

# Shakespearebeer

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



FREE  
Please  
take one

## Andrew Scott takes Cotswold Crown!

### 30 Years of Good Beer Guide Glory

**A**ndrew has made it to the front cover once again, two years ago we reported on the lifetime dedication that he had put in through being at the **CROWN & TRUMPET**, Broadway for 30 years. He was duly presented with a certificate, a lovely engraved tankard and awarded with appreciation for keeping such a wonderful pub for so long.

We then recently returned with a super turnout of members on November 17th to present Andrew with a Shakespeare CAMRA Recognition Award of having appeared in the Good Beer Guide for 30 years. There are a number of reasons why this pub has appeared in the guide since 1985 - and the task of staying there has become harder as there are less entries than the early years, even though the guide has physically doubled in size and originally covered the counties of both Herefordshire & Worcestershire - again an accolade itself based on the geography covered (we don't talk about 1991 & 92 when they weren't in, other than to say

buy Andrew a beer and he might tell you a story - it would also make for a rubbish article as that would make 32 years and who celebrates that!).

To a packed pub, Branch Chair Lloyd Evans, made the presentation and took great delight in wanting to point out that on behalf of CAMRA and the branch, that 30 years of continuity is a rare thing these days and this has allowed him to develop a loyal following and good trade to create a successful and sustainable business for which we are thankful of. Back in

the early days they started out selling *Flowers IPA* and *Original Bitter* as this was a Whitbread house. These days you'll find a great range of real cider and local ales from as close as Stanway just six miles away, with other regular beers not much further away. Andrew greatly accepted his certificate and engraved plaque to mark the occasion.



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See our website [www.shakespearecamra.org.uk](http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk)



OUR WATER, OUR HOPS, OUR FINE CRAFT ALES

# STRATFORD UPON AVON'S NEWEST AND ONLY BREWERY...

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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 Branch Members,

**O**n October 3rd Dave Page, our Treasurer, gamely came forward and arranged a trip for the branch around Hook Norton brewery after a very kind invitation from Ian Sparrow (*Hooky Brewery*) at our Beer Festival. It also allowed us to stop off at the **NORMAN KNIGHT** pub en route to taste the beers and to see the changes that Richard (S u A Brewery) has completed since purchasing the pub. I am pleased to say that the beers were excellent, especially the porter, and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Richard for providing such an impressive buffet for all that attended.

On Tuesday this week, a good number of members braved the very strong winds to attend the monthly branch meeting at **THE CROWN AND TRUMPET** in Broadway where we also made a presentation to Andrew Scott in recognition that under his stewardship, the pub has now been in the GBG for thirty years. A significant achievement by any standards and all the more amazing as although the guide has increased in size since the pub's first entry in 1985 the number of pubs has actually reduced due to the longer descriptions now required. We also had a very good turnout of around twenty members to our beer festival helper's trip which this year visited a number of brewery pubs in North Warwickshire. An enjoyable day was had by all present and our thanks go forward again to Dave Page for organising such an enjoyable event. Please note that the dates have also been agreed for next year's Stratford festival (June 11th and 12th) which will be our tenth and if you want to be involved please look out for details

of the festival meetings and the staff "signing up" forms which will appear on our respective web sites. With regards then to some of the more "interesting" nights of branch discussion can I also draw your attention to the 12th January and the 25th February which have been set aside as the two meetings where we will decide upon our entries for next year's Good Beer Guide. For those of you who may not have been involved in this process previously we usually produce a longer list of pubs that deserve further observation at the first meeting before using this list to select the final entry at the second. As last year the venue for these meetings will be the **SWAN'S NEST** in Stratford which will hopefully prove to be a central location in the branch for all concerned. Finally I would like to pass on my own congratulations to the **FLEECE INN**, Bretforton and the **CROWN AND TRUMPET**, Broadway in winning the Good Pub Guide County Pub of the Year and Value Pub of the Year awards respectively.



## Next Branch Meeting:

**THE WHITE BEAR, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AJ on January 20th 2016**

Best wishes as always, Lloyd



# Pub News & Beer Reports...

## Evesham

### ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Sadly, the last pint has been pulled forever at this century old establishment now destined to be demolished for houses. Local Norton resident, Anthony Barrett has been a regular drinker here and is quoted as saying "this is a very sad day". The outgoing landlords Chrissy and Jeff Waterson have put in a lifetime's dedication here and have decided to retire after 31 years at the pub.



### RAILWAY HOTEL

Having established itself as one of Worcestershire's premiere music venues, **THE IRON ROAD** at Evesham's Railway Hotel is now operating a very successful membership scheme giving free entry to any event and offering other goodies. They are limiting themselves to just 30 new members for 2016 so be quick if you're adding it to your Christmas list. Well worth a look if you're into music with your real ale.

### THE SWAN INN

An appeal from the **SWAN INN** for the return of a ceramic Whitbread sign, lifted from its place on the wall in the bar last September after being there for over 25 years has so far fallen on deaf ears. A reward is being offered for any information leading to its return. It's nice to note that real ale is now permanently available at The Swan, generally from *Prescott Ales* it's currently *Track Record* a 4.4% copper coloured bitter.

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](mailto:shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk)

### STRAWBERRY FIELDS

The family orientated **STRAWBERRY FIELDS** reopened on 30th November as part of the Hungry Horse chain. Whilst it's a shame to see the real ales on offer reduced to just *Greene King IPA*, there will be a few 'craft beers' on offer.

### RED LION

Customers at the **RED LION** have taken to heart its description in the current Good Beer Guide as 'a work in progress'. Unpaid, (other than a few beers), volunteers have excavated the back wall of the rear snug discovering and rebuilding an amazing inglenook fireplace which must be almost 300 years old. This lovely fire was too good for the relatively small room. The wall between the bars has been removed and a new bar fitted opening up the pub considerably.



