hooky* and *Hooky Lion*. Ian and Siobhan can be found sharing the duties of Front of house and the kitchen.

Shipston

COACH & HORSES

Our roving reporter called in here earlier in the month and found *Old Rosie Cider*, *Hooky Mild* and *Greene King Ale Fresco* beers available on the two changing hand-pulls. Opening hours are 12 noon – midnight.

Stratford-upon-Avon

ALEHOUSE

As well as now becoming a popular venue for folk music, back in May they were awarded our Shakespeare Branch Warwickshire Pub of the Year which is no mean feat. See fuller article.

OLD TRAMWAY

If you're looking for a good mix of national and local brewers, look no further; You can be sure of a good selection here, recent visits noted - Jennings Cumberland Ale as the regular beer and Thatchers Cheddar Valley is the regular cider. Three further

hand-pumps serve a changing selection of cask beers such as Purity UBU, Wye Valley HPA and Marston's New World. Food served 12-3, 5-10 Mon-Fri and 10-10 Sat-Sun.

Whichford

THE NORMAN KNIGHT

This popular village local became even more popular on August Bank Holiday weekend with a winning combination - beer festival, bank holiday and sunshine - and Whichford's inaugural beer festival did not disappoint. Hundreds of people flocked to **THE NORMAN KNIGHT** pub, co-hosted by Stratford Upon Avon Brewery, to sample some truly wonderful local ales. There were 17 real ales and ciders available split between the main bar inside and the pop-up bar outside. A full spectrum was

in evidence – from the pale golden hues of *Stratford Gold* (SUA Brewery) and *Golden Citrus* (Turpin Brewery) at one end, passing through the copper of *What The Fox's Hat* (Church End Brewery) and *Gaucha* (Twisted Brewing Co.), to the intense red of *The Hopfather* (Wye Valley Brewery) and finally to *Black & Tan* (Slaughterhouse), a blend of bitter and stout at the heavy end of the spectrum. Particular favourites which sold out on the second day were *The Hopfather*, *Stratford Mosaic* (SUA Brewery), *Black & Tan* and the Orchard Pig's *Explorer*. Hook Norton's wheat

beer *Summer Haze* was also highly rated in drinkers' feedback

Festival goers were spoilt with fabulous food from The Norman Knight chef Mick during the day, wood fired pizza from JP's Mobile Pizzeria in the evening and live jazz and blues music from talented local musicians Fiddlebop and Barney Newman & Tom Leary. On the Monday the festival had the remarkable good fortune to coincide with a spectacular fly-past from two Spitfires to bombastic strains of music (not the theme to Dam Busters). This was organised by Whichford flower show and fete which took place on the village green opposite the pub.

Thanks from the punters go out to Manager Amber Wheatley and her team who did a fabulous job!





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The Crown & Trumpet

The Crown & Trumpet is located behind the village green of Broadway, this 17th Century Inn provides excellent accommodation. Being centrally located and just off the Cotswold Way, it is an ideal base for touring Shakespeare's Country and the surrounding Cotswold and Malvern Hills.

Serving Lunch and Dinners all through the week, all our seasonal homemade dishes are created on the premises using locally produced ingredients. Voted Shakespeare's CAMRA pub of the year in 2012/ CAMRA Good Beer and rated in Room at an Inn and Good Pub guides, we have four exclusively brewed seasonal beers. Come along and drink them at our weekly Jazz and Blues evenings.



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Brewery News...

NORTH COTSWOLD Shakespeare Brewing Co Celebrating the Bard

Ale often played a major part in many of William Shakespeare's plays and we know that the great Bard was not unaccustomed to the odd tittle or two, although not always known to drink responsibly. How then to celebrate William's birthday and the 400th anniversary of his death? Joe Holiday, Head Brewer at the North Cotswold Brewery, had a moment of inspiration and decided to set-up a new brewery, dedicated to honouring the great Bard. Where did the inspiration come from? Was it the fact that Joe has lived in Warwickshire all his life, was it the fact that he attended the same school as William Shakespeare, King Edward VI Grammar in Stratford upon Avon. Who knows? What a damn good idea though. So much history, so much William Shakespeare, so much ale!

