

Shakespearebeer

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



FREE
Please
take one

EVESHAM'S NEWEST OLDEST PUB! The Red Lion, Evesham

Friday 13th isn't always such a bad day. This June it not only marked the opening of Shakespeare CAMRA's immensely successful Stratford-upon-Avon Beer and Cider Festival, but it was also the official opening of Cannon Royall Brewery's first pub in Evesham, **THE RED LION**.

Working at the beer festival meant a rush from Stratford to Evesham to celebrate the opening – our aspiration to be the pub's first official customers however were thwarted by (now a regular customer) Chris Llewellyn, a Swansea man now living in Evesham.

Tucked away in the corner of Evesham's Market Place this unpretentious little pub hides a wealth of history and character. Evesham residents may remember it as The Boot and Shoe Company and some older ones as WF Electricals but I'm certain there are none who would have enjoyed a pint here when it last opened it's doors as The Red Lion Inn in 1910.

The first recorded use of the premises as a public house dates back to 1728 so it's first run

of over 170 years would be the envy of any modern pub.*

A well known and respected Evesham tradesman vouches for the tale of why the original Red Lion was sadly missed by a particular section of the community when it closed. It would appear that one Rev. Dr. Walker from the nearby All Saints Church was prone to very lengthy and scholarly sermons and that, upon their commencement it wasn't unusual for

the choirmen to slip quietly out of the vestry door, enjoy a few at the Red Lion and return before the sermon was done. What's more, on more than one occasion the Rev. Dr. was heard to compliment the choir on the noticeable improvement in the quality of their singing, after his sermon.

The Red Lion is a pretty basic place dedicated to beer and cider. There's no music or



● Chris is pictured here with the voice behind Cannon Royall, Glenda Harvey and Manager Rachel Wood, enjoying the first pint.

television, no alcopops or fancy cocktails and no food (although you're welcome to bring your own in or order delivery to the pub from the many nearby food outlets).

There are five ales on offer, generally all from Cannon Royall but with an occasional guest plus a real cider (soon to be two) and a real perry. A loyalty card scheme gives a free pint for every eight bought, effectively bringing the price of a pint down to a very reasonable £2.40.

Open from 11.00am all day every day, this is a great place for a pint and a chat, for reading the papers, playing pub games or simply for people watching in the bustling Market Place. In difficult times for pubs in general The Red Lion is certainly bucking the trend, first by opening and then by it's very innovative policies. We wish them every success.



Use your mobile phone's QR reader to scan

*Our thanks to 'Evesham Inns and Signs' (2008), a collection of Evesham Journal articles by TJS Baylis, collated and edited by Stanley Brotherton for this historic information.

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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,

This year's Stratford Beer and Cider Festival had the highest number of beers, ciders & perries ever available over the eight years of this annual event due to a planned (approx.) twenty five percent increase on last year's successful festival.

Over seventy different beers were placed upon the stillaging by Tuesday night which were carefully conditioned over the next few days by the Bar Manager, Bob Kirby, who did not leave the Racecourse site during this period. The theme for this year's Festival was "Shakespeare CAMRA Member's Favourite Beers" as all the members of the branch had previously been given the opportunity to vote for their favourite beers.

However, in addition to this list beers were also sourced from all over the country along with four of the breweries currently brewing in the Warwickshire area of our branch. Further to this I was also pleased to see that there were also over thirty ciders and perries available on the other bar.

The weather clearly brought out the crowds as attendance figures were again very high with around 1,500 people joining us. Calculations showed that by the Saturday evening well over sixty casks of beer had been consumed and from the high number of positive comments that we received, it was obviously a very friendly and sociable atmosphere for all concerned. The extra floor space that was also made available by moving the bars into the larger room, also proved to be a very popular move as it created more seating areas for people to relax in.

After such a weekend I must commend and thank all the helpers who gave their own time so freely to support, organise and staff the event as without their involvement there would never be a Festival in Stratford.

Personally speaking, my CAMRA activities have been a bit less frequent recently as I have been on holiday over the past few weeks but it was good to return to a well attended branch meeting at the **ROUND OF GRAS**, Badsey. During that meeting it was encouraging to hear of the many events that had been planned by various pubs and clubs in our area for the Bank Holiday weekend and I can only hope that they proved to be well supported and successful ventures for all concerned.

Finally at the end of August, I presented the **COACH AND HORSES** in Harvington with their runners-up certificate in the CAMRA Worcestershire County Pub of the Year competition which is a fantastic achievement and due recognition for all the hard work that they and their staff have made since taking over the running of the pub.

**Next Branch Meeting: Tuesday, 21st October at 8.00pm
Red Lion, 6 Market Place, Evesham WR11 4RE 8pm**

Best wishes as always, Lloyd





The best things in life are three

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Pub News & Reports...

Evesham THE RED LION

Finally after a few false starts Friday 13th June may be unlucky for some, but not for Cannon Royall as they finally got to open Evesham's newest pub for many years. The pub is tucked away in a corner of the Market Square and has been various shops over recent years but has now gone back to its original roots as a pub (see full article on the history and opening).

THE ORCHARD

After the recent re-branding and refurbishment, a recent visit to The Orchard confirmed that the three previous handpumps were all still in place but rather disappointingly all three on this occasion were sporting a similar Hook Norton, *Old Hooky* pump clip.

THE IRON ROAD AKA THE RAILWAY HOTEL

It is very pleasing to see that this venue is sporting some very fetching paintwork outside hinting at its former life - its great to see the investment happening. Additionally we learn that they have



installed a fourth hand pump and in the coming week the ales available should be (18th-24th Sept.) *Robinsons Trooper*, *Wyewood Hobgoblin*, *Sharps Doom Bar* and *Robinsons Dizzy Blonde* along with ciders *Thatchers Heritage* and *Westons Country Perry*.

