Issue 64 Winter 2016

FOR REAL ALE

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

Shakesbeer

Beer, Brexit and The Budget Here as the set of the set

AMRA have been massively successful in their primary purpose of campaigning to improve the quality and variety of real ales and ciders available in our great British Pubs. CAMRA is currently reviewing the future focus of the organisation and we eagerly await the outcome. Of increasing concern however is the pressure on the pubs and inns across Britain who serve up the fantastic variety of draught ales and ciders brewed by our world class breweries. In particular rural inns and pubs are under increasing financial pressure which has resulted in the loss of 29 pubs ever week! We need to do everything we can to prevent our fabulous country pubs from becoming derelict. We have a choice:



The continuing rise in the value of property has driven the closure of large numbers of pubs in prime sites which have then become private accommodation. Small village pubs can be acquired by developers and **double** in value **if** converted into housing.

"Holes in the current planning system allow pubs to be sold off, demolished or converted to many other uses without planning permission or the involvement of the local community. However if a pub is nominated as an Asset of Community Value it automatically receives planning protection meaning it is no longer a soft target to would-be developers looking to quickly purchase and convert or demolish the pub - which in some instances has literally happened overnight". Tom Stainer, CAMRA's Head of Communications. For many small rural pubs the successful acquisition of Assets of Community Value orders has made it possible for the last pub in the village to be saved from such a fate. Stratford District Council, for example, has 17 such pubs listed already. The struggle to save our pubs continues and two examples are covered in this edition (see pages 9 and 10). Since the Brexit vote the value of the £ has fallen by 10-12% against the Euro and the U.S. dollar. Imports have started to rise in price and this means inflation is rising faster than pay rises. Pubs have to compete for their share of the shrinking customer wallet. The rise in the National Living Wage is expected to add £600 per annum to the cost of each full time

There was some good news. The Chancellor is going to double **rural** business rate relief (which will help rural pubs) by the start of next April. Beer duty, which accounts for up to 50 per cent of the costs of a UK brewer, is still a major concern despite the decision in the budget to freeze current rates.

win

"While a freeze in beer duty is welcome, CAMRA would like to see the government do more to reverse the damage done by the beer duty escalator by cutting duty in the Spring 2017 Budget," Colin Valentine CAMRA Chairman. So the Great British Pub - so vital to our communities and tourist industry remains under immense pressure. Philip Hammond's (The Chancellor) hands are somewhat tied by lower tax receipts and higher government borrowing forecasts. The Office for Budgetary Responsibility has identified a **£58 billion** shortfall over the next 3 years. There is however something the government **could** do. Off sales of beer (through shops and

could do on anco of occer (introgen shops and supermarkets) account for 51% of beer and cider sales with 49% being sold through pubs and hotels. Supermarkets are able to sell beer for less than £1 per pint compared to the average price of £2.05 -£3.90 in a pub. The Chancellor could amend beer duty to reduce the rate on draught beer and cider and increase the rate on bottled and canned beer and cider?

This would have no overall effect on tax revenue and the breweries **but** would benefit pub, inns and hotels serving draught beers and would be a great boost for the survival of our Great British Pubs and rural businesses and could even make Phillip Hammond, the most popular Chancellor in modern history!

Are you listening Phillip!



See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

Use your mobile phone's QR reader to scan



STRATFORD UPON AVON'S OWN AWARD-WINNING BREWERY

In fact, we're more than Stratford Upon Avon's only brewery. **We're also one of the UK's most eco-friendly too.** Luckily for our customers, being ecologically sound goes nicely hand-in-hand with producing great tasting beer with no additives or chemicals...

> Water from our own well, six varieties of hops grown on our land and our solar powered brewery are just part of what makes the Stratford Upon Avon Brewery unique. Even our left-over malts and hops get recycled with the help of our hungry pigs.





MMOY

Chairman's Letter

Hello Everyone

s we enter the darker days of winter I would like to draw to your attention that we have a new Editor (Roger Baty) who has kindly come forward to take on this role. Jason Norledge has stepped down and moved sideways to take over as Festival organiser. Jason deserves all our thanks and gratitude for



the time and effort that he has given in compiling the magazine over a number of years and a big welcome to Roger as he takes over the reins.

There have also been changes in the team organising our next Beer Festival in Stratford (7th and 8th July 2017), led by Jason. At the well-attended meeting at the Bear in Stratford. The branch thanked Julian Stobinski and Bob Kirby who have stepped down from their respective roles as Festival Organiser and Bar Manager. Jason has kindly accepted the position of F0 but please note that the changed dates above due to racing commitments at the Racecourse.

Since my last letter some of you will have noticed that the Good Beer Guide 2017 has appeared on many book shelves and I must admit to a "plug" here in saying what a great Christmas present this would make for someone you know. Choosing pubs from our branch area is proving to be more and more difficult due to the limited entries that we can propose to be included in this publication and this year I am only too aware of the disappointment of those that we could not include this time around. See what you think about our selections and keep your beer scores coming in as we start the process again in the New Year.

Finally, on a personal note, I do like this time of year when the darker beers become more readily available in our pubs. Some of those that have really impressed me recently have been Cairngorm Black Gold, Theakston's Old Peculiar and our very own SUA Dark Star Porter. Look out for these great seasonal beers and may I wish both you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas from all of us at Shakespeare CAMRA.

Best wishes as always, Lloyd

Editorial...