Red Lion regular Steve Williams, principal labourer

### Harvington GOLDEN CROSS

After a number of years with licensees coming and going, Claire Carson and partner Ian Latimer proprietors since April, have reassured their customers that they're at **THE GOLDEN CROSS**, Harvington to stay. A 'We're Staying' party on 10th October celebrated the end of the couples wrangling with Admiral

Taverns following their signing of a new five year lease. Since taking on the venue in April the couple have breathed new life into the pub celebrating their 1000th customer in August and hosting village events including a VE Day celebration, a fundraiser for Help for Heroes and a Harvest Festival auction (raising over £425). Two real ales on offer here, *Doombar* and a changing guest. Licensee Ian who knows the importance of a quality pint, said "We shall be open every day and **THE GOLDEN CROSS** will continue in its 130-year-old tradition of serving great beers, cask ales and fine wines"

### COACH AND HORSES

Our belief in Shakespeare Worcestershire Pub of the Year, **THE COACH AND HORSES** has been vindicated by discerning customers. Following his annual stock-take, landlord Steve confirmed sales of 3410 gallons of real ale, equating to 75pints a day and outselling all other drinks. Pretty good going for a Punch Taverns village local, so thanks to Steve and team for keeping it well and to the customers for their excellent taste.

### ROUND OF GRAS & WHEATSHEAF, BADSEY BRIDGE INN AND FERRY, OFFENHAM BEAR HOTEL, EVESHAM

Struggling for Christmas present ideas? Licensee Graham Brown is selling £5, £10 and £20 gift vouchers exchangeable for food and drink at any of the above.

### Bretforton THE FLEECE

Not to be outdone on the voucher front,



**THE FLEECE** are offering £30 worth of vouchers, valid until 1st January and exchangeable for food, drink and accommodation for just £20.

## Ratley

### ROSE AND CROWN

**THE ROSE AND CROWN** pride themselves on their warm welcome to walkers and dogs. It's even warmer now as their newly installed log burner adds toasty toes to the Good Beer Guide ales on offer.



Rose & Crown, Ratley

## Ilmington

### HOWARD ARMS

We reported the purchase by locals of **THE HOWARD ARMS** in our last issue. We're delighted to see it getting excellent reviews on Trip Advisor and recently, virtually top marks from The Telegraph's travel expert Fiona Duncan. Ongoing development plans include a refurb in the New Year and plans to sponsor the shirts of the local football team, Ilmington United.

## Snitterfield

### SNITTERFIELD ARMS

It's always nice to see a pub doing well and that's just what's happening at the Snitterfield Arms. Fed up with turning customers away they've started to build an extension to the dining room and intend to 're-jig' the pub to make more space. Building work will stop over Christmas, starting again in the New Year when the pub will shut for a few days and hopefully finish before the end of January.

## Tiddington

### CROWN INN

Whether you're a knitter, a shopper or just out for a bit of festive fun you'll enjoy **THE CROWN'S** Christmas Jumper competition – the best, (or worst) will be judged in the pub on 18th December.

## Stratford-upon-Avon

### THE CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE

Pub operator and brewer *Brakspear* has purchased a bar and restaurant in Stratford-upon-Avon, taking its managed estate up to six sites.

Currently, it has two bars, a dining room and 12 en-suite bedrooms. *Brakspear* plans to trade the Townhouse in its current format, making only minor operational changes to improve trading, while deciding on changes to the food and drink to align with its other managed pubs. A 'sparkle' is planned for 2016, which will refresh the offer while retaining the building's individual and historic character.



Tom Davies, *Brakspear* chief executive, said, "We're delighted to be taking the keys to this prime site in Stratford-upon-Avon, a town we've not traded in before and which we believe holds exciting potential. Its location in a large town with a huge tourist population makes it a different proposition to our other managed pubs, which are all situated in villages or small towns."

"Added to that, the Shakespeare factor is clearly going to have an impact on the way we trade the Townhouse, with pre- and post-theatre offers an important part of the mix, and a need to communicate to an international customer base."

## THE NEW BULLS HEAD

Although having always been the case as a GBG pub, it's now official that you can obtain a good pint at this recently Cask Marque accredited pub, amongst others regularly serving *Exmoor Ale* and *Forty Niner* from *Ringwood*.

## UNION BAR

Having reopened back in June this year, we are pleased to report that there are two ales usually available here, at the moment they are both guests and will change.

## Shipston

### THE GEORGE

**THE GEORGE**, acquired by *Brakspear*s last May is due for a refurb in the New Year and the possibility of a change of name was floated. Traditionalists will be delighted to hear that customers voted overwhelmingly to retain the name. Nice to hear about a business listening to its customers.

## Wixford

### THE THREE HORSESHOES

Well once again I find myself reporting on the closure of this lovely local. The builders have moved in on the caravan park next door starting the building of 5 or so houses, the fate of the pub though is unclear at this time having just been fenced off. There is no planning as such we are aware for directly for the pub, but if anyone knows different please get in touch.



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# Brewery News...

## NORTH COTSWOLD

It seems that North Cotswolds had the perfect summer for ale sales, not too hot and not too wet. They have been very busy in the brewery through the summer and into autumn with sales significantly up on last year. The launch of "Fosseway Flanker", to celebrate the rugby world cup, proved a winner unlike the England team so availability was short-lived. However, "Fosseway Flanker" will be making a welcomed return in February and March next year to coincide with the Six Nations. The Stratford Food Festival was also a roaring success again and they were very proud to pick up the award for "Best Ale on the Trail" for The Bear Best Bitter. Their winter warmer "Winter Solstice" is now available in all good hosteleries and they will be brewing a new Christmas



Ale, "Blitzen" which will be available mid December, on a first come first served basis.

## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BREWERY

SUA Brewery are looking to grow and develop their brand further with possibly another pub within Stratford itself so as to concentrate the name around its core base. This will join their first successful venture from back in May this year – **THE NORMAN KNIGHT**, Whichford which has seen continued growth and loyalty and played host to a fleeting branch visit recently where excellent beer and food were had. If this is not enough there are plans afoot to run their own beer festival next year though details are still to emerge yet. Not forgetting their core purpose here



to produce beer, new assistant brewer Graham has been put to the test and released just in time for Christmas a new IPA – *Tipsy Turkey*. Look out for this over the seasonal period alongside their very popular *Louie's Pale Ale*, name after a much loved family black Labrador. Two good sources of the beer will be **THE BEAR** and the **ALE HOUSE** both in Stratford.

## PURITY

Purity Brewing Company celebrates further growth as they move into their tenth year. They are delighted to report a strong performance at financial year end and the company is reporting a £5,900,000 turnover, which means growth of 35% year on year. They continue to go from strength to strength and can celebrate their



CONTINUED ON **PAGE 9**

## The Broom Tavern



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# It's a Dog's Life!

Phil Mills (and Bonnie) Nov

**H**aving moved back to my home town of Stratford nearly two years ago, I joined the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA and, being a dog owner, I was pleased to find that two of my favourite pastimes (dog walking and beer drinking) could be accommodated easily with a pleasant two mile walk around town. As an added bonus, the three pubs which form my 'Stratford Triangle' walk are now all in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2016. These are **THE BEAR**, **THE NEW BULLS HEAD** (previously the West End), and **THE STRATFORD ALEHOUSE**.

## THE BEAR...

For non-residents of Stratford, the easiest starting point is **THE BEAR** (Swans Nest Hotel) on the south side of the river, by Clopton Bridge, as there is ample public car parking nearby. This pub is the current CAMRA Shakespeare Warwickshire Pub of the Year 2015 and has eight real ales and four ciders. The ales typically include *Old Hooky* and *Butty Bach*, as well as their house *Bear Bitter* (brewed by North Cotswold Brewery). Stratford Upon Avon Brewery ales are regularly available here too. With a beer garden on the banks of the Avon, and a log fire in the bar, it is a nice location to enjoy a pint any time of the year, before or after a walk by the river.

To get to the second pub, turn left out of the pub and head along Swans Nest Lane. This is the opportunity to give your dog a good walk before the next stop. Cross the road but keep going along the path along the south bank of the Avon, opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and on past the Holy Trinity Church. Keep walking past the lock and the weir until you reach Lucy's Mill Bridge, where you can cross over the river into Old Town, turning right and following the footpath to Mill Lane and up to the church.

*Note:* there is a flight of quite steep stone steps on both sides of the footbridge so, if this needs to be avoided, an alternative route is to cross the Old Tramway footbridge not far from **THE BEAR**, over the lock bridge to the Bancroft Gardens and then walk along the

north bank of the river, past the theatre and through the various gardens until you reach the Holy Trinity Church. Walk through the churchyard until you come to Mill Lane.

## THE NEW BULLS HEAD...

From Mill Lane, cross over the road into College Lane and keep walking until you reach the third junction on the right, turning into Bull Street, where you will see the **NEW BULLS HEAD** about 50 metres on the

right. Your dog can be rewarded with a dog biscuit from the jar on the bar. This pub has a selection of four real ales, which always includes *Timothy Taylor Landlord*, and also has real cider. If there are non-ale drinkers in your walking party, the **NEW BULLS HEAD** also serves coffee and homemade cakes. On a sunny day, you can enjoy the beer garden out the back.

To complete the 'Stratford Triangle', turn right out of the pub and walk up to the junction,

## THE STRATFORD TRIANGLE

**THE BEAR**

**THE NEW BULLS HEAD**

**THE STRATFORD ALEHOUSE**

*plus*

**THE OLD THATCH, THE WHITE SWAN,  
THE GARRICK INN, THE DIRTY DUCK,  
THE WINDMILL AND  
THE KEYS & KITCHEN**



Closing date for copy for the next issue of **Shakespeare** is **31st January 2016**

turning left into Chestnut Walk. Follow the road to the crossroad, turning right into Rother Street. For another 'pit stop' for your faithful friend, cross the road into Poplar Gardens and have a quick walk through the park, returning onto Rother Street and heading left up towards town.

## THE STRATFORD ALEHOUSE...

On reaching the market place and the American Fountain Clock, turn left into Greenhill Street, cross the road and you will find the Stratford Alehouse about 50 metres to the right. The newest of Stratford's three Good Beer Guide entries, **THE ALEHOUSE** has been open nearly two years, in which time it has served over 350 different ales, so there is always a chance you may get to try a beer you haven't had before, though *Uley Pig's Ear* is the most regular choice. There are usually three ales and two ciders on tap, and dog biscuits behind the bar. This is also the pub which helped SUA Brewery launch their beers over a year ago, including *Dark Star Porter* and *Malty Pig* bitter. If you look through all the pump clips stuck on the walls, you may even be able to spot *Easter Bonnie* and *Bluebell Bonnie* which were available as specials earlier this year.