THE ROYAL OAK

It's nice to see Evesham's Royal Oak open again in mid-May and looking better following a refurbishment. In the care of Chef, Alistair Barlow, who has been in the

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



● Alistair and Stacey at
The Royal Oak

trade for nearly 20 years (one time Deputy Manager of **THE ONE ELM**, Stratford) and partner Stacey (front of house), it appears to be doing well. The three real ales on - *Hobgoblin*, *Tribute* and *Doombar* are proving popular and will remain unchanged for the time being although Alistair may experiment with more variety in due course. Their main interest though is food, 'fresh, locally sourced and ethically produced' and a full menu is available all day, every day from about 9.30am. With morning hot drinks coming with free toast, complimentary hot sausage rolls appearing on the bar at 5.00pm every weekday, treats for well behaved dogs and even sun-tan lotion for unprepared people on our rare hot days, the pair are certainly going all out to please. As the beer was in great condition when we visited we can only wish them well.

Church Lench THE LENCHES CLUB

The August Bank Holiday also saw an "open weekend" at the Lenches Club in Church Lench which although is technically just outside the Shakespeare branch boundary, it is frequented by a few of our members as they regularly have two real ales on offer. However this weekend, ten real ales

and ciders were available as part of the celebrations along with the proposed activities for the rest of the family.

Bretforton THE FLEECE

Over the weekend of the 29th August the Fleece Inn at Bretforton held a successful end of summer Beer and Blues Festival at the pub. The Beer of the Festival was *Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild* whilst *Slater's Top Totty* and *Dark Star Hophead* were voted joint second. Of further interest was the appearance of a *Bell Tower Beer* brewed by *Cotswold Lion* brewery just outside Cheltenham to support the Bell Tower appeal in Evesham with the intention that 50 pence from every pint will be donated to this very worthy cause. If interested watch out for further appearances of this beer at the Fleece over the next month. Also on **October 24th - 26th** they will be holding their annual **Apple and Ale Festival** where you can see traditional engines driving crushers and various mechanical items, then see the giant apple press work its magic extracting all that juice! There will also be a beer tent with local cheeses. Entry is free.



Irons Cross QUEENS HEAD

Since reporting in Issue 56 of Shakesbeer that this newly made over establishment had closed, we can now report that there are signs of life! Although no word of a date just yet there is significant landscaping works happening along with a sign advertising "coming soon - the ultimate carvery and grill house" so lets hope there is some good ale to go along with the promised great food.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Pub News & Reports...

Stratford-upon-Avon ALE HOUSE

At this wonderful micro pub they seem to be doing all the right things as Shakespeare CAMRA members voted them Summer Pub of the Branch 2014. The presentation was made the evening of July 29th and on arrival it seemed like word had gotten out and it was pleasantly full! A good selection of beers were available in tip top condition including more than the usual three.

ONE ELM

On a recent visit we can report that there is real cider available in the form of *Aspell's Cyders* served from a bag in box. They will be selling various seasonal 'Cyders' throughout the summer so you might have been lucky enough to catch some!

Hampton Lucy THE BOARS HEAD

On a recent visit here it was good to see still beers from a local brewery - Church Farm, which had originally been available here very regularly.



Shipston-on-Stour THE FALCON INN

This pub has recently seen ministerial presence with Nadhim Zahawi dropping in to officially open the pub after a £40,000 investment jointly by licensee Simon Coyle and Punch Taverns. The works have given the pub an updated look and created some



new jobs in the process. Investments of any kind that keep pubs open is always a welcome note, so well done!

Harvington THE COACH AND HORSES

We can report that to coincide with CAMRA's CASK Ale week (25th Sept - 5th Oct) the Coach will be holding a **beer festival from the 26th - 28th of September** serving additional ale in their new function room as well as their normal four.

We can also report that after being voted Shakespeare Branch Pub for Worcestershire they have gone on to become runner up for the whole of Worcestershire narrowly missing out on the top spot for the county which is an excellent position for a first time entry (see full article on the runner up presentation). However, they have not stopped there and have gone on to earn themselves a place in the 2015 CAMRA Good Beer Guide which is no easy task having to be voted in by CAMRA branch members are rigorous judging.



Broom THE BROOM TAVERN

August Bank Holiday weekend was celebrated at The Broom Tavern with the 2014 "Broomfest" which saw twenty real ales on offer, plus a number of ciders, including offerings from three Shakespeare area breweries including *North Cotswolds*, *Purity* and *Whale*. Housed primarily in a large marquee on the main car park, it featured live music sessions with *al fresco*



and BBQ cooking.

Our congratulations for organising such a well run and ambitious event go to Fritz Ronneburg who with his Chef colleague Richard Walton, took over The Broom Tavern in 2012 and after a major re-development the pub is now establishing itself as an excellent venue for food with a choice of real ales on handpump to accompany the meals. If you have never visited the pub since the improvements I would suggest that a visit to their website www.broomtavern.co.uk

would make interesting reading especially the Chef's profile under the main link entitled "about us".

Pathlow ARMOURIES ARMS

Sadly we learn that the fate of this pub is in threat as the whole "armouries estate, museum, pub etc." are all up for sale. The current landlord / lady are devastated having been doing well at building up the trade and reputation.

Wilmcote MARY ARDEN

We learn that there are now new tenants in here and its being run by a new young couple, Sarah Davies and Adrian Rann. We wish them every success at this popular tourist local.