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I will be stepping into the large boots (size 12) of Jason, who has done a fantastic job as editor and will now be focusing on next July's Stratford Beer and Cider Festival. We are extremely fortunate to have some fantastic real ale and



cider pubs within Shakespeare as well as successful local breweries and I hope to work closely with both to bring you news from across the branch area. To do this I need the help of all members, licensees and everybody who has an interest in our public houses and their wonderful offerings. Please send any news, updates and interesting stories via email or post to: **shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk or Shakesbeer Editor**,

c/o Coach and Horses, Station Road, Harvington WR11 8NJ

Thanks for your support...

Roger

The editor reserves the right to amend or shorten contributions for publication. Email: shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk

Disclaimer The views expressed in Shakesbeer are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Shakespeare branch or The Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. CAMRA accepts no liability in relation to the accuracy of articles or advertisements, readers must rely on their own enquiries. It should also be noted that acceptance of an advertisement in this publication should not be deemed an endorsement of quality by Shakespear CAMRA.

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NEXT Branch Meeting

8pm Wed 18th January Red Lion, 6 Market Place, Evesham WR11 4RE

NEXT Good Beer Guide Meeting

8pm Mon 9th January Boar's Head, Church Street, Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE

NEXT Beer Festival Meeting

8pm Wed 11th January Broom Tavern, 32 High Street, Broom B50 4HL

(A full list of future meetings can be found in the CAMRA Members Section Page 22)

Pub News & Beer Reports...

Neil Burdett RIP

It is with sadness that we have to report the recent death of Neil Burdett. Neil and Pauline took over the tenancy of **THE THREE TUNS** in October 1997 and they stayed there until 29 March 2014. Neil was a master cellar-man and, as a



result, CAMRA members recognised **THE THREE TUNS** as an iconic one-roomed ale house, serving a selection of up to eight constantly-changing real ales. They were rewarded with entries in the Good Beer Guide for every year of their tenancy. What a great achievement! Our sympathy goes to his widow, Pauline. He will be much missed.

Frank Maher, John Ross, Alan Whitbread

Alcester THE HOLLY BUSH

They now have six different ales available including *Titanic Plum Porter* and a variety of Christmas specials.

THE THREE TUNS

Mandy at **THE THREE TUNS** has asked us to point out that their regular beers include *Bathams* (an excellent Black Country brew) and not Bateman. The What Pub details are correct. Apologies.

Ardens Grafton THE GOLDEN CROSS

THE GOLDEN CROSS has a new landlord. Matthew Morris and his daughter Courtney have taken over the Charles Wells tied house. *Bombardier* is their main ale with a rotating guest beer (*Jolly* 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



Holly – St.Austell's Brewery - is the dark guest beer leading up to Christmas). Matthew, who will be introducing updated menu's, plans to hold special charity events every two months following on from the great success of the annual "Graftonbury" festival. In February there will be a major refurbishment of the current dining-room which will then become a large lounge bar. We wish Matthew and Courtney every success in the future.

Bidford-on-Avon The BULLS HEAD

Punch Taverns are now advertising for a new tenant and promising a £100,000 major refurbishment going forwards. We hope that with an ever expanding population Bidford can retain and strengthen the remaining 3 pubs otherwise the old rhyme concerning drunken Bidford may no longer be applicable!

THE COTTAGE OF CONTENT

THE COTTAGE OF CONTENT at Barton was featured in the Channel 5 programme Carry on Caravaning. The Cottage has a campsite with full facilities open from 1st March to 31st October and separate dining room behind the welcoming bar.

Bretforton THE FLEECE

THE FLEECE at Bretforton has been named as one of the 8 best pubs in the

Cotswolds by Cotswold Life magazine. Cotswold Life even suggest a helpful (relatively short) walk to help you work up a thirst! http://www.cotswoldlife.co.uk/ food-drink/8_cotswold_countryside_ pub_walks_1_4706509

Broadway THE CROWN AND TRUMPET THE CROWN AND TRUMPET have

mummers plays performing on Friday evenings in December alongside a range of special Christmas beers. They have also been identified in Cotswold Life as the focus for a countryside walk. http://www.cotswoldlife.co.uk/

food-drink/8_cotswold_countryside_ pub_walks_1_4706509



Broom The broom tavern

They not only offer outstanding food and nationally recognised quality ale but as part of its focus as a village pub also hosts the village Bridge Club (http:// www.broombridgeclub.co.uk/). Bridge players can thus enjoy a social bridge club accompanied by a choice of excellent real ale whilst they play.

Evesham The Royal Oak

They have been awarded the DogBuddy

dog friendly award. There are dog welcoming treats and water bowls inside and out. Landlord Alistair Barlow even has a dog dinner menu! There is of course an award winning menu for the owners alongside the three cask mark ales offered (*Hogs Back T.E.A., Purity Gold* and a rotating Guest Ale) and two ciders (*Aspall's* and *Orchard Pig Reveller*). If you're a dog owner why not amble round and treat yourself and your new best friend.

Great Alne THE MOTHER HUFF CAP

THE MOTHER HUFF CAP has reopened under new management. Lee Payne is focusing upon "quality food and quality beer". The traditional country pub has open



fires and a "dog room" to the rear with dog treats provided. Purity ales available include the new *Bunny Hop* (3.5% extra hopped pale ale) which proved particularly popular on opening night. They also offer *Waddlegoose* and *Henney's* ciders.