## INSIDE THE TRIANGLE...

The direct route to return to **THE BEAR** is back down Greenhill Street, straight on into Wood Street, straight on again down Bridge Street, past the Canal Basin and back

over the river via the Old Tramway footbridge. If you want to visit a few more dog-friendly pubs on your way back, the **OLD THATCH** and the **WHITE SWAN** are closest to **THE ALEHOUSE** in Rother Street. Both are *Fullers* pubs, the **OLD THATCH** selling the *Gale's* range of ales including *HSB* while the **WHITE SWAN** has *London Pride* and *ESB*. If you don't mind a bit of a detour, there are three other interesting old pubs which are now owned by *Greene King*, supplying *IPA* and *Abbot Ale* as standard, plus guest and house ales. Dogs are allowed in the front bar of the **GARRICK INN** on High Street, which also has *Shakesbeer* bitter as its house beer. You can also take your dog into the Actors Bar on the right side of the **DIRTY DUCK** on Waterside, while **THE WINDMILL** on Church Street, which regularly has a *Purity Brewery* guest ale, does not allow dogs in the pub itself but does have a beer garden out the back.

If you are really looking to pamper your pooch, why not pay a visit to the **KEYS & KITCHEN** in Ely Street, Stratford's most recent winner of a CAMRA Pub of the Season award. As well as a couple of real ales as guest beers, and a delightfully quirky courtyard garden with interesting features and good floral displays, there is a log fire inside for the winter months and the big attraction may well be on the 'Specials' menu, as it includes an option for your hungry hound.

*Cheers!*

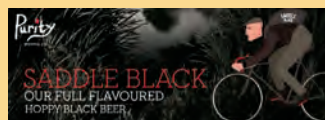
# Brewery News

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tenth birthday in style thanks to World Beer Award wins for *Pure UBU* (World's Best Amber Ale) and *Lawless Lager* (World's Best German Style Lager), exciting new partnerships, a growing team and the likelihood of a new beer on the way in 2016.

Purity owners Paul Halsey and James Minkin launched the brewery at Upper Spennall Farm in 2005, when they brewed and sold the beer, and even made the deliveries themselves, before recruiting now Director of Brewing Flo Vialan, and building up a dedicated team of passionate people to deal with the growing demand.

Having started out with just two cask ales, *Pure Gold* and *Pure UBU*, their range has now grown to include *Mad Goose* and *Saddle Black*, as well as craft keg beers *Longhorn IPA* and *Lawless Lager*. They have been rewarded for their dedication to brewing quality and consistent beers by winning multiple national awards with CAMRA and SIBA and international awards at the International Beer Challenge and World Beer Awards, a sure sign that they are continuing to satisfy the tastes of their discerning and loyal fan base.



## BACK IN THE SADDLE: PURITY'S SADDLE BLACK RETURNS FOR ANOTHER SEASON

The cycling inspired, International Beer Award winning seasonal beer, *Saddle Black*, is back in cask until April 2016. *Saddle Black* is a full flavoured 5.1% hoppy black beer which uses Chinook and Cascade hops to give a slightly smoky and floral aroma, combining a mix of black pepper, dark fruits, orange and spices. Roasted malts provide a taste of chocolate and espresso, while the use of smoked malt ensures a well-rounded finish for a full-bodied mouth feel.

Purity are keen to continue promoting cycling and the British cycling community (thanks to their rural home they see hundreds of cyclists pass every week) and this is the tribute to all their friends on two wheels.

Our MD Paul Halsey comments: "We love bringing *Saddle Black* back for fans as the dark evenings set in. The craft we put into the beer reflects the passion of Brooks England and Pashley Cycles, long established West Midland companies at the forefront of their trade."



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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.



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# Stratford Beer Festival Thank You

## Saturday 14th November 2015

The 2015 Stratford Beer Festival thank you trip took place on a drizzly Saturday in November. Armed with freshly-baked pasties, we eagerly awaited the coach which had already made several pick-ups on its route from Evesham to Stratford. Before we could set off towards Warwick, the coach driver ran through the safety procedure and the location of the emergency exits. (These might come in handy judging by the hungry looks of our fellow passengers. . .). Luckily Liz had her famous cheese straws to keep hunger at bay and Andy provided caramel shortbread and chocolate brownies.

We arrived at the first stop, **THE GRIFFIN INN**, Shutstoke, bang on time at 12:15 – excellent planning Dave! The Griffin Inn is a regular in the Good Beer Guide regular and was the overall CAMRA Warwickshire Pub of the Year for 2014. The Inn also has its own brewery and the beers did not disappoint. A huge range of ales was available and the *Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild* was a favourite among many of those on the trip. A previous CAMRA Champion Winter Beer of Britain, *Dark Ruby Mild* is a strong ale at 6.0% and is absolutely black with a good balance of fruit and malt on the palate. The remainder, me included, preferred paler beers and enjoyed the excellent *Oakham Citra*. Another previous CAMRA winner, Citra was awarded Champion Golden Ale at the 2014 Great British Beer Festival. Described as

'pungent grapefruit, lychee and gooseberry' *Oakham Citra* is one of my favourite beers and brought back memories of many years working in Peterborough, the home of Oakham Brewery.

The next stop was the **CHURCH END BREWERY TAP**, Atherstone. The coach driver did well to get down the narrow lane leading to the Brewery tap and received a round of applause from the passengers. The Tap room has available an ever-changing range of eight cask conditioned beers. *Church End Brewery* has received recognition consistently, with many awards not just from the local CAMRA branches and the CAMRA West Midlands Region, but from Branches as far apart as Woking, Catford, Cornwall and Bradford. *Grave Digger's Ale* is hubby's favourite beer, so there was a rush to be first at the bar. The Ale has a complex mixture of chocolate and roast flavours, using two different hops, and did not disappoint. My favourite is *Goat's Milk* which the Brewery describes as 'golden yellow nectar' and was also excellent.