Stretton-on-Fosse THE PLOUGH

The Plough at Stretton-on-Fosse changed

hands in June 2014 and after a week's closure for redecorating and some cellar work, it has reopened with new owners Mandy and Steve Aubrey at the helm. Four handpumps dispense *Sharp's Doom Bar* and *Wickwar BOB* as the two regulars and a changing choice from the *Marston's* list on the other two. On a recent visit these were *Wychwood Hobgoblin* and *Brakspear Bitter*.

The pub is open every day from 11-11 with food served lunchtimes and evenings (but not Sunday evening). A new French chef, Christoff is due to join the team in July.



Pictured at the pumps are Mandy and Steve and although they have not run a pub before, Steve grew up in the **GREAT WESTERN ARMS** in Blockley when his father was the landlord (then a Flowers house and now Hook Norton). It is with sadness that Shakespeare Branch says farewell to Sara and Jean-Pierre who ran the pub for many years and won various awards including Pub of the Year for the whole County of Warwickshire. We wish them a happy retirement.

Kings Coughton THE MOAT HOUSE INN

This been taken over by 'The Lovely Pub Group' who run seven other pubs in Warwickshire and it is currently being refurbished with an expected opening date of October 2014.

Shakespeare Pubs go from STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!

Shakespeare's Summer Pub of the Season... THE STRATFORD ALEHOUSE

On Christmas Eve 2013, the Stratford Alehouse opened for business, being the first micropub in the Shakespeare Branch area. A member of the Micropub Association, the Stratford Alehouse is a family-run business run by Bill O'Brien, along with General Manager, Phil Atherton. Serving real ale direct from the cask, the Stratford Alehouse pledges to support local breweries, as well as other breweries not usually seen in the area.

Congratulations therefore to Bill and Phil who after just seven months at The Stratford Alehouse, have been voted Shakespeare CAMRA's Pub of the Season for Summer 2014. The Stratford Alehouse was packed with CAMRA members and regulars for presentation of the award on 29 July, which was made by Pete Godfrey, Shakespeare CAMRA GBG Officer. Bill and Phil thanked everyone immensely for their continued support.



Multi Award Winning...

THE COACH AND HORSES, HARVINGTON

Having taken over this somewhat unloved village local, Di and Steve Salter have over the last 3 years, turned this place around. So much so they are gaining a lot of attention from CAMRA at a regional level. They are providing not just a pub but are acting as a local hub for many activities and clubs. This pub was judged so good that like the Alehouse above, it had been awarded a Pub of the Season award back in Spring 2013. Not content with this, the branch members voted them Branch Worcestershire Pub of the Year, this then puts them forward to the competition for overall Worcestershire Pub of the Year which in turn leads to the overall CAMRA Pub of the Year award. As a first timer at county level, we were all over the moon to find they had come runner up to the CAMRA Worcestershire County Pub, being only just pipped to the post by The Weighbridge, Alvechurch. Not being content with their great achievements, so far their efforts have seen them produce a pub and serve beer that branch members have voted them into the CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2015 which is no meant feat!





CAMRA
WARWICKSHIRE
COUNTY
PUB OF THE YEAR
2012

THE NORMAN KNIGHT



The Norman Knight is open seven evenings per week and Tuesday to Sunday lunchtimes serving a choice of up to seven real ales including several brewed on the premises at our award winning Patriot Brewery plus two real ciders and Perry.



With real log fires in both bars during winter months The Norman Knight is a perfect place to unwind and relax, with its enviable position overlooking Whichford village green in the rural Cotswolds district and an in area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Popular with walkers and cyclists throughout the year and with our Caravan Club approved CL site at the rear of the pub why not make a weekend of it.



Not only do we serve well kept ales and ciders we also have an eclectic and regularly changing wine list overseen by our qualified wine and beer sommelier Richard which of course leads us on to our fantastic restaurant overseen by our well loved French Chef Jean-Michel.



Jean-Michel has pulled together a well balanced menu combining pub classics interlaced with traditional French and more modern dishes. Regularly changing menus and specials all cooked fresh using locally sourced and seasonal ingredients with plenty of choice means that you will be spoilt for choice either at lunch or for dinner.



Live music features throughout the year covering all musical tastes – check out our website for all the up to date menus, opening times and music, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter @thenormanknight.

THE NORMAN KNIGHT WHICHFORD NEAR SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR WARWICKSHIRE
TELEPHONE 01608 684621 WWW.THENORMANKNIGHT.CO.UK

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 crowners.

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

Stratford Ale House Stratford :: Fox & Hounds Great Wolford :: Howard Arms Ilmington :: Red Lion Little Compton :: Red Lion Long Compton :: George Hotel Lower Brailles :: White Hart Newbold-on-Stour :: Peacock Oxhill :: White Bear Shipston-on-Stour :: Plough Stretton-on-Fosse :: Gate Inn Upper Brailles :: Bell Inn Welford-on-Avon :: The Fleece Bretforton :: Crown & Trumpet Broadway Castle Edgehill :: Boars Head Hampton Lucy :: Queens Head Sedgeberrow :: Coach & Horses Shipston :: The Black Horse Inn Shipston The Falcon Stratford :: New Bulls Head (formerly The West End) Stratford :: The Bear Stratford :: Norman Knight Whichford Bidford Legion Bidford :: The Golden Bee Stratford :: Armouries Arms Pathlow



It's Festival Time (w

Time rolls around so fast and after many months in the making, I find myself here writing about the annual branch Beer Festival - and again, what a corker! For those of you that came last year who were unlucky enough to find we had run out, I hope this year there was a good tipples to whet your whistle with what seemed to be just about the right amount.