Halford The Halford Bridge

THE HALFORD BRIDGE has new landlords. Beth and her father Duncan have taken over at the Halford Bridge which had been closed for some time. They have *Doom Bar* and *Hooky Bitter* on hand pump and are planning to add a local ale on their third hand pump. Beer and cider festivals are planned for the new year and also live music events. We wish them every success.

Harvington THE COACH AND HORSES

They have been awarded a certificate as

runner up for having the best flowers/ hanging basket in the West Midlands. Steve and Di have also added a 4th hand pump to the real ale on offer.

Our roving report, Jim, writes...

THE CHEQUERS in Ettington is renowned for its fine food but there are bar stools conveniently placed if you just want to taste the three cask beers on hand-pump. These are *Prescott Chequered Flag, Banks's Bitter* and the house beer *Chequers Pale Ale* (brewed by Marstons). Popular with many customers these three beers are now regulars. *Date of visit: Tues 11 Oct 2016.*

Harvington provides a good selection of beers for the cask ale drinker. Besides the much heralded COACH & HORSES there is also THE GOLDEN CROSS. On a recent visit to the latter this reporter found three beers on hand-pump: *UBU* and *Mad Goose* from Purity together with Sharp's *Doom Bar*. The pub also has the advantage of being open at lunchtimes during the week. Bus 18 between Stratford and Evesham stops outside and provides a half hourly daytime service.

Date of visit: Thurs 19 Nov 2016.

THE RED LION at Ilmington. Vikki and Gary took over this village pub in November 2015 and always have 4 Hook Norton beers on hand-pump. The pub is open all day every day (but opens at 4.30pm Mondays) and there is live music every Saturday. Many different gins are available and bar snacks including a delicious brie and prosciutto toasted sandwich are popular with walkers, cyclists and customers in general.

Date of visit: Wed 12 Oct 2016.

THE BELL at Welford on Avon. This ancient inn has a reputation for fine food and also has four cask ales on hand-pump. *Hobsons* *Bitter* and two from Purity are the regulars with the fourth providing a changing beer such as *Old Speckled Hen*. Outside in the large garden there is a circular smoking den with wind-proofing and heating. On a recent visit this roving reporter quaffed a pint of *UBU* and lit a pipe full of London Mixture in the confines of this useful gazebo.

Date of visit: Thurs 10 Nov 2016.

Other Pub News...

THE EARL GREY INN in Leek has been crowned West Midlands Pub of the Year 2016. This small traditional pub offers 5 varied and unusual cask beers as well real ciders. Definitely worth a visit if you are in the area.

Campaigners are busy fundraising to try and buy **THE NEW INN**, Norton Lindsey from Enterprise Inns in order to turn it into a community pub. This is the only pub in the village. We wish them well in their crowd funding efforts (see Centre Pages).

Hook Norton is raising money for the Special Care Baby Unit at Warwick Hospital. The brewery has launched *Two Little Higglets* (4.3 per cent), named after twin boys born early to Mark and Claire Higgs, licensees at **THE CASTLE** at Edge Hill. The twins spent nine weeks in the special care unit.

And finally...

THE HORSESHOE INN in Mildenhall, Wiltshire, a Grade II listed property, has encountered an unusual problem. Their newly renovated thatched roof has been besieged by jackdaws, eating the corn seeds in their new roof and causing it to gradually disappear. The landlord is still trying to find a solution. It's just as well the jackdaws haven't yet developed a taste for real ale as well!

WEATHEROAK TAP HOUSE

STUDLEY

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 WED
 12.30pm
 - 10.30pm

 THU
 12.30pm
 - 10.30pm

 FRI
 12.30pm
 - 11.00pm

 SAT
 12.00pm
 - 11.00pm



21a High Street, Studley, B80 7HN. For further information call 01527 854433, email toby@weatheroakbrewery.co.uk or visit our website www.weatheroakbrewery.co.uk



Shakespeare Brewing Co. Meet the brewer and taste the beer night at The Bear

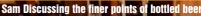
As reported in Shakesbeer issue 43, North Cotswold Brewery now have a second brand 'Shakespeare' which is more oriented toward bottled beers. In order to launch the three new bottled beers and gather feedback from the beer drinking public, the Head Brewer, Joe Holiday, held a tasting session over three nights at THE BEAR in Stratford.

n parallel with the bottled beer tasting, Shakespeare's only cask conditioned ale 'Bard's Best' golden ale was on special offer at the bar. Supporting Joe in the new venture are Sam O'Kane (Sales) and Des Ewing (Business development). The three new beers cover the range from pale/golden through classic brown to

dark, I was going to offer my own tasting notes but since these are Joe's creation I thought it was best to ask the Joe to describe them in his own words...



The Tempest (5.2%): 'Light in colour, refreshing, slightly sweet and hoppy'.





Macbeth (4.8): 'Traditional brown ale with careful malt/hop balance'.

MACBETH

Othello (5.0%): 'Smooth, moreish ruby ale'.







After three evenings explaining his ideas to the public, time for a well-earner pint of Ot<u>hello</u> for Joe.



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For further details contact Nigel on 01386 831173 Email: nigel@thefleeceinn.co.uk www.thefleeceinn.co.uk

Check out the website for forthcoming events



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.



14 Church Street, Broadway, Worcs. WR12 7AE 0044 (0)1386 853202 info@cotswoldholidays.co.uk www.cotswoldholidays.co.uk



Fox and Hounds Great Wolford

THE FOX AND HOUNDS INN in Great Wolford dates back to 1540. For many decades the Inn has a been the vibrant social centre of Great Wolford and the surrounding villages as well as being a 'Destination Pub' attracting visitors from the local area and further afield seeking accommodation and good food in a convivial atmosphere.



