

Shakesbeer

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



FREE
Please
take one

The Bulls Head Bidford-on-Avon

First time licensees take **Winter Pub of the Season** in 18 months much to their delight and surprise! Licensees Kevin and Lesley Haywood are first time licensees and only went as far as having a keen interest in real ale and pub life before embarking on a life changing decision to step into the pub scene.

Just 18 months since taking over this already popular village local, they have taken the pub from strength to strength. One of the main, but not only, criteria for this accolade starts with good beer which can always be found here. Maintaining three pumps in challenging times is feat enough, which they have sought to do, together with listening to their locals and rewarding them with some consistent favourites along with good value and quality food. If this wasn't enough, Kevin has also ensured that their cellar skills are up to the job by obtaining the cask marque accreditation for the pub. During their time here they have welcomed many of the local clubs & quiz teams to make the place their base - darts, dominoes and quiz teams, all playing in leagues, to name a few. Building on this community spirit they regularly host seasonal discos

and events including the famous Bidford Raft Race raising much needed funds for local charities.

The presentation of the CAMRA certificate was by made Jason Norledge - Shakespeare Branch Campaigns & Public Affairs Officer, followed by a short speech celebrating Kevin and Lesley's achievements in their time so

● **Lesley and Kevin with Jason Norledge**

far. Kevin went on to add their thanks to the locals and the teams especially who provide much needed support for the pub in the quieter times.

So it just leaves me to say what a great and growing community local and we wish them continued success and long may they thrive.



Use your mobile phone's
QR reader to scan...



See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



North Cotswold BREWERY



North
Cotswold
BREWERY

WINDRUSH ALE

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North
Cotswold
BREWERY

COTSWOLD BEST

4.0% ABV



North
Cotswold
BREWERY

SHAGWEAVER

4.5% ABV



North
Cotswold
BREWERY

HUNG, DRAWN
'N' PORTERED

5.0% ABV



Bottle beers available
from the Brewery shop

FINE ALES FROM THE FOSSE

North Cotswold Brewery

Ditchford Farm, Stretton on Fosse, Warwickshire GL56 9RD T: 01608 663947

www.northcotswoldbrewery.co.uk

Beer Festival News...

put the date in your diary!

Stratford-upon-Avon 7th Beer & Cider Festival

55 beers, 25 ciders

Festival entrance £3
Entrance "package" £12
to include £3 entry / £2
souvenir glass / £7 tokens
CAMRA members that
sign-in to get £3 extra in
tokens.

WHEN: Fri, 14 June 2013, 12:00-23:00
Sat, 15 June 2013, 11:00-23:00

WHERE: Stratford-on-Avon Racecourse,
Luddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire, CV37 9SE

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED – see the web site for more details:
<http://www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk/>



Scan for more festival info...

Pub News

Ettington

After an excellent show of determination by locals the **White Horse** has now been taken on by Martin Tolly on a short-term lease while a permanent landlord is sought. The rescue package put forward by the villagers was not needed in the end and it is good news that the village has the pub reinstated into village life. At a recent visit there was a nice pint of *Hooky* (permanent ale) and the guest ale *Spitfire*.

Pathlow

After a long period of closure, the **Armouries Arms** (previously the Dun Cow) will be opening its doors again on the 2nd March. Stratford upon Avon's Mayor will officially open the pub at 3pm along with other local councillors. New Landlord Dean Stacey is local born and has extensive experience within the hotel and catering arena having worked in pubs, hotels and restaurants around the area. The focus is on

returning to an old fashioned pub ambience with great ale, sensible priced pub food, dominoes and other community activities.

Kineton

The **Swan** has recently seen a new landlord in January and they will be hosting a beer festival in the near future.

Stratford-upon-Avon

The **Queens Head** was due to have a large refurbishment in January but unfortunately this has been postponed for the moment. The current tenants will remain until the new tenants arrive in April. At the **New Bulls Head** (previously the West End) the 25th January saw a lively opening night after the pub had received a refurbishment and new colour scheme. At the time of going the press **No7** was still closed after the lease expired together with a sign outside recruiting for the KISS pub company. The **Lazy Cow** (previously Cox's

Yard) now has 3 cask beers on hand pump and is open all day for food and a live band on Friday and Saturday nights plus a further band on Sunday lunchtimes. The beers available at a recent visit were *Courage Best Bitter*, *Purity Gold*, *Wells Eagle*.

Ratley

The **Rose and Crown** may be facing a closure – see the news article later in this magazine.

Whetcote

The **Royal Oak** has also seen new tenants in January and we wish them all the best.

Moreton Morrell

At the **Black Horse** you can now bring your own food along to the pub which would be a plus point for any real ale drinkers who don't want to splash out on expensive food.



Pub News...

Loxley

It is a great shame that we report that at the end of January **The Fox** has closed its doors for the final time. A surely missed pub.

Bidford-on-Avon

It is with great interest we see **The Crown** former British Legion club and a former real ale free zone come into the charge of the *Cannon Royall* brewery as their 3rd Legion club. Since the swift exit of Crown Management chain the brewery has wowed the locals with a very swift installation of 3 hand pulls serving *King Shilling* 3.8%, *Arrow Head* 3.9% and *Fruiterers Mild* 3.7% all at an exceptional good value price with promise of 2 more in the near future. Beers are in good condition and bar manager Ben admits

to being a real ale novice, but we know he has a great wealth of knowledge at his disposal in the form of the brewery and are sure he will do well. Watch this space for future news on improvements and more ale!

Welford-on-Avon

The Shakespeare Inn is still closed with the notice on the door "Enterprise Inns will be announcing future of pub in due course".

Wixford

Another pub **The Three Horseshoes** has announced it is closed and up for lease.

Barton

The Cottage of Content is now serving *St Austell Tribute* + other guest. On March

30th there is a charity fun run / walk in aid of cancer charities.