This year's beer list was heavily influenced by our branch members with a vote given to all for their favourite beers. This meant we had beers stretching far and wide from across the country which made for quite a variety but also the opportunity to work with our excellent local breweries such as *Whale Ale*, *North Cotswold*, *Cannon Royall*, *Purity*, *Wye Valley* and *Hook Norton*. Friday saw the visit from the Hook Norton Shires and Dray which after being fuelled on *Old Hooky* went off into Stratford to promote us. It must have been good as there were well over 60 casks consumed and nearly 30 boxes of cider & perry amounting to nearly 5500 pints! You must have been thirsty! We were also lucky to expand the festival from last year and were able to showcase an extra 25 beers (around a 50% increase). To achieve this we were blessed with the large function room at the racecourse which from popular opinion, sounded to be a good move - this was close to doubling the

floor space previously available to us. The weather was mostly kind which brought out around 1,500 of you beer lovers to the racecourse.

We enjoyed last year's entertainment so much that we invited them back again on the Saturday this year. They were the excellent "Swing from Paris" and "The Stuart Bishop" who gave us a mix [not at the same time] of Parisian Jazz and covers from all music eras. This year's first beers to sell out were *Turpin's Golden Citrus* (3.8%) followed minutes later by *Sharps Doom Bar*

"...there were well over 60 casks consumed and nearly 30 boxes of cider & perry amounting to nearly 5,500 pints! You must have been thirsty!"

Reserve along with *Exmoor Beast* being voted 'Beer of the Festival'. Having a long relationship with the Shakespeare Hospice - a charity dear to a lot of people, we invited them back to raise money at the festival. We also presented our donation of £600 (accepted on their behalf by Doug Burns) which is raised by your generously donated unused beer tokens.



● Festival Volunteers

ell the 8th to be precise!!)

The festival is a massive undertaking - without our merry band of volunteers we would not even be able to put on half of what we do, some of whom are becoming festival veterans and have travelled a great distance to be with us. Alongside our volunteers, are you our customers, friends, punters, drinkers, beer lovers alike - you keep coming back and for that we thank you and hope you continue to find Stratford Beer Festival an interesting point in the Festival calendar for unusual, regular and classics to try. And finally, our sponsors... The involvement from our sponsors is immense from large nationals to very small locals and public houses. Sponsorship covers all areas from shirts, glasses, even radio communication and any involvement is greatly welcomed to allow us to showcase to you the very best that real ale has to offer.



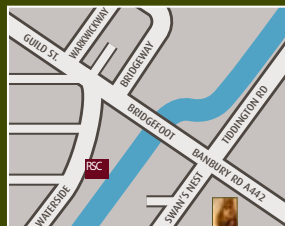


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Pubco Reform

FAIR DEAL FOR OUR PUBS



Just as we went to press last CAMRA reports that the government is introducing a new Statutory Code and Pubs Adjudicator which will ensure that publicans are treated fairly and will crack down on sky-high rents and beer prices charged by the big pub companies.

Just as we went to press last CAMRA reports that the Government is introducing a new Statutory Code and Pubs Adjudicator which will ensure that publicans are treated fairly and will crack down on sky-high rents and beer prices charged by the big pub companies. Publicans could see the price they pay for beer fall by up to 60p a pint if the new Adjudicator forces the big pubcos to match open market prices. As a result we could see cheaper pub prices for customers, more investment in pubs and ultimately fewer

pub closures.

This campaign success is testament to the ten years of tireless campaigning by CAMRA members and branches.

Along with countless other campaign meetings and events thank you for helping us reach 45,000 supporters on the petition which was delivered to Vince Cable just last month.

The next step for the campaign is to fight for the Government to go even further with guest beer and market rent only options for tied publicans. At present the reforms

only apply to England and Wales but we will continue pushing for reforms to be introduced across the UK.

Thank you for all your hard work in getting us this far!

Cheers!



Calling all pubs and breweries...

You can advertise in these pages and reach beer drinkers in Shakespeare Country and well beyond

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Distributed FREE to all local CAMRA members and delivered by members to real ale pubs and clubs throughout the branch area local festivals and neighbouring branches



Contact "Shakesbeer" at shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk



Closing date for copy for the next issue of **Shakesbeer** is **10th November 2014**

Brewery News...

WHALE ALE CO



Since their very first pint of ale was brewed, Whale have been finding green ways to dispose of the spent grains and they needed to look no further than the farm right across the road. They have been supplying the local cattle with spent malted barley for just over a year now and they must admit they are looking mighty fine on it! Whilst on a recent visit, the cattle had specifically



requested to try the *Pale Whale* from a bottle - this went down a treat.



Although outside of the branch, we can report that Purity's Bar and Kitchen located in Birmingham city centre has been awarded 4th Best New Bar in the UK, which is no mean feat based on the quantity of eligible entrants.



Although Hooky are one of the oldest breweries founded in 1849, they are always looking to the future and to this end they have taken delivery of a new micro brewery plant which they are planning to use to brew up some short run unique beers whilst continuing all the old favourites.

Lion brings Hooky a Marketing Excellence award, being given recently by the Oxfordshire Business Awards for its brand development and campaign of the recent launch beer.



Nearby to Shakespeare's branch, Bird's are helping in the plight of one of Worcestershire's most threatened habitats. Their newest beer *Nightjar* will help raise funds for the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust with 2p and 2.8p from bottles and pints sold going towards this appeal.





THE AREA'S ONLY MICROPUB

THE STRATFORD Alehouse

Cask Ales, Ciders & Wines

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.