Brewing with only the finest malts from Warminster Maltings and English hops from Charles Farms, Malvern Joe has crafted a range

of ales - one cask conditioned and three bottled ales. "The Bard's Best" is a 4.2% cask conditioned golden ale, a vibrant hoppy ale with subtle

hints of citrus. In bottle there is a brown ale "The Macbeth" 4.8%, full bodied with rich caramel flavours, a dark ruby ale "The Othello" 5.0%, rich and smooth with hints of chocolate and vanilla and finally a golden ale "The Tempest", hoppy with hints of citrus. Leaving the creative side to his mother, Sandra, "Craft Ale As You Like It"



involved working closely with their design agency, AD Profile. Launched in April it is hoped that these ales will capture the imagination of locals and visitors alike. Stratford upon Avon, is a-buzz with events throughout the year celebrating England's greatest playwright. Why not visit and enjoy Shakespeare Brewing Co's fine ales.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BREWERY

We learn that the new *Mosaic* brew which follows on from the very successful *Immortal* is being received very well, so well in fact it has been nominated for SIBA Midlands award – so watch this space. Also watch out for a special one off Autumn brew made with additions of the breweries own hop harvest this year which looks to be bountiful.



HOOK NORTON

We are very pleased to discover that our friends at Hook Norton have been named Brewery of the Year 2017 by "The Good Pub Guide" and this can only bring them success. Well done guys!



We are also pleased to see that Hooky have add another eight legs to the payroll in the form of two new shire horses to work alongside Nelson and Major. Currently without names we are told it definitely won't be ShireMcShireFace! More on the names hopefully next time, if you have a good suggestion perhaps tweet them @ HookyBrewery



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CHURCH FARM BREWERY

Located just outside our branch but often seen in branch pubs, earlier this year they were fortunate to be awarded £25,000 from a small business growth fund distributed by Warwickshire County Council. The money is going towards a £125,000 expansion set to see production capacity increase from 140 to 500 barrels per week in the form of a 20 barrel brew plant.

There are also ambitious plans to export to Europe and Scandinavia. Setup in 2012, the former dairy farm had to find something to diversify into to survive. This fund is part of a £1 million pot the County Council will distribute to different businesses over the coming 3 years.

North Cotswold CAMRA manage a Skittle Win at last but it's almost time for a rematch!

by Roger Price

This popular inter-branch skittle challenge skittles match North Cotswold versus Shakespeare Branch took place at the **BUTCHERS ARMS** Mickleton on Friday 11th March and ended in a narrow victory for North Cotswold.

This ends a run of defeats but the home alley obviously helped together with two four legged Japanese mascots brought along by Young Member Officer, James Long also provided some luck. The male best score once again going to Peter Rowe our Webmaster and the best female player award went to Dill Hogg who had the overall best score of 31 over four legs. Branch Chairman, Roger Price presented the prize money to Peter and Dill with Shakespeare Branch Campaign Officer Jason Norledge, who led the opposition, also pictured.

Thanks to Chris Knight, North Cotswold Secretary who arranged the venue and team selection. Also thanks to the **BUTCHERS ARMS** for an excellent hot buffet and the beer of choice on the night was *Purity Mad Goose*. A live band in the bar provided backing music thus improving our sign language which was needed to order the beers! October 14th will see North Cotswold CAMRA return to Shakespeare for an unprecedented second match of the year, will the crown return to Shakespeare? If you're a Shakespeare branch member look out for the invite to form the team.



“ the home alley obviously helped together with two four legged Japanese mascots brought along by Young Member Officer James Long also provided some luck ”





The Norman Knight, Whichford

The Norman Knight in picturesque Whichford is now proudly part of the Stratford Upon Avon Brewery family.

We offer a fantastic selection of hand-pulled guest ales and ciders alongside our own Stratford-upon-Avon Brewery ales.

The creative, seasonal menu is made from locally sourced, fresh ingredients and the lamb and pork comes from the our family farm. Booking is recommended.