Salford Priors

At **The Bell** they are currently trying a fourth pump serving *Doom Bar*, *Wikwar bob*, *WV HPA*, *Oakham Citra* + *Old Rosie*.

Abbots Salford

Things are looking bleak for the **Vineyard** with yet another pub with a for sale board up in the branch.

Iron Cross

Over at the **Queens Head** the pub was closed on a recent visit in early February but a chat with the new landlady explains she had just taken over and will be re-opening in early March.




The Swan Hotel & Pub
Restaurant & Pizza House

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www.swanhotelkineton.co.uk

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Pub Opening Hours: Open everyday 12 till late
Restaurant Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 12pm - 3pm and 5 - 9pm,
Pizzas and light snacks available until 11pm. Sunday lunch 12pm - 5pm


**SWAN
HOTEL**

The Boars Head

Visit
our website
to see our
menus

Telephone 01789 840533

www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy.co.uk



The Boars Head is an award winning cask ale pub situated in the centre of Hampton Lucy, Warwick. We have real ale from local and major brewers around the country. Wines are chosen to complement our food, or just enjoy with friends. The menu is in place seven days a week and blackboards have daily specials and desserts. A traditional roast is served Sunday lunchtimes. We aim to achieve the highest standards in a friendly atmosphere. The open fire is a great place to relax in winter and our walled garden in summer.

We are open every day serving food lunchtimes and evenings (except Sunday night) and special evenings and events will be available on the website.

This year we are pleased to announce the birth of a new local brewery.

Church Farm Brewery produces quality handcrafted ales at their farm in Budbrooke, Warwick, using exclusively English grown ingredients and traditional small scale brewing methods. If you would like to place an order of 1 or more firkins, or find out more about the range of ales on offer, please telephone 01926 411569.

The Boars Head will have one or more of their brews on the bar regularly for customers old and new to sample. We also provide 2 pint containers to take home if you want to continue your evening with fine cask ale.



THE BOARS HEAD

Find us at Church Street, Hampton Lucy, Warwickshire CV35 8BE

Pub News...

Alcester

The Lord Nelson held the grand re-opening at the end of January. The ceremony saw Mayor Lennox Cumberbatch cut the ribbon and the Alcester Court Leet carry out an Ale Tasting. There has been a complete refurbishment of the pub, including uncovering & restoring a flagstone floor, opening up the original front door on the road and discovering & reconstructing a real fire on the wall by the garden. They have four hand pumps. Over the next few months there are numerous events on so please make your way down there for a great time.

Harvington

The Coach & Horses sees numerous events on over the next few months with many theme nights including a writing club on a Monday, quiz every Sunday

and ukulele club on Tuesdays. Beers on a recent visit were GK IPA, Doom Bar and guest JML Dragon Blood.

Cleeve Prior

Landlord Chris Ward took over at **The Kings Arms** in July 2012. Adnams *Southwold* is always on hand pump and a second cask beer changes regularly. Recently Butcombe *Gold* was very popular and a fine head and good cling to the glass is assured by Chris's thorough cleaning of his beer lines, a job he learned as a lad when helping in his Dad's Worcester pub. The pub is open all day Tues-Sat with food served lunchtime and evenings but closes Sunday evening and Monday lunchtime. Look out for black retriever Jessica and black Heinz Bradley.

Bretforton

The Fleece in Bretforton held their annual Wassail night on the 14th January

this year and were joined by a number of different Morris sides and a group of civil war re-enactors who led the torch lit procession down to the orchard. This Pagan blessing of the trees is said to ensure a good crop of cider apples for the following year's harvest. The best or oldest tree in the orchard is chosen as a guardian to represent them all and pieces of toast soaked in cider are placed in the tree and cider is poured around the base of it. Shotguns are fired into the top most branches and buckets are beaten, the aim being to scare away evil spirits and wake the sleeping trees as some people believe that if the trees aren't wassailed, there will be no harvest. Whilst a number of ciders were on offer, including The Fleece's own "Ark", for the large numbers of people that attended a real treat for some was the *Batham's Bitter* which was available in the main bar.

Situated in the heart of the famous Vale of Evesham...



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www.roundofgras.co.uk



CARVERY SPECIAL

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Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday lunch and Wednesday evening

Sunday £7.50

12.00pm - 8.00pm

Evesham

The Vauxhall Inn is now closed and has apparently sold to the owner of a local garage.

The Evesham Rugby Football Club will be holding their first ever **Beer Festival on Saturday 9th March**, and will hopefully be an annual event. This event will be an all day/night with food available along with music and entertainment on two music stages with a beer tent. The 1st and 3rds are playing at home this weekend so hopefully it will be busy and another great event at Evesham RFC!!!

At **The Northwick Hotel** on the Waterside, the floods of November 2012 forced closure for two months. It reopened early February and Flacons Bar has been renamed Jacksons Bar. Bar manager Tony has *London Pride* always on hand pump with a second pump serving

a changing ale such as Sharp's *Doom Bar*. Tony was pleased to point out the fine flagstone floor which has replaced the carpet and will be easier to sweep clean after the next flood! If we get a half decent summer this year Jacksons Bar may open all day. **The Northwick** is one of the few places with accommodation in Evesham which also serves real ale. Round the corner into Port Street is the **Angel Vaults** where landlord of 21 years standing Alan Booth is retiring in April. His pub escaped the recent floods but in 2007 water deluged his bar right up to the beams of the ceiling. When Alan came in April 1992 the pub was owned by Whitbread. He will be leaving 21 years later to the day and saying farewell to his Punch Taverns lease. We wish Alan, also one time Mayor of Evesham, the very best for his retirement. Fifty yards up Port Street is **The Bear** which has been keg only for some years.

But at Christmas 2012 real ale arrived and on a recent visit two hand pumps were found to be serving the excellent Uley *Pig's Ear* and Sharp's *Doom Bar*. Graham, the new owner, also has the GBB listed **Round of Gras** and **The Wheatsheaf** which are both in Badsey. It is refreshing to find a new outlet for real ale.