The owner of the pub, Gill Tarbox, was forced to sell the business in early 2015 due to ill health and sadly passed away later that year. The new owners carried out various works before reopening it in the summer of 2015. The characterful old copper-topped bar along with the bar and restaurant interiors was replaced by a modern bar area. According to the Save the Great Wolford Pub campaigners the opening hours became irregular, then it was only open in the evenings and finally, in June 2016 it closed altogether. Great Wolford Parish Council was asked to apply to Stratford District Council for an

apply to Stratford District Council for an ACV listing in May 2016. In response to the ACV application, the owners had informed the Council that the pub was "No longer financially viable" and that they would be applying for change of use. Stratford DC granted the ACV later that month. Since then the pub has remained closed and the sign has been removed. The owners are living there as a private house but as yet no planning application has been submitted. Within weeks of the closure the savegreatwolfordpub.co.uk website was launched. Here visitors can find a detailed breakdown of the issues surrounding the pub, statements of support (and financial details) from previous owners and a link to the petition raised to oppose any change of use - it now has more than 800 signatures now. In order to mitigate the social impact of the current pub closure the villagers have held three 'Pop-up-Pub' events in a neighbouring village hall each of which was attended by more than 60



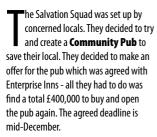
SAVEGREATWOLFORDPUB.CO.UK

people – most of them regular users of the pub – enjoying food, drink and great conversation. Fundraising and planning efforts are developing apace. The villagers have formed ties with other communities that have fought similar battles in the past. While the current owners may not be able to run the pub profitably there is little doubt that it has and can once more be run as a sound and profitable business by owners who have the experience and will to do so. The campaigners vow that they will not accept the loss of their pub and the fight to retain the village pub will continue.



New Inn at Norton Lindsey under threat

When **THE NEW INN** was put up for sale the village mobilised quickly to try and ensure that the only pub in the village remained their local.



A web site was set up **www.** salvationsquad.co.uk which included a pub-o-meter (see below) to show progress. A business plan was drafted and shares offered to raise money by a combination of crowd funding and direct purchases.

The team actively sought publicity by every means at their disposal. The local

papers carried the story and a series of events were organised to re-inforce the publicity. *The Observer, The Stratford Herald* and *Stratford Town Radio* helped raise their profile. They have even recorded a Christmas Carol!



A local charity fund raising group, The Stilton Snifters, (who meet at the pub) have joined in the effort to raise the money for the takeover.

As we go to print with 10 days to go the total raised is £335,000 so far. One last push should see them hit the target needed to get the community pub up and running.

The Salvation Squad have shown how a small village can pull together and save their local for the benefit of the whole community. Well done so far we all hope that you successfully save your Local. If you would like to buy shares in the community pub visit **www.salvationsquad.co.uk**

66 The team actively sought publicity by every means at their disposal. The local papers carried the story and a series of events were organised to re-inforce the publicity. They have even recorded a Christmas Carol!







AWARD WINNING BEERS CRAFTED WITH A CONSCIENCE...

CHAMPION BEER AND

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Brewery News...

NORTH Cotswold

If you are unable to make it to the pub this festive winter season as

much as you'd like to then look no further than North Cotswolds Brewery shop! Usually you will find a full range including seasonal available in bottle or draught in

a box in 10 or 20L's. Give them a call to discuss your requirements and you can pick it up straight from the brewery. From November to February you'll find this deep ruby easy drinking winter warmer made



with American hops and Belgian yeast available.

Tel: 01608 663947 www.northcotswoldbrewery.co.uk

STRATFORD BREWERY

Our newest branch brewery is now approaching 2 years

old and keeps moving from strength to strength. Firstly we see the regular winter brews making a come-back – Dark Start Porter and the aptly named Winter Warmer and you should find these in the many regular outlets and more, ask your landlord if you think they should be selling any of the local brews mentioned on these pages. As well as the return of the winter brews we have seen two new brews. Amarillo and Mosaic, which are both producing some fantastic feedback. Both beers are single hop variety with an ABV of 5% and 4.2 respectively. Production at the Brewery is currently up to 90 casks or 6,500 pints or about 3,680 litres a week now with usually most of that already spoken for and the recent move in to bottles is moving around 500 litres a week now with a regular

online outlet "Best of British Beer". Such is the popularity of the beers they have seen their customer base treble and are looking to make a 100% expansion. They are now selling further afield, regularly appearing in the **THE WELLINGTON** in Birmingham.

Such is the demand that Rich (brewery owner) has taken on a right hand man in the form of Mark who has become a real asset to the brewery. In Rich's own words: I would love to thank everyone for their support and mostly for drinking the beer since we began. And we say long may it continue.

PURITY BREWEY

We start on the Purity

front of two new products, firstly in the form of their first new permanent beer in 7 years – *Bunny Hop* which is brewed with

Maris Otter, Lager Malt, Cara Pils and Wheat Malts. Then generously hopped with Pilgrim, Eureka, El Dorado and Chinook, *Bunny Hop* is a bold beer, which perfectly balances its low ABV of 3.5%, pale malts and powerful hops. The launch of *Bunny Hop*

shows their commitment to cask beer and the upholding of tradition whilst pushing the boundaries of what is possible when using the finest hops and malts to create an extraordinary, yet perfectly balanced beer. You will start to find it making its way out in the pubs and in bottles and pins at the brewery shop.