All too soon it was time to leave Church End and head to **THE LORD NELSON**, Ansley. Home of the *Sperrin Brewery* a good selection of ales was available. Upon asking for the palest beer, the barman advised that the colour of the pump clip denoted the style of the beer – a neat idea. So it was *Band of*



*Brothers* for me, being a hoppy golden ale. Those on the dark side preferred *Ansley Mild*, dark and smooth, and *Third Party*, a malty ruby ale. We were treated to an impromptu tour of the Brewery, but there was not room for everyone. A difficult choice, stay and drink the beer or go on the tour . . . the sensible ones took their beers with them! A well-needed buffet had been arranged by Andy, with the **LORD NELSON** providing excellent sandwiches and chips. This disappeared all too quickly and then it was time to move on.

**THE ANGEL ALEHOUSE**, Atherstone was the next port of call. Awarded North Warwickshire CAMRA Pub of the Year for 2015, the Angel is an old-fashioned pub with no TV or jukebox. But instead there was a record player with a large selection of records from days gone by. Jon took up the role of DJ and treated us to Human League, Madness, Sad Café and Wings. As expected there was a good selection of ales, with *Oakham Citra* appearing alongside *Oakham The Car Thief*, a dark mild. *Salopian* is another of my favourite breweries and *Lemon Dream* was excellent. Not surprisingly this is a golden



● THE GRIFFIN INN



# You Trip to North Warwickshire

Words: Gwen Godfrey, Branch Secretary

Pictures: Gwen Godfrey and Dave Page

ale, which is brewed using organic lemons for a zesty aroma and citrus finish. *Titanic Plum Porter* was also a firm favourite of many on the trip, a dark beer with the late addition of Goldings hops and natural plum flavouring.

The final stop of the day was **THE WILD**

**BOAR**, Warwick, voted CAMRA Heart of Warwickshire Pub of the Year for 2015. The previous home of *Slaughterhouse Brewery*, the Wild Boar is the Brewery Tap and a small brewery remains on site. The Wild Boar usually offers a choice of five *Slaughterhouse Brewery* beers and five different guest

ales. Favourite beers from Slaughterhouse were *Saddleback*, an amber bitter at 3.8% with a distinctive Challenger hop flavour, *Warwick Rocks*, a pale 4% beer, and *Wild Boar*, a rich 5.2% porter produced using both dark crystal and chocolate malts. The trip was finished with a thank you to all those

who had volunteered at the 2015 Stratford Beer Festival, and a thank you to Dave for stepping in to organise both the Hook Norton Brewery trip in October and this Beer Festival thank you trip, assisted by Andy who carried out a recce beforehand. A fabulous day was had by all. The Social Secretary role is currently vacant so if you would like to become involved in helping to organise social events and trips like this, please let me know.

**Finally, the dates for the 2016 Stratford Beer Festival have been agreed and are Friday 10th June and Saturday 11th June. Further details will be available on the Branch website [www.shakespearecamra.org.uk](http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk) and Beer Festival website [www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk)**



THE AREAS ONLY MICRO PUB



**THE STRATFORD**  
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We are a family-run business with a pledge to support smaller, local breweries as well as casting our net further afield to the four corners of the British Isles in our quest to maintain an unusual and varied selection of beers.

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# Brewery and Cotswolds pub tour

## First Saturday of every month!

Tour includes:

- Pick up and drop off from Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa, Warwick or Warwick Parkway rail station (times from Warwick Parkway coincide with trains to and from Birmingham & London).
- 90 minute Purity Brewery Tour (11am), including a pint of at least one of their award-winning ales.
- Lunch and a pint of beer/soft drink in a fantastic country pub.
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£55\*  
pp



For more information please visit [www.gocotswolds.co.uk/ale](http://www.gocotswolds.co.uk/ale)  
or contact Tom on 07786 920166 or [tom@gocotswolds.co.uk](mailto:tom@gocotswolds.co.uk)



@Go\_Cotswolds



/GoCotswolds

# Pete's Story

**Pete Godfrey**

**Age: Retired**

**Shakespeare CAMRA**

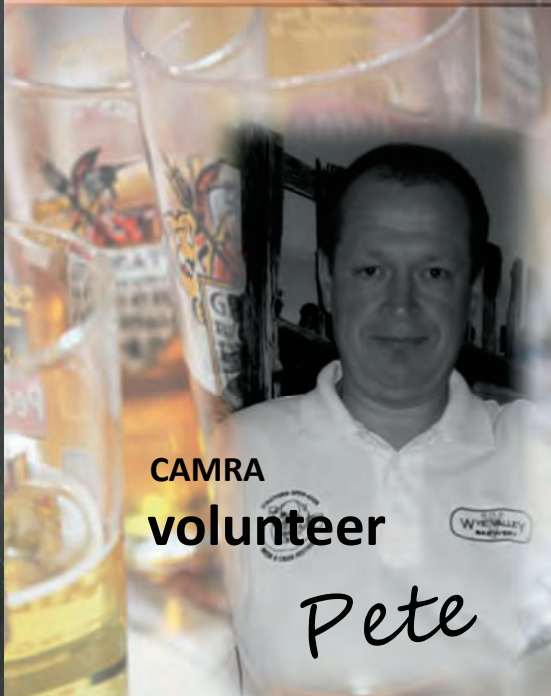
**Branch Good Beer Guide  
Officer**

"I have always liked beer from an early age. I would experiment by mixing stouts with other beers to get the flavours I would like. A wide choice of real ales were being showcased at the many beer festivals throughout Great Britain and I started to go along to these festivals with a real sense of wanting to get to know more about the beers. As these festivals were organised by CAMRA I realised I wanted to be part of the campaign and became a life member and also joined the local CAMRA branch to become a committee member in several roles.