Childswickham

The restaurant dining pub **Childswickham Inn** is open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week, but you are always welcome if you just want a pint. Two cask beers are usually available on hand pump and a recent visit revealed the popular Wells *Bombardier* and Hop Back *Crop Circle*. Hosts Carol & Kevin who are Cask-Marque accredited have now taken over the reins also at the **Fish & Anchor** near Offenham. We wish them well with their new venture.

CAMRA Warwickshire County Pub of the Year 2012

- ✿ Fantastic extensive menu available lunchtimes and evening featuring locally sourced homemade cooking in a friendly and traditional Cotswold country pub
- ✿ Every Tuesday, fish and chip night (cod, haddock plus an ever changing special)
- ✿ Every Sunday we offer a traditional carvery with at least two roasts
- ✿ Fantastic music events throughout the summer (see website)
- ✿ Space behind pub for five caravans, electric hook-up, toilets and showers available all year.
- ✿ Up to six real ales available including our own beer brewed on the premises plus real cider and perry.
- ✿ We can cater for private functions for up to 60 people

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See website for more information www.thenormanknight.co.uk



Pub News...

Broadway

At **The Crown and Trumpet** they will be putting back on their "*Morris a Leaping*" produced by Alex at Stanway Brewery in their Spring beer range. Here is a picture of the pub in the 1950s which came to light. We wonder which beers were on sale then!



North Littleton

At **The Ivy** new landlord Ian Coldrick arrived in December after running the **Horseshoes** in Tilstock (Shropshire). On a recent visit Wickwar *BOB* was found to be the regular beer and the changing alternative was the excellent Salopian *Shropshire Gold*. The Ivy is open every day and all day Fri-Sun. An open fire will

warm you in winter but you may have to share the hearthrug with soppy red setter Jasper.

Offenham

Rob & Sue have been hosts at the **Bridge Inn** for some six years and were surprised to see their pub referred to as "The Boat" in the last issue of Shakesbeer (humble apologies as this came from references prior to 2007 when the pub was known locally as the "Boat" - Ed.). Their own label *Bridge Inn Bitter* is brewed by Wye Valley and was in excellent condition on a recent visit as was the changing alternative *Brains Bread of Heaven*. Meals are served lunchtime and evenings every day but on winter Mondays the pub does not open until 4pm. Roll on spring and summer when we can again sit in the garden and watch the River Avon keep rolling along.

Armscote

Sad news from the **Fox & Goose** which closed its doors suddenly at the end of January. As Shakesbeer went to press there was no news of its future.

Cherington

Good news at the **Cherington Arms** which closed before Christmas. New relief managers Richard & Rachel arrived at this Hooky pub by early February and this popular watering hole is busy once more. Rachel cooks delicious food (try the Fish Pie) available lunchtime and evenings daily whilst Richard serves the beers, usually 2 from the Hooky range plus a guest. The pub is closed Sunday evening and all day Monday. A real fire will warm you in winter and there is ample parking.

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The Coach & Horses
Harvington WR11 8NJ
Tel: **01386 870249**

Real Ale
Greene King
IPA and two
changing
guest beers

Shipston-on-Stour

As Shakesbeer went to press, we understand that Punch Taverns have agreed the sale of the **White Bear Hotel** to Donnington Brewery of Stow on the Wold, with completion expected on Wednesday March 6th. More familiar to our North Cotswold colleagues, Donnington's have 15 tied

houses in Cotswold towns and villages including the **Red Lion** at Little Compton in 'Shakesbeer' territory. The traditional brewery in Upper Swell still produces its beers by much the same recipe that has been used for 150 years. The liquor is drawn from a natural spring beside the mill pond and used as the main ingredient along with barley, malt and hops. Until the mid 1960s, the barley was grown on the local estate, but today it's brought as malt from Norfolk. The hops are from Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The original mill is still used in the brewing process and the mill wheel drives some of the machinery used by the brewery. Donnington beers you can

expect to find in the **White Bear** are 'BB' (abv 3.6% - a pleasant amber bitter with a slight hop aroma, a good balance of malt and hops in the mouth, and a bitter aftertaste), and 'SBA' (abv 4.4% - premium bitter with malt dominating over bitterness, a hint of fruit and a dry, malty finish). In recent months, the **White Bear** has had weekly changing guest ales on three hand pumps, alongside the ubiquitous *London Pride* and *Doombar*, and two real ciders. As we went to print, no-one from Donnington Brewery was available to confirm that this excellent range of guest ales would continue.



- Helen (Nellie) Burns pulls the first pint of Donnington BB

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Pub News...

Rose and Crown - Ratley

Villagers begin bid to save historic pub

Residents of Ratley village met in January in a bid to save an historic community pub. Villagers gathered at the village hall to discuss the future of the Rose and Crown pub (pictured) which dates back to the 11th Century, but could close at the end of February if a new owner committed to running it as a pub is not found.

Owner Gary Summers said he needs to sell the building at the end of February when the current lease expires. Mr Summers said if he cannot find a suitable buyer, he may be forced to seek planning permission to change the use of the building. "My intention would be to sell the pub but I will support the villagers in every which way possible to sell the property as a pub," he said. "If that fails, I will be left with little option but to consider closing the pub and converting it." Many villagers say the pub is an essential village amenity.

Kevin Zwolinski who lives in the nearby village of Edge Hill, said: "This pub is well supported. No-one is going to make a million pounds on it but for the size of the pub it does fine. There's an informal Friday night club and a Saturday

night club and a core group of regulars who go in on Wednesday nights for a beer.

"A Church in the Pub service takes place monthly and the pub forms an integral part of village events throughout the year including a hockeyfest on New Year's Day, the village fete and as a regular venue for the local business community." He added: "On a weekly basis the league-winning darts team provides regular business as do the quiz nights and in fair weather, Aunt Sally. It's also a popular meeting place for walkers exploring the beautiful local countryside."