Autumn/Winter opening hours:
Monday-Friday 1.00-8.00pm (or later)
Saturday 12.00-8.00pm (or later)
Sunday 12.00-4.00pm
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The Cider Press

Welcome to the second edition of the Cider Press

We are now fast approaching prime cider production time and across the apple producing counties the sheds and barns will be alive with the sound of crushing and pulping. Our very own Hogan's have their fingers crossed for a bumper harvest after the lack of a real cold spell in the winter did not quell too many of the pests. Like a number of producers, they like to use apples from orchards where there are no pesticides used. However the continuation of the mild spell and the early arrival of spring / summer has meant that growth got off to a flying start and so far the crop looks good.

Over the coming weeks you can catch the apple pressing taking place at the **GOLDEN CROSS**, Ardens Grafton on September 28th. You can arrive here with your own apples and take home juice for a small charitable fee. **THE FLEECE INN**, Bretforton on October 24th - 26th will also be holding their annual Apple and Ale Festival where you can see traditional engines driving crushers and various mechanical items, then see the giant apple press work its magic extracting all that juice! There will also be a beer tent with local cheeses. Entry is free. For both events see websites for details.

Have you ever wondered how cider is made? - and we mean real cider, none of this mass produced fizzy apple squash. Cider making has long been a traditional countryside craft, that involves years of experience to get the correct blend of apples for a great tasting cider. Fancy a go yourself?

The process of making real cider is simple and has remained unchanged for centuries: Select apples, press them, ferment slowly in barrels over the winter and by early summer you will have dry, still, refreshing real cider!



The basic simplified process that cider producers follow to make real cider is:

PREPARATION...

Apples arrive from the orchards, they are washed and sorted to remove rotten apples. All leaves, twigs and other orchard debris is removed to leave just the fruit that meets the standard.

PULPING...

Apples are then mashed, either mechanically using a mill or a scatterer, to create a pulp which is put into the cider press.

PRESSING...

The cider press extracts the juice from the apples, which then goes directly into fermentation barrels.

FERMENTATION...

No yeast is added as this occurs naturally on the skin and in the flesh of the apple. The fermentation is a slow process due to the low temperatures over winter. Traditionally, it is ready when you hear the first cuckoo in spring.

You can find "real" cider in the following pubs in Shakespeare Branch...

- CASTLE INN, Edgehill, OX15 6DJ
- CROWN AND TRUMPET, Church Street, Broadway, WR12 7AE
- HOLLY BUSH, 37 Henley Street, Alcester, B49 5QX
- OLD RED HORSE, 17 Vine Street, Evesham, WR11 4RE
- ROUND OF GRAS, 47 Bretforton Road, Badsey, WR11 7XQ
- THREE HORSESHOES, Wixford, B49 6DG
- WHITE LION, Evesham Street, Alcester, B49 5DS
- COACH & HORSES, Station Road, Harvington, WR11 8NJ
- FLEECE INN, The Cross, Bretforton, WR11 7JE
- LORD NELSON, 69 Priory Rd, Alcester, B49 5EA
- PLOUGH, Stretton-on-Fosse, GL56 9QX
- STRATFORD ALEHOUSE, 12b Greenhill Street, Stratford-on-Avon, CV37 9QB
- WHITE BEAR, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AJ

And hopefully more...

Hogan's, Warwickshire's only commercial cider producer, is celebrating again with a win for one of their newest products, *Hazy Daisy*, scooping a gold medal at the International Cider Challenge alongside a silver medal for medium cider.

In a competition (in the words of the organisers) "designed to recognise the diversity and range of packaged products within this dynamic and growing category," it seems fitting that Hogan's have won two accolades with very different products. Not satisfied with gold for their ciders they have also been awarded second place at the Hereford Museum Cider and Perry competition for their renamed "Poachers Perry".



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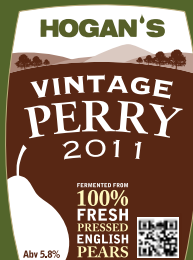
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PICKER'S PASSION 5.3%



PANKING POLE 6.2%



VINTAGE PERRY 5.8%

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APPLES

Great British Beer Festival 2014

This is Britain's biggest beer festival without a doubt! Held again this year at London's Olympia on August 12th - 16th with an estimated 55,000 festival goers, it was certainly the place to be to sample the largest choice of around 800 ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers anywhere.

From self-themed days and tutored tastings to announcing Britain's most loved soap landlord / lady... for some of us however, it's all about one thing – Champion Beer of Britain! This is a competition run nationally throughout the CAMRA branches and judged under a set criteria by a trusted impartial panel at beer festivals who have been handed charge of a category. Our very own festival has been involved numerous times and this year we were trusted with the Best Bitters category. The winners from each category go forward to make up a final list for GBBF, below are the winners...



SUPREME CHAMPIONS

GOLD

Timothy Taylor, Boltmaker

SILVER

Oakham, Citra

BRONZE

Salopian, Darwin's Origin

MILD

GOLD

Bank Top, Dark Mild

SILVER

Branscombe Vale, Mild

BRONZE

Castle Rock, Black Gold

SPECIALITY

GOLD

Saltaire, Triple Chocoholic

SILVER

Offbeat, Way Out Wheat

BRONZE

Peak Ales, Chatsworth Gold

BEST BITTER

GOLD

Salopian, Darwin's Origin

SILVER

Redwillow, Directionless

JOINT BRONZE

Langton, Inclined Plane Bitter

Purity, Mad Goose

SPECIALITY

GOLD

Saltaire, Triple Chocoholic

SILVER

Offbeat, Way Out Wheat

BRONZE

Peak Ales, Chatsworth Gold

BITTER

GOLD

Timothy Taylor, Boltmaker

SILVER

Mighty Oak, Captain Bob

JOINT BRONZE

Flowerpots, Flowerpots Bitter

Sambrooks, Wandle Ale

SPECIALITY

GOLD

Oakham, Citra

SILVER

Hawkshead, Cumbrian Five Hop

BRONZE

Salopian, Hop Twister

STRONG BITTER

GOLD

Church End, Fallen Angel

SILVER

Blue Monkey, Ape Ale

BRONZE

Loch Ness, HoppyNESS



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40th Anniversary of CAMRA in V

A special event took place on Saturday 7th June 2014 to mark the 40th anniversary of CAMRA within Warwickshire. The venue for the event was The Famous Virgins & Castle, Kenilworth, being the venue of the very first meeting of Warwickshire CAMRA.