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The Norman Knight is now part of the SUA Brewery family



Spring and Summer Pub of the Season

SPRING

The Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA presented a "Pub of the Season" award to a pub that has promoted real ale, promoted CAMRA and played a part in community life. The award is not normally presented to pubs that have already achieved Good Beer Guide status, but is presented to recognise other pubs within our Branch area. Members of Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA voted the **BROADWAY HOTEL**, Broadway as their Pub of the Season for Spring 2016.

A presentation was made on 11 April 2016 to the Assistant Manager, James Exton by Pete Godfrey, Shakespeare CAMRA Good Beer Guide and Pubs Officer. The **BROADWAY HOTEL** is a former Pershore Abbey Coaching Inn dating back to 1575. Having recently been modernised, there is a rich historic interior which has retained a cosy atmosphere. The hotel is split into a restaurant, bar and quiet sitting room. A good range of local beers is available, offering a full style range from light to dark. And if you wish to try four beers, the **BROADWAY HOTEL** is one of the few places that offers a ¼ pint tasting paddle.

SUMMER

Members of Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA voted the **LORD NELSON**, Alcester as their Pub of the Season for Summer 2016.

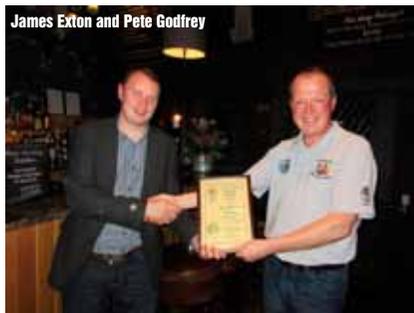
A presentation to mark the award was opened by Pete Godfrey, Shakespeare CAMRA Good Beer Guide and Pubs Officer.

Andrew and Rachel Danks took over the **LORD NELSON** 3 ½ years ago. They have certainly turned the pub around and now consistently have five real ales available – always in good condition. They always have a cider available too and there is always a good friendly service from welcoming staff.

Andrew and Rachel have put a lot of effort into transforming the interior, which now has a welcoming log burner in the winter, and have moved the front door to where a door should be – not round the side. They have also recently extended the outside seating areas. The **LORD NELSON** is a real locals' local, but also welcomes newcomers.

Pete handed over to Alan Whitbread, one of the founding members of Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA and an Ale Taster for the Alcester Court Leet. Alan commended the **LORD NELSON** for its community activities such as cribbage evenings and vinyl nights, before treating those present to a rendition of 'O good ale thou art my darling'.

Alan then presented the certificate to mark the achievement to licensee Andrew Danks.

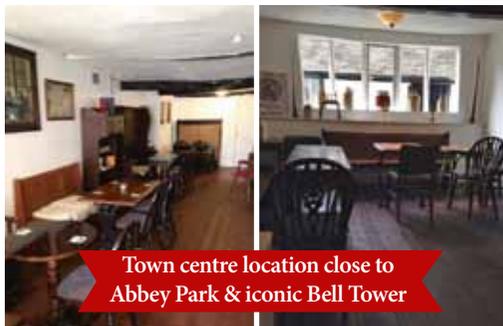


James Exton, Emil Lloyd and Alex Thorley



Andrew Danks and Alan Whitbread





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Shakespeare Branch Pub of the Year 2016 (Warwickshire) Stratford Alehouse, Stratford-upon-Avon

Lloyd Evans, Branch Chairman, had great pleasure in presenting Bill O'Brien and General Manager Phil Atherton with our Warwickshire Pub of the Year award for 2016.

THE ALEHOUSE first opened for business on Christmas Eve 2013 and this family run pub became the first micro-pub to open in the Shakespeare branch area. It continued to go from strength to strength winning the Summer Pub of the Season in 2014 and entry into the 2016 Good Beer Guide not long after. A member of the Micropub Association, the beers are served straight from the cask and the pub has been recognised as an excellent supporter of local breweries in the area including Stratford upon and Avon and North Cotswolds along with more recent offerings from Clouded Minds. During his speech Lloyd also noted that since the opening in 2013 four hundred

and thirty two beers had been served from one hundred and thirty three different breweries, which is quite an achievement. With regular events now involving Stratford Folk Club, acoustic nights and Emma's Vinyl Sundays along with an active website this has justifiably become the hub and meeting place for quite a few members of the local Stratford community. A good turnout of CAMRA members and regular customers were present and it

proved to be a very enjoyable evening for all concerned and we would like to thank Bill and Phil for their generosity and the very warm welcome they offered to us all during the evening.