When I moved to Warwickshire I got to know the local branch and started to go on the many socials. I soon joined the committee and using my skills and knowledge of beers became the Good Beer Guide Selection Officer for the Shakespeare branch."

GBG Selection meetings are held in January and February each year and we would love to see you come along.

Check the diary at the back for when these are.



# Cask Ale Week Coach and Horses

CAMRA is proud to support National Cask Ale Week, an annual celebration of the nation's favourite drink organised by Cask Marque, seeking to encourage more consumers to give real ale a try. The "10 day week" ran this year from 24th September to 4th October and was again supported by Punch Taverns who ran a 'Free Pint' promotion in nominated Punch Tavern pubs.

Our Shakespeare CAMRA Worcestershire Pub of the year, **THE COACH AND HORSES**, Harvington, celebrated the initiative by offering the Punch Tavern free pint alongside a cracking beer and cider festival. With a total of 18 cask ales and eight real ciders on offer it was certainly a fine introduction to anyone wanting to try 'real' beers and ciders for the first time. The beers ranged in styles and strengths from a light crisp *Thornbridge, Wild Swan* (3.5% abv) to the dangerously drinkable, rich, smooth and dark *Orkney, Skull Splitter* (8.5% abv), something therefore to suit all tastes.

(First to sell out; beer, *Blackhole, Supernova* (4.8%) and cider, *Orchard Pig, Maverick* chilli and ginger (4.0%).

Entertainment throughout the weekend included the local ladies' Northwest Clog Morris' side, Belle D'Vain, Cotswold covers

band, Silverstar, the Coach's own ladies choir, Songbirds, HUG, the Harvington Ukulele Group and last but definitely not least, a band dubbed by landlady Di, 'The Von Crapp family singers' consisting of lead singer and ever ebullient barmaid Claire Perkins, backed by mum Jenny and Di herself and ably supported by Claire's dad Roy Perkins on guitar.

Excellent home cooked food by landlord Steve, breakfasts, burgers, chips and stuff from Sharon and her catering van, a raffle run by The Shakespeare Hospice, (which, with other donations raised over £320) and world cup rugby on the television and a really friendly atmosphere throughout all contributed to a great weekend. The amazing 94 gallons of cask ale and over eight gallons of real cider sold, (for which we can't help feeling partly responsible), probably helped a bit as well.



Before we left we got a commitment from landlord Steve that he'd do it all again for next years Cask Ale Week. Thanks Steve, Di and everyone at The Coach and Horses and we'll hold you to that commitment.



## 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... **Shakesbeer Editor, c/o The Coach and Horses, Station Rd, Harvington WR11 8NJ**

- Four Real Ales
- Real Cider
- 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating
- Cask Marque

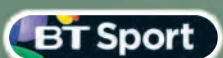
plus *Quiz Night* every Sunday!

### FOOD SERVED:

Traditional Pub Food & Sunday Lunches

Tues-Sat: 6pm-8.30pm : Sunday Lunch: 12pm-3pm

We  
show..



# THE COACH AND HORSES

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www.coachandhorsesharvington.com

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& SKITTLE  
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Pub of the  
Year**  
2014 & 2015

Shakespeare  
CAMRA  
**Pub of the  
Season**  
Spring 2013



OUTSIDE  
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Opening times: Mon-Fri 5pm to 12.00  
Sat. 12-12 :: Sun. 12-11.30

## The Bell, Salford Priors

This once loved village local is make a return from an uncertain period of closure.

Helen Folkes and Dave Raffan are breathing new life in the place, keeping two to three real ales and a permanent cask cider currently *Thatchers Heritage*. They are still working on their final choice for the permanent ale, plus guest, but are having a good go at working through the Enterprise choices. They have already introduced a league darts team competing in the local Evesham and district league and in time they hope to expand the teams calling the place home to include bridge, dominos etc. The pub is split into a public bar with TV showing sports, a darts board and an open fire and a large dining room where food is available. You can enjoy the open fire if you're a dog lover where you will find yourself most welcome in the bar and with free WIFI why not pop in for a working lunch! Food comes in the form of pub classics but also with a gluten free option in food and ale to complement. Look out for the festive menu from early December and the bar will be open Christmas Day if you need to get away from the sprouts!



# Cloudy Beer on Trial in Stratford

The British beer drinker wants a pint of bright and sparkling clear beer with a frothy head. Give him or her a cloudy or hazy pint of beer with no head and it's usually described as 'not ready yet' or 'hasn't dropped' or even 'gone off'. This is strange when you consider the most interesting and freshest tasting German beers are often wheat beers (served 'mit hefe' not 'kristal') that are traditionally served with the yeasty sediment spun around the bottle and tipped in the glass with a flourish – resulting in a beer totally opaque with yeast.

The British obsession with clear beers goes back to the bad old days when poor control of brewing methods and ingredients resulted in variable beer quality – hence the rise of the highly processed and now reviled 'gnat's piss' keg beers of the 60's and 70's.

In real ale the beer continues to mature in the barrel ('cask') resulting in natural carbonation and also a yeast rich sediment.

Fine yeast particles in suspension cause cloudiness; whilst haze is mostly caused by proteins from the barley (microbial infection can also cause both cloudiness and haze, hence some people's reluctance to give it a try). These can all be removed by the addition of finings and/or by filtration.

Finings are usually derived from powdered fish swim bladders\* which attract the particles suspended in the beer by electrostatic attraction – in much the same way that paint particles are attracted to a car body in a paint bath. Once enough particles agglomerate, they have enough collective mass to drop to the bottom of the cask.