Soon after midday, representatives from the CAMRA Warwickshire Branches, including those who were instrumental in setting up the Branches, started arriving at the venue. The event was formally opened by Jim Witt, Warwickshire Area Organiser, who commented that the first meeting took place on 13th August 1974. Unfortunately, there is now another event that takes place during August each year, which a number of those present were involved in, the Great British Beer Festival and so 7th June was chosen to mark the anniversary instead. Jim Witt informed those present that about 100 people turned up at the first Warwickshire CAMRA meeting, which was amazing considering CAMRA was a

fledgling organisation, founded by just five people only two years earlier. Soon, regular meetings were held, mainly in Coventry and Kenilworth, with around 40 people attending each meeting. Jim confessed to being a newcomer, having joined in 1976, and so invited Jim Pearson, who had been the Secretary in the early days, then Treasurer and eventually Chair, to say a few words. Jim Pearson produced a copy of the first CAMRA Good Beer Guide from 1974.

Quite different from the Good Beer Guide of today, it was little more than a pamphlet with only 15 pubs listed for the whole of Warwickshire. By 1975 ... after some dedicated surveying by those early CAMRA members ... the next edition of the Good Beer Guide was more extensive. By that time, Birmingham and Coventry had been separated from Warwickshire.

The Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA was the first to break away from the then Coventry & Mid Warwickshire Branch. David Capron remembered there being



● Jim Witt

chaos, but in the most positive way, as so many people had turned up to the first meeting to drink real ale. In 1981, David along with Bob Macvie, Andrew Scott and Alan Whitbread, formed the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA. In the early days of Shakespeare CAMRA, David was Brewery Liaison Officer for the Alcester Brewery, based at **THE THREE TUNS**. Their first beer was called 'Genesis' and the phrase 'In the beginning, there was the wort' was coined. David wished to raise a glass to toast those present, but unfortunately



● Virgins and Castle pub



Warwickshire

for Alan Whitbread, David found that he had left his beer at the bar. I say unfortunately, as Alan's beer was the nearest one and although willingly

Timmins, West Midlands Regional Director. Gary had been a member of CAMRA for 8 years and said that he couldn't

“

Jim Pearson produced a copy of the first CAMRA Good Beer Guide from 1974. Quite different from the Good Beer Guide of today, it was little more than a pamphlet with only 15 pubs listed for the whole of Warwickshire.

”

donated so that David could make the toast, it was the last that Alan saw of his beer!

In 1984, Rugby became a Branch of CAMRA in its own right and one of the founder members, Steve Heighton, reminisced about good times shared by Branch members.

Jim then invited Bob Southey to say a few words regarding the formation of a Branch of CAMRA covering Leamington and Warwick, which became known as the Heart of Warwickshire Branch. For around 32 years, Nuneaton & Bedworth had been a sub-Branch of Coventry & North Warwickshire. However, Jim Witt was pleased to announce that the sub-Branch now had full Branch status. The new Chairman, Barry Everitt, commented that he had only been a member of CAMRA for three years. But Barry hoped that, at the 50th anniversary celebrations, he would be able to share some of the Branch's own exploits.

The speeches were closed by Gary

carry out his job without the help of all of the volunteers in the Branches. When the Warwickshire Branches were being formed, there were 25,000 members of CAMRA. It has only been 5 years since the number of members hit 100,000 and now there are 165,000 members. Gary ended by stating "We wouldn't be here without you. Thank you very much for all your efforts and thank you very much for

sticking with it. It's as simple as that: thank you very much."

The formal part of the event now over, those present were free to dig into the long-awaited buffet and catch up whilst sampling plenty of real ale.

Gwen Godfrey
Branch Secretary



● Founding Shakespeare CAMRA branch members David Capron, Bob Macvie, Alan Whitbread and Andrew Scott

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Jason's Story

Aged 39 ^{3/4}

Warwickshire

Shakespeare Branch Campaigns & Public Affairs Officer, Shakesbeer Magazine Editor & Heavily Involved with the Branch beer festival



CAMRA volunteer

After joining CAMRA about 7 years ago I sat on the side lines reading the branch magazine as it arrived every quarter. In 2012 I noticed the branch were looking for beer festival volunteers. Having never met anyone from the branch or even CAMRA come to think of it, I threw myself in during setup week and then did a couple of full days during festival open time. I was HOOKED! What a great bunch.

Someone convinced me I should come to a branch meeting from which I left having been elected the Campaigns Officer. From then I have become more heavily involved with the branch beer festival and a year ago took on writing "Shakesbeer", the branch magazine when the editor slot became vacant.

Its as much a social thing as well as knowing that I am doing my bit for the real ale cause.

Now what will your story be...



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Shakespeare's CAMRA pub of the year 2012

For Summer the Crown and Trumpet Inn is proud to present our four featured beers shown below as well as other welcome guest local ales.



Cotswold Spring Brewery

Codger - 4.2%

A dry, crisp, chestnut, perfectly balanced beer with a subtle hoppy finish.

<http://www.cotswoldbrewery.co.uk>



Stroud Brewery

Tom Long - 3.8%

Silver at SIBA National Beer Competition, Champions Sitters (up to 4.0%) Amber session beer with spicy citrus aroma. Good body for low ABV.