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**~ SHAKESPEARE 2017 ~
STRATFORD BEER FESTIVAL**

**Inaugural planning meeting September 28th at
The Bear Stratford-upon-Avon**

LADIES AND GENTS...

Starting earlier than usual, we are holding a kick off meeting to try and form the Beer Festival Committee before the real planning starts. This year as always we are looking for as many people as possible to come and join the planning. All positions in the organisation are up for grabs and if you feel you might only have a little bit of something to give come and see us - everyone welcome.

Without a strong core committee to carry this through we cannot begin to even think about putting on the festival.

We are tentatively looking to hold the festival July 7th and 8th 2017.

Come and be a part and help make it another roaring success



Another sip supping success - 1

Following months of planning, the 10th Shakespeare CAMRA Beer Festival took place over 10th and 11th June 2016 at the Stratford Racecourse. This year saw even more beers and ciders than previously: 73 beers and 36 ciders to be precise. The theme was 'Wales, the West & the Best', which enabled a wide variety of beer styles to be sourced by our Bar Manager, Bob Kirby, from far afield as well as from breweries local to the Branch such as Cannon Royall, Hook Norton, Stratford-upon-Avon, North Cotswold, Purity and Wye Valley.



The festival was officially opened by the Mayor of Stratford, Juliet Short, on the Friday afternoon. During the opening, Shakespeare CAMRA was pleased to present a cheque for £510 to the Shakespeare Hospice, representing funds donated from the 2015 beer festival. Shakespeare CAMRA has been associated with the Shakespeare Hospice since the first beer festival in 2007 and during that time has raised over £9,500 of vital funds for



the charity. In addition, the Shakespeare Hospice stall raised a further £1,000 during the festival. Thank you to all the festival goers for your generosity. Although the weather was rather mixed,

visitor numbers were up on last year, at around 1,450. Visitors overwhelmingly voted the Beer of the Festival as '*Gower Power*' by Gower Brewery. The beer is brewed with traditional floor malted barley and packed full of a choice quality hops, to give a powerful Welsh example of a true British classic – Indian Pale Ale. At 5.5% abv you will certainly feel 'The Power'! Cider drinkers also overwhelmingly voted the winner as Wilson's '*Cuckoo Spit*', which had been produced by one of our own branch members Dave Wilson. It was initially produced as a 'one-off' for the 2015 festival, but following the achievement of Cider of the Festival for 2015, Dave decided to try his luck again – and succeeded.

The beer festival takes a huge amount of effort by volunteers to be successful and Shakespeare CAMRA thanks all those who gave their time volunteering and helping to support the 2016 festival. For the beer festival to continue in 2017 and beyond, we need

Branch members to come forward and volunteer, to allow us to showcase the very best that real ale has to offer. As well as our volunteers, the beer festival needs those who support it through coming along and trying out the beers and ciders we have on offer. It's a hard job, but we thank you for your efforts. The involvement from our sponsors is immense from large nationals to very small locals and public houses. Sponsorship covers all areas from shirts, glasses, even radio communication and again any involvement is greatly welcomed.



10th Shakespeare Beer Festival



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
TENTH BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL
ANNIVERSARY
ALE
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selected for the festival by
Shakespeare CAMRA
ALC 3.9% VOL
WYE VALLEY
BREWERY

Beer of the Festival takes Shakespeare CAMRA to Wales

With abject apologies to our Chairman Lloyd Evans, (a Welshman, who'd have guessed), I take back every slur ever made about the weather and beer in Wales. On a gloriously sunny weekend in August a contingent of Shakespeare CAMRA headed off to the Gower peninsular in South Wales to say thank you to Gower Brewery for providing the Stratford Beer and Cider Festival 2016 with 'Gower Power' a 5.5% ABV premium IPA style beer voted overwhelmingly Beer of the Festival.