Mr Zwolinski said he fully understands Mr Summer's position but hopes that by meeting together villagers will be able to help him find a way to keep the pub trading. "He's got to try

to get what he can out of it," said Mr Zwolinski. "But the impending loss of the pub as an essential local amenity will have a negative impact on Ratley, which is very frustrating because it is well supported locally. A new owner is needed who actually wants to run the pub. A great opportunity lies ahead for an entrepreneur who would be assured of local support," he said. "Residents have said wholeheartedly they think the pub is an essential facility," said Mr Zwolinski. "Step one is to get a common message out there and then we need to gather ideas and figure out what you can do to pre-empt change of use and start to build a plan. It would be a dream for the pub to be run as a community asset."

Banbury Guardian / Published on
Thursday 24 January 2013



— THE LORD — NELSON

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Cask Marque

The Cask Marque scheme is operated by an independent body called the Cask Marque Trust which is a limited, non-profit making organisation. The members of which pay a subscription and include representatives from brewers, retailers, trade bodies and consumer groups.

Pubs that join the scheme are visited unannounced by an independent assessor twice a year. In the first year they are visited twice in the first three months and in subsequent years they are visited once in the summer and once in the winter. The assessor checks all cask ales on sale for - temperature, appearance, aroma and taste.

If all beers reach the required standard then the pub passes and it receives a plaque, framed certificate and merchandising material to inform its customers of the award and their rights.

Consumers are encouraged to comment independently on the quality of cask ale in the pub to the Cask Marque organisation and further visits are made if required.

The current Cask Marque pubs in our branch area:



BROADWAY

The Crown and Trumpet Inn, Church Street
The Swan, The Green

CHILDSWICKHAM

The Childswickham Inn, Broadway Road

EVESHAM

Strawberry Field, Charity Crescent
Ye Olde Red Horse, Vine Street
Trumpet Inn, Merstow Green
Olde Swan Inn, High Street

HARVINGTON

The Coach and Horses, Station Road

HONEYBOURNE

The Thatch Tavern, High Street

SEDEBERROW

Queen's Head, Main Street

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

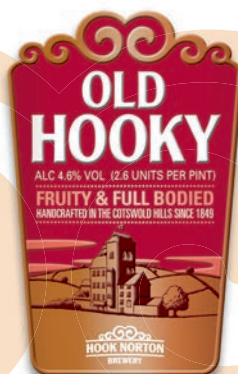
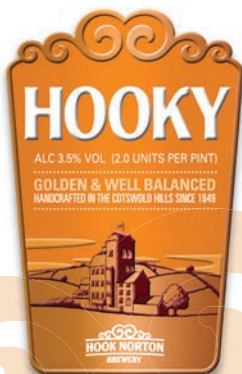
Dirty Duck, Waterside
Encore, Bridge Street
Garrick Inn, High Street
Golden Bee, Sheep Street
Old Tramway Inn, Shipston Rd
Pen & Parchment, Bridgefoot
Rose & Crown, Sheep Street
New Bulls Head (prev. West End), Bull Street
White Swan Hotel, Rother Street

BIDFORD-ON-AVON

The Bulls Head, High Street

LONG MARSTON

Masons Arms, Welford Road



Have you heard the Lion roar?

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*5p donation only applies to 'The Few'

A day in the life of a Parliamentary Lobbyist

What an interesting day we had lobbying Parliament on 12 December 2012! Was it a trip to London with a few placards and a lot of boozing in interesting London pubs? Well, no it wasn't like that at all!

It was organised on a big scale. The plan was to lobby as many of the 650 MPs in Parliament as possible and to get their support in ending the crippling beer duty escalator, which was introduced by Chancellor Alistair Darling of the Labour Government in 2008 and which adds inflation plus 2% to the beer duty every year. As a result, the tax has gone up by 42% in 5 years and now over a third of the cost of a pint of beer goes in tax! Well, we can't be having that any longer, can we! Triggered by a 100,000 e-petition on 1 Nov 2012 there was a very successful debate in Parliament in which the overwhelming majority of MPs who spoke deplored the escalator saying that it:-

- has made a major contribution to pub closures, with a resultant large loss of jobs;
- has led to irresponsible drinking, by encouraging the purchase of cheap booze from supermarkets, rather than responsible drinking in pubs; and
- has not even led to an increase in tax revenue to the Treasury, as there has been a 30% collapse in the volume of beer sold in pubs.

While the debate achieved its aim, essentially the motion had no teeth and therefore it was decided to keep up the pressure, by following it up with the massed lobby of Parliament.

For me the day started with a 7am alarm, far earlier than my normal waking-up time! It was only when I was nearly ready to leave that I realised that my iPhone hadn't charged

- I had plugged it in but I hadn't switched on the plug! Oh b*gg*r! I wouldn't be able to find my way round Westminster using GPS, I wouldn't know the time of day (as I don't have a watch) and, potentially most importantly, I wouldn't be able to ring the mobile numbers of anyone or be contacted myself in an emergency.

It was a cold, frosty and foggy day. But I conquered my first thought of feigning a cold and at 7.45am I marched down to the pick-up point in Alcester a few minutes

The length of the queue was a testament to the number of members lobbying. It took us over 45 minutes to get past the airport-like security searches....

early. I shivered while I waited! The coach eventually arrived at 8.30, 35 mins late, just as I was thinking of going home and back to bed. They said that it was foggy! Well, yes, it was!

I was introduced to the other CAMRA members from Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. We then picked up Ted Williams from Evesham (the other Shakespeare CAMRA member on the trip) and started on a "pretty country route" to London, it no doubt being the shortest route devised by a satnav. During the 3.5 hour journey I was very much looking forward to



a pint of beer!

At last at about 12noon we checked into the Emmanuel Centre reception provided by CAMRA only half a mile from Parliament. It was crowded and I very impressed with the number of members attending. The organisation by CAMRA was very impressive too. We were given a CAMRA badge, a prompt card ready for our discussions with our MPs and a map of the local pubs. The map gave me some hope that I would get a drink at some point!