<http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk>



Stanway Brewery

Cotswold Gold - 3.9%

A light refreshing ale with a delicate guiding hop. The Summer beer. Cotswold is the old name for the Cotswolds.

<http://www.stanwaybrewery.co.uk>



Butcombe

Butcombe Bitter - 4.0%

The West Country's favourite beer derives from pure Mendip Spring Water, notably bitter, clean tasting, refreshingly dry and distinctive.

<http://www.butcombe.com/>



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See our website **www.shakespearecamra.org.uk**

25



Bob's Bikes - pubs by bike

I can think of few things better in the world than enjoying a cycle ride through glorious Warwickshire countryside combined with a few pints at some of our rural pubs! This ride starts at the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal junction on Bishopton Lane and heads for Wilmcote. Of course, every road to Wilmcote goes uphill but at least on the canal it's a staggered incline and the scenery is fantastic. Look out for swans and other wildlife gently drifting by. Take the exit at Wilmcote and turn left into the centre of the village.

Our first pub stop is at **MARY ARDEN'S TAVERN**, run by a new young couple, Sarah Davies and Adrian Rann. Their beers come from the *Greene King* stable and shortly will include their very own beer especially brewed for them by Greene King. They have a pleasant beer garden at the rear. Smart and comfortable, the food here is recommended.

Only 100 yards to the left you'll come to **THE MASONS ARMS**. Usual beers are *Hobson's Bitter* at less than £3 a pint



● The Kings Head

partook their wedding breakfast in 1557. There are normally four beers available, including *Purity Gold*, *Brew X1*, *Abbot* and *Charles Well's Eagle*. Their famous duck suppers have been served here since the end of World War II, often over 10,000 in a year!

Continue cycling through the village until you reach the T junction where you turn right for Bearley. You are now on The Salt Way, the ancient Roman route from Droitwich to the east. Yes, it's a bit undulating but nothing too difficult!

Notice the Edstone Aquaduct you go under carrying the canal above. At 475 feet (145 m), Edstone is the longest aqueduct in England. It crosses the road, the Birmingham and North Warwickshire railway and also the trackbed of the former Alcester Railway.

Half a mile further you will reach **THE GOLDEN CROSS**, reopened in April, now run by Carl and Sam. What a great job they've done renovating the interior

and are introducing a menagerie of animals into the extensive garden. Look out for the Kunekune pigs along with rabbits, ducks and ferrets – though none of them are on the menu! They serve a *Purity* beer plus a guest and are renowned for the quality of their food. From here now you head south down the A3400 to Pathlow and arrive at on your left at **THE ARMOURIES** (previously The Dun Cow). You will receive a warm welcome from Debbie and Nigel. There are usually four real ales on tap mostly from the local area and may include *Cotswold Lion* from Hook Norton, *Wye Valley Bitter*, a beer from *Purity*, plus another beer such as *Cameron's Strongarm*. The food is of a high quality but very reasonably priced, as is the beer! Careful not to indulge too much on your way round - keep safe!

Until next time,
Bob Macvie



● The Masons Arms

plus a guest beer. This pub is popular both with locals and with folk travelling on their boats. If you enjoy good helpings of food then look no further!

Remounting the bike turn right and head for Aston Cantlow - downhill all the way! This is a pretty village and there are few prettier pubs than **THE KINGS HEAD** where William Shakespeare's parents



● Edstone Aquaduct



● The Golden Cross

Cask Ale Week

Thursday 25th September to Sunday 5th October 2014

Cask Ale Week is a celebration of Britain's National Drink and the home of cask ale - the great British pub.

The Week is supported by thousands of brewers, pub groups and pubs who are proud to brew and sell Britain's National Drink! They are busy planning activities ranging from beer festivals to tutored tastings – in fact anything that promotes cask ale and brings more people into the pub. As a cask ale drinker we're hoping you'll get involved and use the opportunity to introduce some of your friends to the pleasures of cask ale!



www.caskaleweek.co.uk

LOCAL EVENTS:

HOOK NORTON BREWERY is running:

- Tutored Tasting launch event on Thursday 25th September in the Visitor Centre.
- Ladies Beer and Chocolate evening Friday 26th September at the brewery, hosted by Annabel Smith.
- Beer Festival in the **PEAR TREE INN**, Hook Norton.
- Menu matching with cask beers and 1/3pint glasses.

COACH & HORSES Harvington 25th - 28th September
Beer Festival - 15 beers + real ciders



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.

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Drink Old England Dry

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



As I write this article it is not long ago that the European Election were won by UKIP, well illustrating our love / hate relationship with Europe. Also, the commemoration events for the 70th Anniversary of the D Day Landings and the WW1 Centenary are well under way. So I thought I'd be a bit controversial by choosing an ale song which refers to our oft-times choppy relationship with Europe.

It describes how the French want to invade England in order to drink all our ale! Well, what better reason would a soldier want to fight than to stop the French from winning a war? Great propaganda and motivation to get the troops to fight for King (or Queen) and Country.

As with nearly all old songs, Drink Old England Dry has many versions. According to the Traditional Ballad Index the earliest published version of the song was by Rev John & Lucy Broadwood in their Sussex Songs 1890 but it is much older.

It probably dates from the Napoleonic Wars and it is sung to this day by a group known as the Boggens from the village of Haxey in Lincolnshire during the week leading up to the Hood Game, a combat ritual game but I won't go into the details of that. You can look it up yourself!