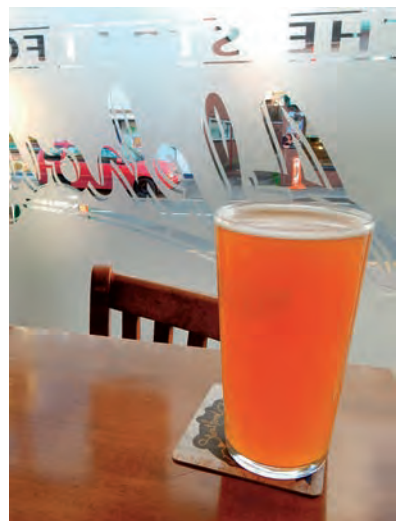
Beer purists point out that the fining process also removes proteins and hop oils and thus degrades the flavour of the beer. Over the last few years interest in unfiltered beers has increased with beers appearing

from brewers across the country, and even has their own event, the Spring Haze festival in London's dockland. In Stratford we recently had the opportunity to sample two unfiltered and unfiltered beers over the same weekend at the **STRATFORD ALEHOUSE** - *Bad Seed Pale Ale* and *Bad Seed Summer*.

The word quickly spread amongst Shakespeare CAMRA members who, in turn brought their mates along.

**Bad Seed  
Brewery**  
hand crafted beer

The Stratford Alehouse licensee, Bill O'Brien said: 'We certainly had reservations about whether the people of the area were ready for cloudy beer – Stratford not being known as a 'drinker's town' and dodgy cloudy pints prevailing in some of the trendier hosteleries over the years. However, our locals (or most of them) took to the format. We had to obviously give away a fair few 'tasters', but eventually sold every drop. It was a worthwhile experiment and one that we will be revisiting in the future'



Cloudy or not it is all about the taste, so I interviewed some of the Stratford Alehouse regulars to get their opinions: Paul: 'there is definitely a psychological effect of the appearance that literally clouds your judgement - having said that the second beer was better than the first' Andy: 'good yeasty head, complex flavours with plenty of fruit. Too complex for a 'session' beer, so I took two pints home in a carry out and it got better and better' Darren: 'really nice, had three pints and came back for more the next day' Joe: 'I didn't like the look of it; I will never touch a cloudy beer' So there you have it – a wide range of opinions as you can expect, but the main theme being: 'try it and it gets better and better' – and this is what real ale is all about.

*\*Vegan beers use finings from alternative sources, such as carrageenan, a jelly-like substance derived from a red algae seaweed known as Irish moss.*

# 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 locale accredited pub in this area see the branch website and look for the <http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk/rainshc/>

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

# Public Bar

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player,  
Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster [www.alanwhitbread.co.uk](http://www.alanwhitbread.co.uk)



Now I know that all CAMRA members enjoy a traditional drink of ale served directly from the wood in a traditional pub with character. We wouldn't be CAMRA members otherwise, would we! And I'm sure we'd all agree that the vandals in the 1960s & 1970s, who decided that everyone would prefer fizzy beer in a modern plastic pub, were wrong!

The ale song this time is about the demise of the traditional pub. It was written by Miles Wootton in the 1970s.

Miles Wootton was born in Manchester in 1934 and during a long career he wrote many humorous songs, some of which were in collaboration with Allan Taylor.

Having moved around to Oxford, Cornwall & Brighton, he made a breakthrough when Fred Wedlock started singing several of his songs. Fred Wedlock was quite a folk personality in the 1980s, even appearing regularly on the Noel Edmonds Show.

Miles Wootton wrote such masterpieces as "The Great Fish Finger Disaster" with the lines:-

*"'Twas in the year of sixty four, or was it sixty three?"*



● Miles Wootton

*We set sail from Basingstoke, bound for Amer-i-key.*

*The storms they was a rag-i-ing, and the waves a dreadful sight;*

*It took us forty days, me boys, to reach the Isle of Wight!"*

Another was titled "The Gnome", one verse of which was:-

*"There's a doggy comes to see me, every evening after tea,*

*I used to wonder why, he was so very fond of me.*

*And then I found out why, it hit me in the eye.*

*Have you ever been, mistaken for a tree."*

"The Public Bar" is to the tune of "Early One Morning", which has references going back to 1787. So, while the lyrics were written in the latter half of the 20th century, it used a very old melody.



● The Miles Wootton LP "Sunday Supplement World"



● The Fred Wedlock LP "Oldest Swinger in Town"



● The Miles Wootton LP "The Great Fish Finger Disaster"

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 Brailles (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; and
- Fourth Sunday at **THE HORSESHOE INN** at Shipston on Stour (GBG) CV36 4AP
- Fifth Sunday at **THE FLEECE INN** at Bretforton (GBG) WR11 7JE

# Public Bar (lyrics Miles Wootton)

Early one evening, just as the pubs  
were opening,  
A traveller was walking down, a cold  
and windy street.  
He saw a door ajar, he stepped into  
a public bar,  
Said, "Landlord, I would like a drink,  
and something good to eat.

I fancy some crusty bread, and  
roast beef of old England,  
Some fresh butter from the churn,  
a pickled onion too,  
And if you think you could draw,  
some bitter from the wood,  
I'd be quite content, to quaff a  
gentle pint or two.

I'll sit down by your pine log fire, and  
ponder on the infinite,  
The quiet of your hostelry, shall seep  
into my heart,  
And, if a regular, should come into  
the bar,  
Maybe I'll entice him, to a contest of  
the dart."

"Come in," says the landlord, "I've  
got pre-packed beef paste sand-  
wiches,  
And instant frozen sausages, which  
I purchase by the ton.  
So, if you fancy it, I could defrost a  
bit,  
And serve it up with ketchup, on a  
supermarket bun.