However, rather than finding a decent pub, we were immediately shepherded to Parliament. Alas, no pint of beer, at least, not yet!

As we queued to get in I but I was impressed by the statue of Oliver Cromwell, who had spoken of the "cruel necessity" of executing King Charles I on 30 Jan 1649. The length of the queue was a testament to the number of members lobbying. It took us over 45 minutes to get past the airport-like security searches.

The policeman outside the doors who was handing out visitors passes looked bored.

...continued over

A day in the life of a **Parliamentary**

When asked, he said that he was cold and was looking forward to being relieved at 1pm! I was looking forward to getting out of the cold too! Eventually, at 12.45pm we were in the mother of parliaments and I hadn't even got near having a pint of beer yet!

The first room we entered was the magnificent Westminster Hall, which had been the venue of parliament itself in 1648. And a children's choir of carol singers with piano accompaniment were entertaining us. Very nice. During a break I was very tempted to sing a song to test out the acoustics. A verse of the Boar's Head Carol would have been a good choice: half of it is in Latin, it can be traced back to Queen's College Oxford in 1521 and it celebrates a royal feast! But no, but I thought the better of it! (Damn! When will I get another chance?)

I had drifted apart from all my travelling companions by then, so I was shown into the Central Lobby, where the MPs come to meet their constituents. It was crowded with CAMRA members waiting to see their MPs. More bureaucracy! We all needed to queue up again to register our interest in seeing our MP and, if like me you hadn't pre-arranged an appointment, you had to fill in a green form, which was used to set up an appointment. On it I said that I would be available until 2.30pm. That was a mistake... I grabbed a quick sandwich and a bottle of water in the packed café near the entrance but no pint of beer! Then at 1.00pm I went back into the Central Lobby to wait for my MP.

I wasn't thinking that it would be difficult to persuade Nadhim Zahawi, the MP for Stratford-on-Avon, to support our cause, as I have met & chatted to him on several occasions. He was also an honoured guest at the Stratford-upon-Avon Beer & Cider Festival 2010!

Prior to the Lobby I had sent him an email but I'd only had a holding reply by that time. So I waited patiently in the Central

Lobby. Then I waited a bit longer and a bit longer than that! I spoke to some interesting CAMRA members from as far apart as Gateshead, Southampton, Leicester, Shropshire, Liverpool and even Ayrshire in Scotland. And still no pint of beer!

I was then reduced to speaking to the Policeman on duty, who had an alarming sub-machine gun neatly tucked under his arm! But he looked as bored as I was! Interestingly, he pointed out the fault on the tiled floor which was over 150 years old. The photo shows clearly that one of the four little crosses is on the diagonal. Over the whole floor that happens exactly twice. How interesting was that! But how



is it that such an error occurred and why only twice? He was mystified and so was I! By the time 2.30pm came without me seeing my MP I was getting

very thirsty! But I gave him an extra 5 mins, without success.

Free at last to go to the nearest pub and have a pint! I went to **St Steven's Tavern** on Westminster Bridge Street only a few yards away, where several CAMRA members who had seen their MPs earlier were quenching their thirsts on the selection of four Hall & Woodhouse Ales on offer. I had an ok pint of *Sussex Bitter* which at 3.6% hardly touched the sides!

It was so close that it had the Parliament Channel on its TV screen and the Division Bell sounded when it was time to vote. Just to prove that it was close, I took the picture of Big Ben through the window. You may not know that the Big Ben tower was recently re-named the Elizabeth Tower in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. But I bet that it'll still be called Big Ben, even though that's actually its largest bell and not the tower itself.



Then I walked to **The Speaker** which is the nearest G&B pub to Parliament, by which time my precious phone battery had given up the ghost, so no pictures. I was pleased to be able to sample a pint of Nethergate Umbel *Magna Porter*, a tasty 5.0% and made to a 1750 recipe which includes coriander. Several other beers were on offer too but, just as I was about to investigate them the CAMRA members started to leave. Finding out that it was just gone 4.00pm I had to get back to the Emmanuel Centre for the speeches. On my way in I was handed a reasonable pint of *Hobgoblin* from a polypin. My third pint of the day. I just managed to squeeze into a packed hall, looking out for my travelling companions without success.



The speeches were cracking and were from MPs of all parties. It was certainly an effective bit of rabble rousing! So were we the rabble?

It seemed to be going on a bit so I asked the time. Horror of horrors, it was 5.05pm and my coach was supposed to leave at 5.00pm. I rushed out. Where did they say it was picking us up? Oh yes, it was the Horseferry Road Car Park. Feverishly, I asked several CAMRA stewards and locals where the car park was but nobody knew! So I ran up and down the road, at one point tripping over a paving slab. Ouch! My knee hurt!

Finally, at 5.20pm I heard Angela Lea from Kidderminster CAMRA calling me from over the street. She had been desperately searching for me. Brilliant! So I didn't have to thumb a lift home! It turned out that there wasn't an actual car park in Horseferry

Street but a large lay-by where coaches often pull up.

After getting caught in the middle of the rush hour traffic, we finally got back to Alcester at 9.30pm and everyone was weary. So the planned break for the coach journey for pint of good ale in one of Alcester's three GBG pubs didn't happen. Instead, the coach left and I joined the annual CAMRA pub crawl of the town.

Phew! I could then relax! I had beautiful pints of Wye Valley HPA in the **Turk's Head** and Hobsons *Town Crier* the **Holly Bush**. I didn't have time to taste the delights of the ales in the **Three Tuns**.

Eventually, I did get an email response from Nadhim Zahawi MP, who was diplomatically supportive, while at the same time showing concern for the potential loss of tax income to the Exchequer. I could have predicted that

response!