Having arranged a brewery visit on the Monday the majority of our group arrived Sunday lunchtime and set up camp in the car park and field of the brewery tap, **THE GREYHOUND INN**, Oldwalls. This allowed us plenty of time to explore the pub and the beers on offer as well as this stunning part of the country deservedly designated an area of

outstanding natural beauty. Fortunately, Gower Brewery owns two other pubs, **THE KINGS HEAD**, Llangennith and **THE SHIP**, Port Eynon, both of which were visited and thoroughly enjoyed together with other Good Beer Guide pubs in the area. We were greeted and entertained throughout our visit by owner/brewer

Chris Mabbett and it was he who handed us over to Head Brewer and creator of Gower Power, Dave Campbell at Gower Brewery on Monday afternoon. A tour around the modern and still expanding brewery was enjoyed by all as was the remarkable tale of the brewery's growth and success since it was established as a five barrel 'micro' at **THE GREYHOUND INN** in 2011, (still operating), and the relatively recent move to the industrial premises a few miles down the road. A presentation of the Beer of the Festival certificate, a vote of thanks and a delicious meal at The Greyhound concluded our visit. Our heartfelt thanks go out once again to Chris, Dave and all the team there and for anyone who hasn't yet been to the area, I thoroughly recommend a trip.



LocAle

CAMRA LocAle - promoting pubs that sell locally-brewed real ale, reducing the number of 'beer miles', and supporting local breweries. CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of 'green' issues.

The CAMRA LocAle scheme was created in 2007 by CAMRA's Nottingham branch which wanted to help support the tradition of brewing within Nottinghamshire, following the demise of local brewer Hardys and Hansons. Following on from our LocAle feature in Shakesbeer Spring 2013 we will be keeping you up to date on the most recent LocAle accredited pubs. Below are our most recent LocAle conscriptors and so you should be able to track down a pint of beer produced with 30 miles of that pub.

Everyone benefits from local pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale...

- Public houses as stocking local real ales can increase pub visits
- Consumers who enjoy greater beer choice and diversity
- Local brewers who gain from increased sales
- The local economy because more money is spent and retained locally
- The environment due to fewer 'beer miles' resulting in less road congestion and pollution
- Tourism due to an increased sense of local identity and pride - let's celebrate what makes our locality different

Accreditation is at the sole discretion of the local CAMRA branch and subject to the licensee agreeing to the following...

- That they will endeavour to ensure at least one locally brewed real ale, as defined by the local branch, is on sale at all times
- Only real ale, as defined by CAMRA, can be promoted as a CAMRA LocAle
- Where the standard of real ale sold falls below an acceptable quality, accreditation will be withdrawn
- That accreditation can be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the local branch
- That should accreditation be withdrawn, or should the licensee withdraw from the scheme, all LocAle publicity material must be removed from the pub and the licensee cease using the CAMRA LocAle logo.



Definition of Local

The Sustainable Communities Act, which CAMRA strongly supports, provides a definition of local as up to 30 miles from the point of sale. CAMRA recommends that the distance is calculated from the pub to the brewery and should be based on the shortest driving distance. Real ales from regional and national breweries as well as from microbreweries can be

regarded as "local" if they are brewed within what the branch has decided as being the local area.

How do I find a LocAle Pub?

Pubs which have been given LocAle status by their local CAMRA branch can display the LocAle sticker on their windows/doors. The stickers have the

year for which they have been accredited as LocAle pubs by their branch. They may also have posters up in the pub and on the pumps that are serving locally brewed beers there will be LocAle pump clip crownners.