I'll pour you a plastic pot, of quaint old  
English ready-brew,  
As advertised on telly, by a famous  
rugby scrum,  
No dirty wooden barrels here; we only  
keep hygienic beer,  
Safely sterilized inside, an aluminium  
drum.

So sit down by the pine log fire, I'll  
switch the logs on presently,  
Maybe you would like to try, my brand  
new fruit machine.  
Three cherries in a row, will set your  
heart aglow.  
My jukebox plays some rock, and roll  
that will really set the scene."

So the traveller sat down, beside the  
polystyrene inglenook,  
Plastic beads were swaying, to an  
electronic sound.  
He started to bite and chew, he took  
a sip of ready-brew,  
He gave a ghastly gurgle, and fell  
dead upon the ground.

"O dear," says the landlord, as he  
switched the colour telly on.  
"Another fatal accident, the third  
this week, I fear.  
If they cannot hold their own, why  
can't they stay at home.  
I must say that we get, some funny  
customers in here!"

# Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up

All events 8pm unless otherwise stated



## DECEMBER

**Tuesday 15th** HOLLY BUSH & Pub Walkabout, Alcester B49 5QX

## JANUARY

**Tuesday 12th** Good Beer Guide selection meeting, Bear, Stratford CV37 7LT

**Wednesday 20th** Branch Meeting WHITE BEAR, Shipston on Stour CV36 4AJ

## FEBRUARY

**4th to 6th** 21st Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival - [www.tewkesburycamra.org.uk](http://www.tewkesburycamra.org.uk)

**4th & 5th** 9th Redditch Winter Ales Festival - [redditchwaf.org.uk](http://redditchwaf.org.uk)

**Tuesday 16th** OLD RED HORSE, Evesham, followed by a social at the Royal Oak, Evesham WR11 4RE

**Thursday 25th** Good Beer Guide final selection meeting, Bear, Stratford CV37 7LT

## MARCH

**Tuesday 15th** Branch Meeting BOARS HEAD, Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE

## APRIL

**Wednesday 27th April** Branch AGM, HOLLY BUSH, Alcester B49 5QX

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

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- **Membership:** JOHN ROSS ..... [membership@shakespearecamra.org.uk](mailto:membership@shakespearecamra.org.uk)
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- **Website:** KEITH BARKER ..... [websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk](mailto:websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk)



# Branch Summer Pub of the Season

## The Three Tuns, Alcester

The Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA presents 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 **THREE TUNS**, Alcester as their Pub of the Season for Summer 2015. When the Branch deliberated over the nominations received from our members, the Three Tuns convincingly came out on top for the following reasons.

Having been shut on 29 March 2014 it presented a very dark period in the history of this well known Alcester pub. Many of our members were concerned about the future and many rumours began to circulate. It was then really good news to hear that Mandy Downs and Andy Bown had managed to secure the pub and it re-opened again on 6 March 2015. Mandy was well-known in Alcester, as owner of the **CROSS KEYS**.

The interior had been enhanced but the character of the pub had not been altered. It was found to still be selling a good number of real ales and friendly conversation was still a priority. A presentation was made by Lloyd Evans, Shakespeare Branch Chairman, who commented that he was pleased that the beer quality had remained consistent since the opening and that the choice had been interesting and varied. In fact 606 casks had been offered since March



2015, of which 220 were different real ales. Bathams is available once a month and Hobsons continues to be supported. In addition to the real ales, three changing ciders are always available and these have been well-received. Mandy and Andy were delighted to be presented with the Pub of the Season award and were really "chuffed and overwhelmed" that their hard work had been so well appreciated.

## 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:**  
**ALL DAY Fri. & Sat. • 12.00pm - 3.00pm Sun.**  
**12.00pm - 2.30pm & 6.00pm-9.00pm Mon. to Thurs.**

# 01789 840533

**[www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy.com](http://www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy.com)**  
**[theboarsheadhamptonlucy@gmail.com](mailto:theboarsheadhamptonlucy@gmail.com)**

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# Shakespeare Plays Hooky!

A trip out to a brewery they said? Invited by the main man himself James Clark, Shakespeare branch did not need anymore excuses to get a coach full of the requisite number to head off to Oxfordshire. All in the capable hands of our treasurer Dave Page who had picked out a couple of gems enroute to make this a good full day out.

No corner of the branch was left unturned making the stops to collect all the keen attendees. First, the **NORMAN KNIGHT**, Whichford. A lovely country pub in a great location now owned by *Stratford-upon-Avon Brewery*. Having taken on this pub in May as you might have read in the last Shakesbeer, subtle changes and improvements and changes are taking place. A good selection of beers on top form were available of course including three from SuA Brewery, we were also presented with a tapas style array of food showcasing some tasty bites available at the pub. Refuelled

with an appointment at the *Hook Norton Brewery* just a few miles down the road, the coach beckoned.

Split in to two groups we were given the full Hooky tour taking in all the wonderful history and the many stairs to the top of the six floor towery brewery. Our guide was very knowledgeable and a highlight for myself were the brewing journals dating



back to 1856 detailing the first brew Mild XXX – still used regularly by James Clark and his team to recall old brews or tweak existing ones. A trip to a brewery would not be complete without sampling the fruits



of their labour and we were treated to a “few” in the barms bar which included some of the one off brews James creates in the new micro brewery installed back at the beginning of the year. Sadly it was time to move on again and we passed thanks to our great hosts.

Final stop before home was the award winning **ROSE AND CROWN** in Charlbury, a Good Beer Guide listed pub since 1985. Six beers were available from a wide array of breweries in this lively local and for me having tried all of them, the top beer was *Salopian Oracle*. It was a great end to a beery trip where it was nice to see a lovely social atmosphere. It was time for home with a coach full of happy peeps!



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