The second new product is a cider! Normally here we are talking beer. But we can bring you news that Purity (in conjunction with Westons Cider) have produced a hopped cider, made from Herefordshire cider apples and Target hops grown in Worcestershire. This all came about after MD Paul Halsey went on a visit to Stock's hop farm and was discussing with Ali Capper how much he enjoyed hopped cider in the United States and how great it was. We now have "Pure Hopped" matured for 6 months in Weston's own oak vats - described as a beautifully balanced smooth drinking cider with a naturally hazy appearance. Available in cans and keg so not strictly our normal specification but an interesting innovation for Purity all the same.

And again as with most of our local breweries there is lovely shop onsite at the Great Alne HQ where you can get your party supplies this festive season and all year round.

01789 488007 www.puritybrewing.com

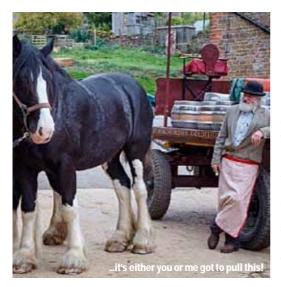
HOOK Norton



Picking up on a

most important piece of news that we touched upon last edition was the new shire horses employed to ensure that the beer deliveries continue to get through and that they were nameless at the time. We can reveal they were named Winston and Roger who will aid long serving drayman Roger Hughes and take turns





drayman Roger Hughes and take turns with Major & Nelson.

And not wanting to be out done this festive season like some of our other local breweries there is the opportunity to make sure you're well stocked at home for in-between pub visits! Hooky is no exception, plenty of bottle stock in the shop and if you phone ahead you should be able to pick up 10 and 20L beer in a box. And not wanting to be left out in good Hooky outlets you should find their seasonal Greedy Goose making a come-back, a

delightfully full flavoured beer, rich to the palate with a dry and nutty taste. This is a great beer for both the goose and the gander. This is known to be the baby brother of beers to one of my favourites Twelve Days an unashamed 5.5% strong dark beer with rich fruity flavours of dark fruit, malt and caramel with nutty overtones. Enjoy it with a strong robust cheddar cheese and plenty of Christmas cheer. Give them a call the shop has a lot of something for everyone. Tel: 01608 737210 www.hookv.co.uk





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NORMAN KNIGhT

Situated in the picturesque Warwickshire village of Whichford, we pride ourselves on a warm welcome, excellent food and beer brewed in our very own Stratford Upon Avon Brewery.

Delicious food served daily, Tuesday to Sunday for lunch & dinner.

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Please ask for our **Daily Specials Menu** for additional offerings...

Telephone 01608 684 621 for queries or reservations



The Norman Knight is now owned by SUA Brewery

Stratford Food Festival Ale Trail



Over the weekend of the 24th/25th September the town played host to the now annual food festival organised by Stratforward - the local business improvement body.

Run as part of this is the Ale Trail which is hosted by a number of the towns pubs which included 20 selected beers spread across the pubs for which the participants paid £5 obtaining a souvenir glass and 1/3 of a pint in 10 of the participating outlets. Some of the CAMRA branch attended the festival helping to choose the winner of the 'Experts Choice' award having bravely participated two days running to be able to sample them all. After sampling a total of 20 beers over the two days, they declared Stratford-Upon-Avon Brewery's 'Stratford Gold', served at **THE BEAR**, the top beer of the weekend

with a score of 4.5 out of 5. In equal second place, all with scores of 4, were: the public's choice of Stratford upon Avon Brewery's *Louis's Pale Ale* from the Stratford Alehouse; Greene King's *'Mighty Moose'* and Greene King's *'Frankenstein'*, both launched at **THE DIRTY DUCK** specially for the festival; and Theakston's *Infallible* from **THE KEYS AND KITCHEN**.

Stratford Brewery's victory in the People's Choice award was "great news" for the brewery after just two years in business. Phil Mills one of our local experts said: "There were a few ales available on the trail which are generally not regular offerings in the local pubs, such as the Greene King 'speciality' ales at **THE DIRTY DUCK**. It is great to know that the Experts Choice and the People's Choice are both ales which are available regularly in pubs in and around Stratford, so we can get to enjoy them again all year round."

Why not come back and see what is on offer next year.





The Boars Head Church Street, Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE



Opening Hours: 12.00pm - 12.00am Fri. & Sat. • 12.00pm - 8.00pm Sun 12.00pm-11.00pm Mon. to Thurs. Food served:

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~ Find us on Facebook/theboarshead ~

Ten Pints of Brakspears

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

So are you a heavy drinker? I suppose many of us will drink more than the Government's latest advice of no more than six pints a week. But you probably won't drink 10 pints in a session. Well, I certainly can't anyway! If I had well, unlike in the song, I know that I wouldn't get into a fight. Instead, I'd go to sleep!



For this edition of Shakesbeer I've chosen a song written by Dave Houlden, a regular at Maidenhead Folk Club who passed away in 1991. It's an unfortunate tale of what can happen to someone who's had a skin-full! He wrote it as a parody on the 19c Broadside song "My Name's Napoleon Bonaparte", which has the stirring chorus:-

Oh, my name's Napoleon Bonaparte, I'm the conqueror of all nations I've vanquished German legions, and sent kings from their thrones I've banished dukes and earls, and splendid congregations But now I am transported to Saint Helena's shore

The Brakspear family set up the brewery in 1779 and one of its ancestors was Nicholas Brakspear (aka Breakspear), who in 1154 became Pope Adrian IV, the only British Pope. When he was elected he took the bee



Nicholas Brakspear, Pope Adrian IV 1154-1159



as his emblem of (B for Brakspear). That's why the brewery has the bee as its own emblem.