To find a local accredited pub in this area see the branch website and look for the <http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk/rainshc/>

Armscote **Fuzzy Duck**; Bidford-on-Avon **Royall**; Brailes (Lower) **George Inn**; Brailes (Upper) **Gate Inn**; Broadway **Crown and Trumpet Inn**, **Broadway Hotel**; Broom **Broom Tavern**; Cherington **Cherington Arms**; Edgehill **Castle Inn**; Evesham **Red Lion**, **Royal Oak**, **Trumpet**; Great Wolford **Fox and Hounds Inn**; Hampton Lucy **Boars Head**; Ilmington **Howard Arms**; **Red Lion**; Little Compton **Red Lion**; Long Compton **Red Lion**; Newbold-on-Stour **White Hart Inn**; Oxhill **Peacock**; Sedgberrow **Queens Head**; Shipston-on-Stour **Black Horse Inn**; **Coach and Horses**; **White Bear**; Stratford-upon-Avon **Bear (Swans Nest)**; **Falcon Hotel**; **Golden Bee**; **One Elm**; Stratford **Alehouse**; Stretton on Fosse **Plough**; Welford-on-Avon **Bell Inn**; Whichford **Norman Knight**

I am a Cider Drinker

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player,
Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster www.alanwhitbread.co.uk



It's summer! So what does that mean for the dedicated CAMRA member? Well, there's more lighter refreshing ales to choose from and real cider becomes much more available. In fact I am a cider drinker myself – at any time of the year, except when I'm driving, of course!

I am a Cider Drinker is a Wurzels song. The band was formed in 1966 as a backing group for singer/songwriter Adge Cutler and, with a number of changes to their line-up, they are still performing today. With a thick Somerset accent, Adge played on his West Country roots, singing many folk songs with local themes such as cider making, cider drinking, farming, dung spreading, local villages and industrial work songs, usually with a comic slant.

During the latter half of the 1960s, the band became immensely popular regionally and, with the release of the single *Drink Up Thy Zider* in 1966, they had national fame. It reached No 45 in the UK chart. The B-side *Twice Daily* was banned by the BBC for being too raunchy. I bet that helped it's popularity!

A number of live albums were recorded at local pubs and clubs, filled with Adge Cutler penned favourites such as *Easton in Gordano*, *The Champion Dung Spreader* and *Thee's Got'n Where Thee Cassn't Back'n*,

Hassn't?, together with songs written by others and some re-workings of popular folk songs of the time.

Tragically, Adge Cutler died after falling asleep at the wheel of his MGB sports car which then overturned on a roundabout approaching the Severn Bridge. He was returning alone from a Wurzels show in Hereford in May 1974 and is buried in Nailsea. Despite the tragedy the band carried on and in 1976 it even had a No 1 hit in *Combine Harvester*.

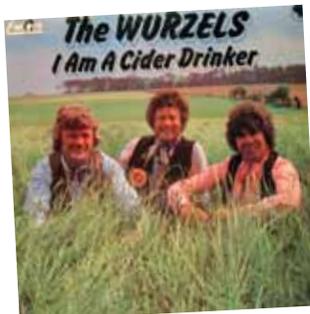
I am a Cider Drinker was the Wurzel's follow-up single to *Combine Harvester*. It was a great success and it remains one of those songs with which they will always be associated. Legend has it that Pete Budd came up with the When the moon shines on the Cowshed lyrics when the Wurzels were being played the tune of Una Paloma Blanca and the new single was born.

In 1976 it reached No 3 in the charts and had several Top of The Pops appearances along the way. It sold 250,000 copies and was awarded a Silver Disc. The band's line

up at the time was Tommy Banner, Pete Budd & Tony Baylis. The song was even re-released in 2007 as an updated up-tempo version with Tony Blackburn as a featured guest. It reaching No 57 in the charts.

If you want to hear and join in with the choruses of traditional songs in the Shakespeare CAMRA area, try the following places:-

- **Third Tuesday at THE GOLDEN CROSS INN** at Ardens Grafton B50 4LG
- **Every Thursday at THE FLEECE INN** at Bretforton (a NT property in the GBG) WR11 7JE
- **First Friday at THE CHERINGTON ARMS** at Cherington CV36 5HS
- **First Sunday at THE GATE INN** at Upper Brailes (GBG) OX15 5AX
- **Second Sunday at THE MARY ARDEN** at Wilmcote CV37 9XJ;
- **Third Sunday at THE BLUE BOAR INN** at Temple Grafton B49 6NR
- **Fourth Sunday at THE RED LION** at Ilmington CV36 4LX



I am a Cider Drinker...