The various versions include references to

● Napoleon

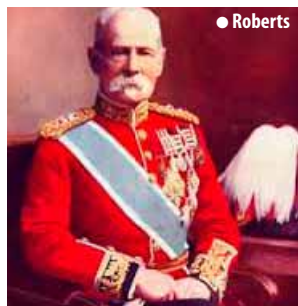


fighting France, Germany, Spain and even Russia at various conflicts from 1800 to the Second World War. Lord Cuthbert Collingwood is often mentioned as the hero on the British side. He was the Admiral whose ship, the Royal Sovereign, led one the two columns of ships which attacked the French & Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar, with Lord Horatio Nelson's ship, the Victory, leading the other column. We won convincingly, 22 to 0 in lost ships! Hip, hip, hurrah!

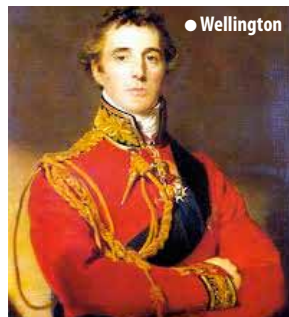
Another British hero who has been mentioned was Earl Frederick Roberts VC KG KP GCB OM GCSI GCIE KstJ VD PC. Wow, that's quite a collection of gongs and he even had VD and was PC! He was a hero of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and the second Boar War of 1899

to 1900.

Wellington (or rather Arthur Wellesley, Field Marshall His Grace, the Duke of Wellington, KG GCB GCH PC FRSE) is referred to in other versions for his Peninsular War campaign and the defeat Napoleon Bonaparte and the French



at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He subsequently became Prime Minister in 1828 to 1830. Was it really as early as that he brought political correctness into politics? He did have PC as one of his gongs after all! Boo!



Finally, we mustn't forget Winston Churchill who led the British in the defeat of Germany in the Second World War. No doubt by the time this edition of *Shakebeer* is published we'll have heard quite a lot about that conflict!

Drink Old England Dry...

Now come me brave boys, as I've told you before
Drink ale, me brave boys, and we'll boldly call for
more

For the French have invited us and swear that
they will try

They swear that they will come and drink old
England dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry

They swear that they will come over and drink Old
England dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry

They swear that they will come over and drink Old
England dry

Supposin' we should meet with some Germans by
the way

Ten thousand to one we will show them British play
With our swords and our cutlasses, we'll fight until
we die

Before that they shall come and drink old
England dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry ...

Offt times, oft times, old Boney, he has said
If England would receive him, no taxes need be
paid

We'd rather not believe him, for fear that he should
lie

For fear that he should come and drink old England
dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry ...

Then up spoke Lord Wellington with fame and
renowned

He says he'll be true his country and crown

For the cannons they shall to rattle and the bullets
they shall fly

Before that they shall come and drink old England
dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry ...

So it's o drink me brave boys, as I've told you before
Drink ale, me brave boys till you can drink no more
The French may boast, but their boasts are all my eye
They say that they shall come and drink old England dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry

They say they will come over and drink Old England
dry

Aye dry, aye dry me boys, aye dry

The French shall never come over and drink Old
England dry



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

- 2nd Tue at **The Cottage of Content** at Barton (over the river from Bidford) B50 4NP
- Every Thu at **The Fleece** at Bretforton (a NT property in the GBG) WR11 7JE
- 1st Fri at **The Norman Knight** at Whichford (GBG) CV36 5PE
- 1st Sun at **The Gate** at Upper Brailles OX15 5AX
- 2nd Sun at **The Blue Boar** at Temple Grafton (near Binton) B49 6NR
- 3rd Sun at **The Mary Arden** at Wilmcote CV37 9XJ
- 4th Sun at **The Black Horse** at Shipston on Stour CV36 4BT

Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



SEPTEMBER

19th-21st Shipston Beer & Food Festival, Rugby Union Football Club, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4BH shipstonfoodfestival.co.uk

25th-5th Oct CAMRA Cask Ale week <http://caskaleweek.co.uk/>

25th-28th Coach & Horses Beer Festival, Harvington WR11 8NJ

28th The Golden Cross, Ardens Grafton Apple Day www.thegoldencross.net

OCTOBER

3rd-4th Solihull & District Beer Festival B91 3DH www.solihullcamra.org.uk

20th Shakespeare CAMRA's 33rd Birthday

21st Branch Meeting, Red Lion Market Place, Evesham WR11 4RE, 8pm

22nd-1st 2015 Beer Festival Planning Meeting, The Fleece, Bretforton, WR11 7JE, 8pm

24th-26th Apple & Ale Festival, The Fleece Inn, Bretforton WR11 7JE www.thefleeceinn.co.uk/whats-on/apple-and-ale-festival.html

29th-1st Nov Birmingham CAMRA Beer Festival, The New Bingley Hall, 1 Hockley Circus, B18 5PP birminghambeerfestival.org.uk

NOVEMBER

18th - Branch Meeting, Snitterfield Arms Bearley Road, Snitterfield CV37 0JH, 8pm

DECEMBER

9th - Branch Meeting & Social Pub Walkabout, Holly Bush, Alcester

See Shakespeare CAMRA web site for the latest news and updates on meetings: www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

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Are you interested in joining your local Shakespeare CAMRA committee?

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

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

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





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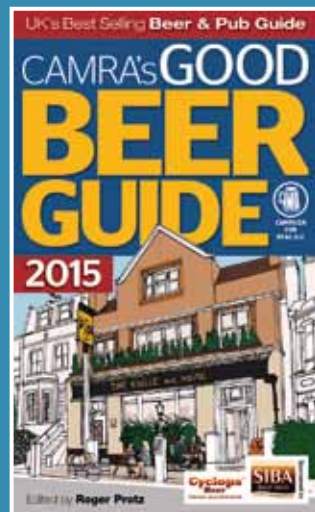
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