Having said that, the massed lobby day was a great success. Over 1,200 CAMRA members attended the lobby. Over 400 of the 650 MPs were lobbied, which was an amazing achievement. And the lobby resulted in much good publicity which has continued to put pressure on the Government to abolish the beer tax escalator. We will see whether George Osborne does so in his Budget on 20 March 2013!

Meanwhile, I learnt a couple of lessons: always make sure that your iPhone is fully charged, even taking a mobile battery re-charger with you on important occasions, and don't expect to get plenty of ale at CAMRA events!

Alan Whitbread
Ale Taster / Alcester Court Leet

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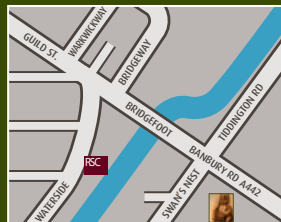


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The Hunt for Britain's Best Winter Beer

By Nik Antona, CAMRA National Director

To say it is no easy feat being crowned the best winter beer in Britain would be a bit of an understatement. At the turn of the 21st century traditional winter beer styles such as Old Ales and darker Milds were under threat, with many historic recipes overlooked in the face of dwindling consumer demand.

Fast forward a decade, and with the nation boasting over 1,000 breweries regularly producing way in excess of 5,500 different real ales, a renaissance has occurred in recent years, and particularly in the field of outstanding dark, malty, rich and roasted beers for those colder months of the year. British beer drinkers are faced with more variety and choice than ever. Such huge variety means that it has never been a more difficult time to judge the Supreme Champion Beer of Britain. While only a select number of real ales make it to the Finals in Manchester – falling into the categories of Old Ales/Strong Milds, Porters, Stouts and Barley Wines – in reality the competition itself begins at grass roots level right across Britain soon after the previous year's Finals have taken place.

With its vast local branch structure, CAMRA relies on its members to put forward branch and tasting panel nominations for the finest winter beers produced by brewers in their area. Following wider success in area competitions, beers then make it through to the Finals held annually at this festival, with a judging panel usually consisting of brewers, publicans, drinks writers, and CAMRA members deciding upon the overall winners.

The final judging for this year's competition took place on the opening day of CAMRA's National Winter Ales Festival held at the Sheridan Suite, Manchester which offered a selection of over 300 beers, real ales in a bottle, ciders and perries.



“ British beer drinkers are faced with more variety and choice than ever... ”

Champion Winter Beer of Britain 2013

Overall Winners

Gold: Elland 1872 Porter / **Silver:** Bartrams *Comrade Bill's E.A.I.S.S.* / **Bronze:** Kelburn Dark Moor

National Category Winners

Old Ales & Strong Milds

Gold: Kelburn Dark Moor / **Silver:** Jennings *Sneek Lifter* / **Bronze:** Purple Moose *Dark Side Of The Moose*

Stouts

Gold: Bartrams *Comrade Bill's E.A.I.S.S.* / **Silver:** Marble *Stouter Stout* / **Bronze:** Hop Back *Entire Stout*

Porters

Gold: Elland 1872 Porter / **Silver:** Blythe *Johnsons* / **Bronze:** Derby Penny's Porter

Barley Wines and Strong Old Ales

Gold: Hogs Back *A Over T* / **Silver:** Heart Of Wales *High As A Kite* / **Bronze:** Kinver *Over The Edge*

The overall winning beer is described in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2013 as a creamy, full flavoured porter, with rich liquorice flavours and more than hint of hint of chocolate. At 6.5% it is brewed by Elland brewery in West Yorkshire who first scooped the country's top winter beer award in 2010.

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We are **opening on the 2nd March 2013 from 12pm. Free drink** on arrival from 2.30pm and the Official opening at 3pm by the Mayor of Stratford. From 3.30pm onwards there is a **free buffet** for all. Rounding the evening off with a **disco from 8.30pm. ALL WELCOME!**

About us and our aim...

We welcome everyone and have reserved the bar area for drinkers with the other rooms being used for diners. Our food offering is of old fashioned, homecooked hearty pub grub type. **Favourites such as steak and guinness pie, scampi and chips and the like at affordable prices with main courses starting at £4.95.** Traditional pub games teams are encouraged - dominoes, cribbage and pretty much any other games we are asked for. With a beautiful roaring fire in the main bar and a log burner in the dining area The Armories Arms is a warm and welcoming place to spend time and relax.

Dean Stacey - about me...

Stratford-upon-Avon born and bred. Studied Catering at Stratford College and have worked in the industry around the Cotswolds specialising in small privately owned pubs and hotels.

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A Jolly Good Day Out!

The “Jolly Good Day Out” was on Wednesday 2 January and had been arranged by the Alcester Court Leet and Alcester Town Council as a big thank you to the Reverend Canon David Capron on his retirement and for the contribution he has made to the town over the 22 years of him being Rector of St Nicholas’s Church.

Well, it was well known that David is a bit of a train buff and that he likes his ale. [See the article in the Winter 2011 Shakesbeer, which celebrated the fact that he was the founder of our branch of CAMRA in 1981!] So, what better than a trip on the Severn Valley Steam Railway, along with the opportunity to do a bit of a pub crawl of mostly GBG pubs? Brilliant!

Having left Alcester on a coach at 9.00am we arrived at Kidderminster in time to catch the 10.20am steam train to Bridgnorth via Highley. What had been a closely guarded secret was that the engine had been renamed “The Fiery Canon” for the day (the title of David Capron’s autobiography) and that David himself was to drive the engine for the first part of our trip. What a treat! We didn’t get lost either – well done David!

At the Railway Museum at Highley we saw Engine Gordon which was built in the Second World War and was named after General Gordon of Khartoum, who was killed in action in Africa in 1878. The engine itself looks a bit like Gordon the friend of Thomas the Tank Engine, being blue and not always well behaved! In addition, there was the less-romantically-named Engine 48773 Stanier 8F which was also built in the Second World War and which was used to supply the Trans-Iranian Railway & work in the Suez Canal Zone of Egypt. Oooh! Now, there’s history for you!