When the moon shines on the cow shed
and we're rolling in the hay,
All the cows are up there grazin'
and the milk is on its way.

[Chorus] I am a Cider Drinker,
I drinks it all of the day,
I am a Cider Drinker,
it soothes all me troubles away,
Ooh arrh, ooh arrh ay, Ooh arrh, ooh arrh ay
(Proper Job! Wanna try some, young 'un?
C'mon, young 'un! Get a couple o' pints down 'ee
then.)

It's so cosy in the kitchen
with the smell of rabbit stew,
When the breeze blows 'cross the farm yard
you can smell the cow shed too.
(Cor! Oi never smelt nothin' like it in all me loife)

When those combine wheels stops turnin'
and the hard days work is done,
Theres a pub around the corner

It's the place we 'ave our fun.
(Arrr! We'll 'ave some fun an' all!)

[Chorus]
(C'mon, young 'un! Get a couple o' pints down 'ee
then.)

Now dear old Mabel when she's able,
we takes a stroll down Lovers Lane,
And we sinks a pint o' Scrumpy,
then we'll play old natures game.
(Ah, ha, ha! Ooh, arrh!!)

But we end up in the duckpond
when the pub decides to close,
With me breeches full o' tadpoles,
And the newts between me toes.
(Cor! Mate!)
(C'mon there, young 'un! Get up there an dance.)

[Chorus]
(Let cider be the spice o' loife! Arrr!)



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Shakesbeer goes retro!

In this modern time of email and smart phones, we thought we'd step on the brakes a little and reintroduce snail mail. So if you prefer to put pen to paper or just don't own a computer or device for this, then you may now write to us again...

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c/o The Coach and Horses
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Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up

All events 8pm unless otherwise stated



SEPTEMBER

21st Branch meeting - THE NEW BULLS HEAD, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6DT

23rd to 25th COACH AND HORSES beer and cider festival - Harvington WR11 8NJ

24th to 25th Alcester Ale Trail see www.alcester.co.uk/page.aspx?id=828

24th to 25th Stratford Food festival ale trail www.stratford.co.uk/events/stratford-town-centre-food-festival/ale-trail

28th Beer and Cider Festival 1st 2017 planning meeting - THE BEAR, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 7LT

OCTOBER

1st Beer Festival helpers thank you day out – Oxford pub crawl

13th - 15th Oxford Beer & Cider Festival website: oxford.camra.org.uk/beer-cider-festival-2016

14th Skittles friendly with North Cotswold CAMRA at COACH & HORSES Harvington WR11 8NJ

19th Branch meeting - BROADWAY HOTEL WR12 7AA

27th - 29th Birmingham CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival www.birminghambeerfestival.org.uk

NOVEMBER

16th Branch meeting - THE STAGS HEAD, Wellesbourne CV35 9QS

24th - 26th Dudley CAMRA Winter Ales Festival www.dudleycamra.org.uk/dwaf2016.html

DECEMBER

14th Branch meeting/Christmas walk about - starting at LORD NELSON Alcester

See Shakespeare CAMRA web site for the latest news, updates and full details on meetings and diary appointments: www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