Of course, when the song was written the Brakspear Brewery was at its traditional site in Henley-on-Thames, where it had brewed since 1779. Subsequently, in 2002 the Brewery contracted out its brewing to the Wychwood Brewery in Witney, even transferring its original 1779 copper and its unique "double drop" fermentation vessels to Witney. I was also interested to note that the song mentions that there was a pub at Cockpole Green, which is a little village between



Henley-on-Thames & Maidenhead not anymore! Until recently there was the Old Hatch Gate Inn, which had a good run in the Good Beer Guide in the early 1980s and in 1990. But unfortunately, like many remote rural pubs, it has since closed and been converted into a residential v Shame!

Ten Pints of Brakspear ...

I never meant to start a fight, when I went out last Friday night A quiet drink and a game of darts was all I had in mind I cannot quite remember now, just what was said to start the row It may have been the politics, it often is I find

I was just about to fall apart, I'd had more than my ration I'd had ten pints of Brakspear's, they'd have done me on my own Then I got on the vodka, scotch, and drinks from every nation And then I was transported on my ear through the pub door.

There was an Ulster man in there, contentious bugger with red hair He spoke of good king Billy, and he kicked me in the shins Then someone said, "God bless the Pope", well after that there was no hope

Before the fighting started, I downed a treble gin

I tore the door from off the Gents, it gave the landlord grave offence I smashed his Space Invaders, and I kicked his fruit machine What people thought was really rude was when I on the barmaid spewed I'll have to find another pub, I might

try Cockpole Green.

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

- 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) 0X15 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

CAMRA Pub of the Year



FINAL four have reached the last stage of CAMRA's annual search to find the pub with the best atmosphere, welcome and, most importantly, beer. After hundreds of visits by CAMRA volunteers toseek out the finest branch pubs and then the supreme pub in each region, the competition in search of the country's best local is down to four. National Pub of the Year competition organiser Andrea Briers said: "As usual, this year's competition featured pubs from both urban and rural areas, with some which had been a regional winner before and others who were new to this stage of the competition. The judges had some hard decisions to make and all the reaional winners should be proud of their

CAMRA's National Pub of the Year 2017 will be announced in February 2017.

The Finalists GEORGE & DRAGON Hudswell, Yorkshire

A friendly, multi-roomed pub situated at the heart of the village. It was rescued and refurbished after a community buy out. In addition to real ale it offers a library and a shop.

SALUTATION INN Ham, Gloucs

Renowned for its excellent selection of real ales, this rural pub – the 2014 winner – has two cosy bars, a wood burner and a skittles alley. Live folk music is staged regularly

STANFORD ARMS Lowestoft, Suffolk, East Anglia

A spacious, open-plan bar serves local beers. It is home to a fine collection of beer trays and is rightly famed for its wood-fired pizza oven and aviary.

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS Pendleton, Lancs, West Pennines

National winner in 2013, the pub is at the heart of village life. Five ales are usually on sale, including a mild. Cider is regularly sold. Discount is available for CAMRA members.



George and Dragon

achievement."



Salutation Inn



Stanford Arms



Swan with Two Necks

CAMRA Members' Section

Shakespeare CAMRA visit Oxford

On Saturday 1st October a coach full of CAMRA members who helped and supported the Stratford Real Ale and Cider Festival visited Oxford to explore the famous centre of culture and more importantly their real ale pubs which include no less than 10 pubs included in the 2017 Good Beer Guide.

Bob Kirby (Social Secretary) thoughtfully provided town guides showing places of interest. In small groups we all set out to explore Oxford's cultural heritage. Oxford is a mecca for those interested in real ale and cider. There are many small welcoming hostelries with long histories such as the Grade II listed CHEQUERS with 10 hand pumps and possible the oldest pub in Oxford, the BEAR INN with an amazing collection of ties as well some excellent Fullers Ales. THE FOUR CANDLES (Weatherspoons) is set in a lovely building and offers nine different beers six of them changing regularly. Lunch was taken by all at ST. ALDATES TAVERN (six real ales including two locale ales). The whole party final reassembled at the LAMB AND FLAG owned by St.John's college. Regular beers include *Betty Stoggs* and *Theakston Old Peculiar* alongside three changing beers, before boarding the coach for a tired and emotional trip home.



Skittles Match - second time lucky!

A lthough played as a friendly our skittle matches against North Cotswold CAMRA do have a competitive edge. It may be the massive prize fund or the excellent beer at the regular venues we use, but it was time for a much anticipated re-match. The venue set – the current CAMRA Worcestershire pub of the year – THE COACH AND

HORSES, Harvington. And so on Friday 18th November we gathered to see if we could even the scores having come second last time or is it losing ? Well not wanting to go in to great detail we won phew! An excellent time was had by all accompanied by three wonderful ales – *Kinver Half Centurion* 5% swiftly replaced by *Over the edge* 7.5% also from Kinver, Exeter Fall's



Over 5% and a Hobsons, which having been sampling the fore mentioned beers, I forget which one.

Thanks go to our valiant "sticker upper" Selwyn who is the house resident for all the local league matches and to our three prize winners Bob Mackvie (Shakespeare); Kerry Fry (North Cotswolds) - who were awarded top male / female score – 42 & 38 respectively. The booby prize for lowest score went to Carol Crowther notching up just 17. We are now looking forward to organising the 2017 rematch on their home turf!