The Ship Inn on the banks of the Severn had a good selection of Hobsons *Town Crier*, Marstons *Pedigree & EPA*, Banks *Mild* and a tasty pint of Brakspear’s *Oxford Gold*. Why is it called The Ship rather than the



Boat, I asked? Neither of the bar staff knew. However, I did manage to find out that The Ship was built in 1770 for a local bargeman. So perhaps he used to serve on the tall ships and still had a hankering for the sea? Incidentally, did you know that 1770 was



the year that James Hargreaves obtained a patent for the spinning jenny and that year the Spanish invaded our Falklands Islands colony (only to retreat from it in 1771). Arriving at Bridgnorth at lunchtime we went straight into **The Railwayman’s Arms** at Bridgnorth Station, which is in the GBG and which has been licensed since 1861. For the

...continued over



historians amongst you, that was the year Prince Albert died, with Queen Victoria remaining on the throne for another 40 years!

Unfortunately, The Railwayman's Arms' usual iconic Bathams *Bitter* was missing as they were awaiting a delivery but there were still 8 ales to choose from, as well as a cider and a perry. I tasted the *Town Crier*, one of their very popular range of Hobsons beers. It was straw-coloured and fairly hoppy - "just my cup of tea" - well, pint of ale! This was another surprise for David Capron, as he took part in the ancient ceremony of "Ale Tasting", which was used to ensure that the ale was of adequate quality for the townspeople of Alcester. Along with Pete Neale the other Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster, we decided that the quality of ale served in The Railwayman's Arms was "wholesome, good and fit for the people of Alcester"!

The assembled party then split up to sample the delights of Bridgnorth. Frank



Maher and I chose to walk towards the town and went into **The White Lion**, another GBG pub with its own Hop & Stagger Brewery, which first brewed on 12 January 2012. We had some Porter with loads of taste. They also had on Hop & Stagger *Golden Wander*, *Winter Wander* & *High Town Ale*, as well as some *Ludlow Gold* & *Castle Rock Snow White*. A great pub and a brewery I shall look out for in the free houses!

We had time left, so we walked further into town to **The Kings Head**, another GBG pub with its wide range of Hobsons, Wye Valley and guest ales. It's a 16c coaching

inn with timber beams, flagstone floors, an open fire and loads of character. Just my idea of a great pub. They also had Hobsons *Town Crier* & *Twisted Spire*, as well St Austell's *Tribute*. What a great selection! We tasted some excellent quality Salopian *Hop Twister* & *Enville Ale*.

Rushing back to the train – just in time(!) – we got back in Alcester at just before 6.00pm for a reception at the Town Hall with a few speeches of thanks to David. It certainly was a jolly good day out! On retirement it is usual for Church of England clergy to move away from their parish. So is that the last we will see of the founder of the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA? Happily no! He is moving to Shotton. So I've no doubt that we will have a chance to share a pint with him at some of our future CAMRA meetings. So please lift your glasses: here's long life and good health to the Fiery Canon!

Alan Whitbread

Ale Taster / Alcester Court Leet



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Check out the website for forthcoming events

Brewery News...

The Builders are in at Purity!

Purity brewery, which is based at Great Alne in Warwickshire, have been very excited to report that the builders are in and that work has begun on their brand new brew house, which will be capable of producing three times as much beer.

Paul Halsey, the MD, explained that: "Since launching Purity in 2005 the business has grown each year. By 2010 the brewery was fast approaching capacity, so we investigated options for future expansion. Working closely with our landlord, farmer Granville Stevens, we developed plans to renovate disused barns on the farm. At £1.4-million the project is a significant investment for us. We've been working with local companies Sheldon Bosley and SA Mogg Ltd on the design, manufacture and renovation of the disused barns."

Building work is due for completion in March. The facility will then be fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, capable of producing a wide range of styles of beer. Designed and manufactured in Germany by specialists BrauKon, the kit will be shipped in a modular format and installed in a matter of weeks, ready for testing. Klaus Rauchenecker of BrauKon comments: "The new facility will provide the highest standards of beer quality and consistency. It has been designed to deliver energy savings and reduce waste in line with Purity's

environmental values."

The brewing team are eagerly awaiting the delivery. Director of Brewing, Flo, adds: "We will start the switch over by simultaneously brewing in both old and new facilities to achieve continuity in beer quality. We hope to be brewing solely in the new brew house by the middle of the year and plan to expand the team accordingly. Once up and running we will be experimenting with new brews. Keep your eyes peeled for a new addition to the range by the end of the year."

In the case of many branch members this would include the wish to see a dark beer which would ideally complement the existing range of beers offered by Purity?



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Brewery News...

Wye Valley



Wye Valley brewery has announced that for 2013, they are introducing 12 special ales under the banner of "Dorothy's Heroes" that will each be available for just one month during the year. The Dorothy theme is stated to be based upon the legendary daughter of a local hop grower, Dorothy Goodbody, and you may well already be familiar with her ever-popular *Wholesome Stout*, *Country Ale* and *Golden Ale*. Dorothy Goodbody's *Blissful Brown Ale* makes an appearance in cask this year in February having proved so popular in bottles; keep an eye out in your local if there is any left. The March offering is "*Springtime Ale*" described as being "hoppy, irresistibly moreish and simply bursting with fresh flavours."



Hook Norton



Hook Norton brewery have recently announced a new beer to the regular offerings called "*Lion*" which is brewed using four English hops and four different malts. At 4% Roger Protz, Editor of The Good Beer Guide, describes it as "A perfectly balanced bronze beer, full of fruit flavours and aromas. Complex yet refreshing, Lion has a long, bittersweet finish." Also good news as The Managing Director, James Clarke, has achieved The IBD Beer Sommelier Accreditation.

Cannon Royall



Cannon Royall Brewery have acquired new premises the Legion, Salwarpe Road, Droitwich which despite the name operates as a pub not a club and has five of their own real ales on at any time. They have also acquired new premises in Bidford - see pub news for more details.