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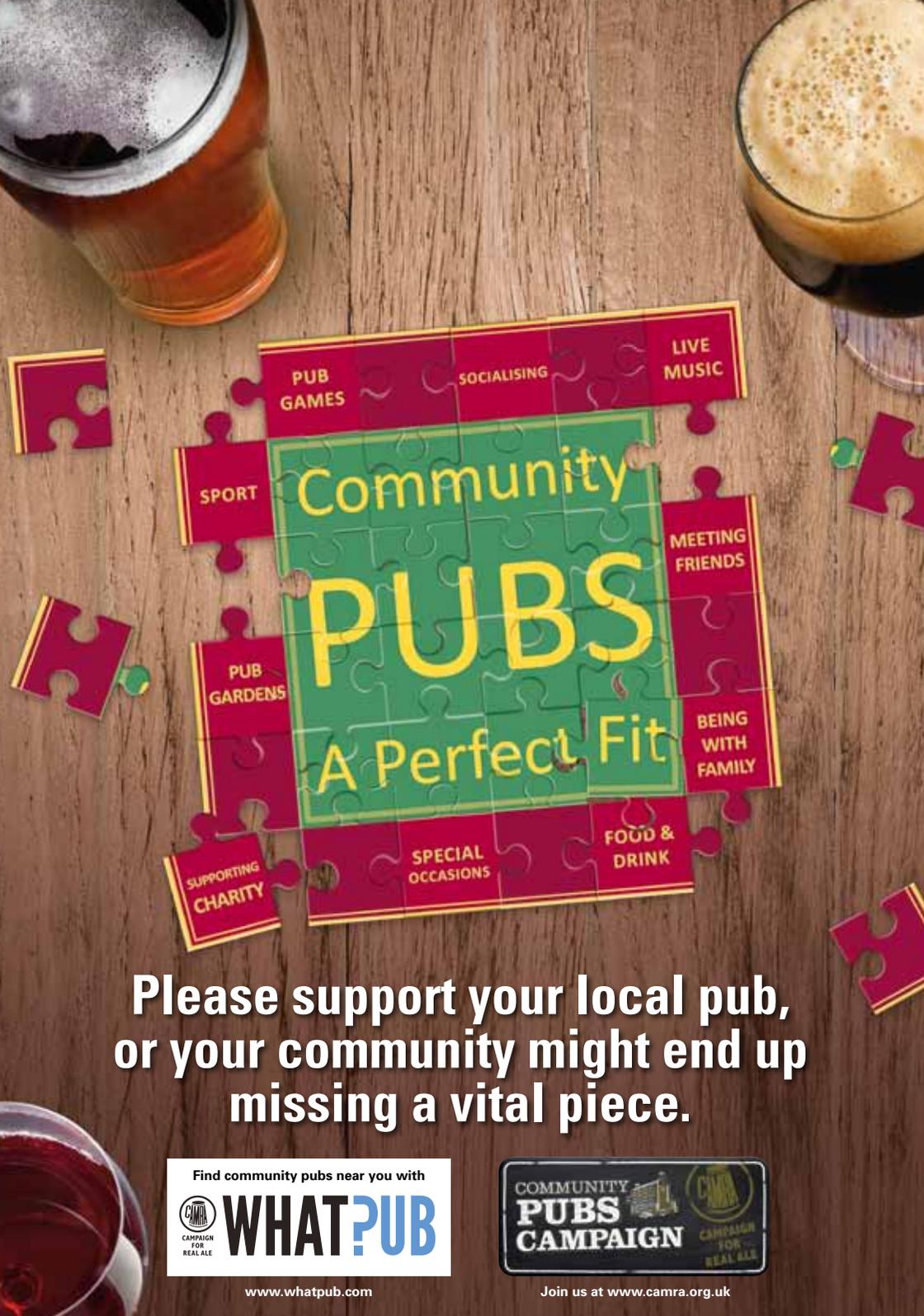
Are you interested in joining your local Shakespeare CAMRA committee?

We would like to hear from you if you could help us to help our local members.

Do you have a few spare moments during the week you could help our local committee with organising social events - if so we would like to hear from you. Or could you assist in gathering news or assist publishing this magazine by being part of our editorial team. What about liaising with the local landlords and pubs within our branch? If so we would like to hear from you however much time you can spare in any capacity.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to join: chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk





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- Our monthly newspaper, 'What's Brewing', informing you on beer and pub news and detailing events and beer festivals around the country.
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- Socials and brewery trips, with national, regional and local groups.
- The opportunity to campaign to save pubs and breweries under threat of closure.
- The chance to join CAMRA / Brewery Complimentary Clubs that are exclusive to CAMRA members. These clubs offer a variety of promotions including free pint vouchers, brewery trips, competitions, and merchandise offers.
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