As always it is great to have these inter-branch matches. It's great to see so many members getting involved and having a great time -and it's even better when we win.

CAMRA Members' Section

Next Social Event...

Trip to Tewksbury Winter Ales Festival

As in previous years we will be organising a coach trip to the Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival which runs from 2nd to 4th February 2017. We go on Thursday 2nd Feb, CAMRA member night, (don't forget your card).

In previous years we have started pick-ups at Wood Street, Stratford at 6.30pm and picked up in Alcester, Bidford, Harvington and Evesham (and possibly Sedgeberrow). Due to arrive at the festival about 7.45pm and leaving at 11.00pm. I anticipate it will be more or less the same for 2017. Coach fare will depend on numbers going, probably about £10.00 per head, entry to the festival is free.

I appreciate it's early but before I confirm the coach I need some idea of numbers interested. Please indicate interest as soon as you're able to socials@shakespearecamra.org.uk or by telephone to 01386 761313.

Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up All events 8pm unless otherwise stated

BRANCH MEETINGS

Wed 18 January Red Lion, 6 Market Place, Evesham WR11 4RE

Wed 15 February Bull's Head, Stratford Road, Wootton Wawen B95 6BD

Wed 15 March Red Lion, Front Street, Ilmington CV36 4LX Wed 19 April Crown Inn, 14 Main St, Tiddington CV37 7AZ Wed 3 May Coach & Horses, Station Road, Harvington WR11 8NJ

Wed 21 June Queens' Head, Main Street, Sedgeberrow WR11 7UE

GBG MEETINGS

Mon 9 January Boar's Head, Church Street, Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE Tues 21 February Fleece, The Cross, Bretforton WR11 7JE

BEER FESTIVAL MEETINGS

Wed 11 January Broom Tavern, 32 High Street, Broom B50 4HL Wed 8 February Bear, Swans Nest Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7LT Wed 8 March Holly Bush, Henley Street, Alcester B49 5QX Wed 12 April Fleece, The Cross, Bretforton WR11 7JE Wed 10 May Broom Tavern, 32 High Street, Broom B50 4HL Wed 7 June Bear, Swans Nest Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7LT

FUTURE BEER FESTIVALS

Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival - Fri 3rd/Sat 4th February 2017

George Watson Hall, 65 Barton Street, Tewksbury GL20 5PX Open Fri 11am-4:30pm then 6.30pm-11pm; Sat 11am-8pm. Entry £5 including glass. Free entry to CAMRA members Thursday evening. More details on www.tewkesburycamra.org.uk

Rugby Beer and Cider Festival - Fri 24th February 2017

Town Centre, behind Merchant's Inn Pub. 30+ real ales, ciders, and perries. Foreign beer bar, tombola, pub games, Sat auction. Open: Fri 2pm-11pm; Sat 11am-11pm. £2 entry all sessions. £1 to card carrying Camra members. More details on www.rugbybeerfestival.com

Stratford Beer & Cider Festival - Fri 7th/Sat 8th July 2017

Stratford Race Course, Friday 7th 12-11pm; Saturday 8th 11am-11pm. Early date for your diary. More details on stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

See Shakespeare CAMRA web site for the latest news, updates and full details on meetings and diary appointments:

www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

SUBSCRIBE TO SHAKESBEER...

If you are a CAMRA member in the Shakespeare branch, you should receive a copy of Shakesbeer through the post (one per household). If you prefer, a PDF copy can be sent to you by email - just let Shakesbeer know. If you live outside the area or are not a CAMRA member but would like to subscribe and receive copies through the post, then please send an email to shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk for further details or write to us at : Shakesbeer, Editor c/o The Coach & Horses, Station Rd, Harvington WR11 8NJ

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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.

The Red Lion

Traditional

BRITISH PUB!

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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Shakespeare CAMRA Goo Beer Guide selection pro

Many people ask me what is a Good Beer Guide Pub. Well the simple answer is one that gets into the guide! However the process to obtain this status is a lengthy one and involves many CAMRA members throughout the area.

he purpose of the Good Beer Guide (GBG) is to inform people where they can obtain a good pint of beer across the whole of the UK and is a campaigning tool to promote real ale. If a pub is in the GBG it should be one where you, as a customer, feel that you have obtained good value for money and have experienced a good pint of real ale. Beer quality has to be a starting point for selecting entries but cannot be the only consideration. The GBG should recommend pubs that not only offer excellent real ale but also excel in other areas. The selection processes needs to consider what a beer lover would like and expect. Also it needs to suggest not just pubs with quality real ale but those with unusual beer and a broad and varied selection. The range of pubs chosen for the guide has to appeal to a broad spectrum of pub goers, the majority of whom want to visit pubs with not only good beer but a good atmosphere and a warm welcome, as well as good food, family facilities, clean toilets and comfortable surroundings.

The process starts around April of each year and concludes in March the next year when the selection processes take place followed by the submission of pubs to be included in the GBG. A GBG pub is a place where you can consistently enjoy a very good pint of beer in a pleasant environment where you are made to feel welcome.

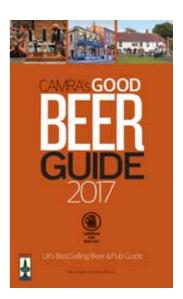
The most important factor in the selection of a pub is the quality of the beers served. It does not always depend on the beer range, or whether they are to everybody's individual style preferences, but just is it a pint that you feel is served as the brewer intended. This is a difficult one as everybody views beer in different ways and one of the reasons CAMRA introduced a beer scoring system:

www.camra.org.uk/nbss

A beer score is fine but how do you let others know about your experience?

You can let the local branch know of how you got on by passing on this information to them. There is now a fully functional system that enables this to take place and lies within the web site What Pub? **https://.** whatpub.com

This site has been set up with the help of thousands of CAMRA members collating information on all the pubs within the UK. The site gives people a quick and easy guide to pubs in the area in which they are visiting. It is not a GBG listing but gives pub details including descriptions, opening times and location. If you are a CAMRA member you can log into the site to view pubs plus submit beer scores. These scores are



The range of pubs has to appeal to a broad spectrum of pub goers, the majority of whom want to visit pubs with not only good beer but a good atmosphere and a warm welcome, as well as good food, family facilities, clean toilets and comfortable surroundings.

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collated into the CAMRA branch areas and each branch will review the beer scores within their branch. These beer scores are discussed at branch meetings and, most importantly, at the GBG selection meetings. They are reviewed to see where some pubs are failing in supplying good beer quality or where other pubs are on the up. Sometimes it highlights where more reviews by people on the committee are required to ensure that the system is fair and ensure that beer scores submitted are not biased by unscrupulous scorers, although this is rare.

Of course beer scores are not the only criteria for a GBG selection. For a pub to be put forward at the GBG selection meetings the whole array of what makes a good pub is discussed and people are encouraged to air their views. Factors of interest include:

Price and value

History and architecture

What do the scores mean?

- No cask ale available.
- **1 POOR** Beer that is anything from barely drinkable to drinkable with considerable resentment.
- 2 AVERAGE Competently kept, drinkable pint but doesn't inspire in any way, not worth moving to another pub but you drink the beer without really noticing.
- **3 GOOD** Good beer in good form. You may cancel plans to move to the next pub. You want to stay for another pint and may seek out the beer again.
- **4 VERY GOOD** Excellent beer in excellent condition.
- **5 PERFECT** Probably the best you are ever likely to find. A seasoned drinker will award this score very rarely.

- Food
- Accommodation
- Family facilities
- Disabled facilities
- Gardens
- Special/community events
- Cleanliness
- Welcoming

At the first selection meeting a list of suitable pubs is proposed — this is usually about twice the branch GBG allocation in each county. Members then go out to each pub proposed to perform a review. The reviewer and landlord discuss the pub details by completing a GBG review form. It also gives further insights of the pub's eligibility because the reviewer has made a visit too. These forms are then submitted back to the GBG Selection Officer for entry onto the main CAMRA database and are discussed at the final selection meeting. The purpose of the final selection meeting is to propose the final pubs which are to be selected for the GBG plus any reserves if allowances become available. There is a fair vote by people present at the meeting but this is not open to those who have a vested interested in the outcome of the process, such as landlords who are also members of CAMRA.

The branch final selection list then goes onto CAMRA HQ in March who then compiles the GBG from the selections from all the CAMRA branches across the UK. Proofs are checked for updates and then the process finishes with the culmination of the press release of the GBG in early September.

It makes a good read in paperback and is also available for you to download to your smart phone as well.

GBG 2017 Shortlist meeting Mon, 9th January 2016 20:00 – 22:00 BOAR'S HEAD, Church St,

Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE

GBG 2017 Final selection meeting Thur, 23rd February 2015 20:00 – 22:00

THE FLEECE, The Cross Bretforton WR117JE

It would be great to see as many of yon there as possible at the January and February Selection Meetings so please put the dates in your diaries for next year.

LocAle

CAMRA LocAle - promoting pubs that sell locallybrewed 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 crowners.

To find a locale 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; Sedgeberrow 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









July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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CAMRA Membership Benefits

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What's Brewing

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HEAD

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 What's Brewing', informing you on beer and pub news and detailing events and beer festivals around the country.

Reduced entry to over 160 national, regional and local beer festivals.

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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For more on your CAMRA Membership Benefits please visit www.camra.org.uk/benefits

* This price is based on the Direct Debit discount. ** Joint CAMRA memberships will receive one set of vouchers to share. CAMRA reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time without warning and members should check CAMRA website for updated and details of current offers.

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Alternatively you can send a cheque payable to CAMRA Ltd with your completed form, visit www.camra.org.uk/joinus or call 01727 867201. All forms should be addressed to the: Membership Department, CAMRA, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW.

Your Details

Title	Surname	

T ...

Fair deal on beer

Forename(s)

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email address

Tel No(s) _____

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title ______ Surname _____

Forename(s)_____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Email address (if different from main member)

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I enclose a cheque for_____

Signed_____ Date____

0

Applications will be processed within 21 days

01/15

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Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society To the Manager Bank or Building Society Address	ty Service User Number 9 2 6 1 2 9 FOR CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE LTD OFFICIAL USE ONLY	The Direct Debit Guarantee • This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct	
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Bank or Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code Reference	Instructions to your Bank or Building Society Please pay Campaign For Real Ale Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarance. Lunderstand that this instruction may remain with Campaign For Real Ale Limited and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society. Signature(s) Date	be given to you at the time of the request If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by The Campagin for Real Ale Ltd or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society I you creave a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contracting your bank or building society Written confirmation may be required Please also notify us.	



Shakespeare

CAMRA

Warwickshire Pub of

the Year



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