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Evesham Brewery



Evesham Brewery is located in the former Green Dragon pub. Beer is produced on demand from the brewery's own pub (Bar 24 in Evesham) and other pubs supplied, currently the **Wheatsheaf** and **Round of Gras** at Badsey, and the **Swan** in Port Street, Evesham which have it sometimes. One to try out when in the area!

Birds Brewery



Birds Brewery in Droitwich has finally opened a brewery shop after what seemed to be a series of unending legal and procedural hold ups. They are currently open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday and they have on offer a wide range of their bottled beers, both bottle conditioned and bright, as well as 5 litre (approx 8½ pints) minikegs. In addition they are stocking a range of locally produced food and drink and they are also able to supply a full range of Bird's own ales in 36 pint 'pins' and 72 pint 'firkins' to order.

North Cotswolds Brewery



The brewery is continuing to flourish after the success of its brews at the end of 2012. The previous head brewer, Jon Pilling, has left the company but the brewery has brought in a consultant brewer to ensure that there is no impact on trade. The brewery will be recruiting a new head brewer to help take the business forward.

Patriot Brewery

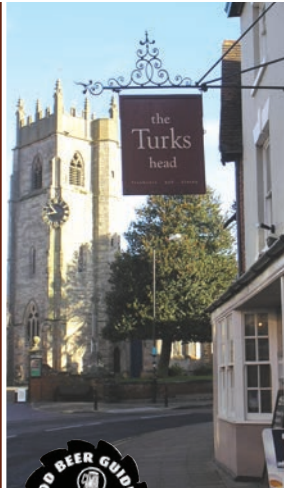


Now brewing twice a week with a dozen outlets from Woodstock to Solihull, plus one pub in Somerset with an output around 50 firkins a week. Patriot's first go at a mild, (*Patriot Mild*) a dark mild based on a pre WW1 recipe at 3.3%, went down very well so it will become a regular brew.

The Turks Head

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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. There are currently 125 CAMRA branches participating in the LocAle scheme which have accredited hundreds of pubs as LocAle pubs which regularly sell at least one locally-brewed real ale.

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/>

- **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

Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival

Whilst the National Winter Ales Festival in Manchester is CAMRA's national festival, only one week later there is a winter ales festival much closer to home which more than deserves its own accolades. Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival is held in February each year and always offers an interesting choice of over 70 winter beers, predominantly porters, stouts and strong bitters.

An email invite went out to all Shakespeare branch members and once again, thanks to Sue Fraser, we were able to organise a mini bus to the Thursday night members only session.

The beers were in excellent condition and varied between a 3.8% offering from Stewart brewery (Edinburgh) called Zymic to a very fruity tasting *Imperial Stout* from Dark Star brewery in Sussex which at 10.5% deserved to be treated with caution. Other favourites on the evening turned out to be Beowulf *Blizzard* 5.0%, Bristol Beer Factory *Milk Stout* 4.1% and Arbor *Galaxian Dark* 5.0%.

Our appreciation and thanks go to Tewkesbury branch for hosting such a wonderful festival and you never know but we might see you there in the future – keep an eye open next January for the details.





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Beer Scoring Revamp

CAMRA's **National Beer Scoring System (NBSS)** has been re-launched to make it easier for members to rate beers and the pubs they drink in. Members have been encouraged to contribute scores for beers they have sampled to help branches choose the best pubs in each area for the Good Beer Guide.

The beerscoring.org.uk website has now been re-launched with a new interface to make finding pubs and entering scores easier. You can also enter via the WhatPub.com site. The new system links pubs with Branches, which makes it easier to download local scores as part of the GBG selection process. The project to ensure all pubs in the country are uploaded to WhatPub.com and beerscoring.org.uk is on-going and national director Brett Laniosh said it was

essential branches continued to provide details. He said: "Every pub in the GBG should sell great beer all the time. The view of more than 100,000 people is the key to that consistency and the National Beer Scoring Scheme is the tool to make that job as easy as possible. If you drink real ale in a pub, and have ever thought about why it is or indeed why it isn't in the GBG, then by scoring it you can make a difference. "I'd like to thank branches for the effort

“...every pub in the GBG should sell great beer all the time...”

they have been putting in doing this and I would urge all members to contact their local branch and help keep the pub database up to date by doing some pub surveying!

"The key message is that once we have all (or most!) UK pubs uploaded, finding a pub will be much easier."

Article by Tim Hampson in the January 2013 edition of What's Brewing

THE CROWN AND TRUMPET INN

CHURCH STREET - BROADWAY - WORCESTERSHIRE - WR12 7AE



Situated just behind the village green of Broadway a traditional 17th century Cotswold Inn. We have four seasonally brewed beers from the local Stanway Brewery. Including a selection of other guest local ales.

Just off the Cotswolds Way providing accommodation for weekend and midweek breaks with monthly Thursday **Jazz and Blues** Evenings.

Serving Lunch and Dinners all through the week using locally produced ingredients to make seasonally cooked home made dishes



Shakespeare's CAMRA Pub of the year 2012

For Spring 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, Champion Bitters (up to 4.0%) Amber session beer with spicy citrus aroma. Good body for low ABV.
<http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk>



Stanway Brewery
Morris-A-Leaping - 4.0%
An amber beer with a fine balance of malt and hops. Named after the numerous Morris Rings that like to frequent our Inn. Brewed especially for the the Crown and Trumpet.
<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/>

01386 853202 - info@cotswoldholidays.co.uk - <http://www.cotswoldholidays.co.uk>



Supermarkets Take Over?

Since the beginning of 2010, 130 pubs have been taken over by Tesco, 22 by Sainsbury's and a further 54 by grocers such as The Co-Operative, Asda and Costcutter. The future of another 45 hangs in the balance.

CAMRA has urged the government to change laws that allow pubs to be demolished or converted without the need for planning permission. We believe that the loophole is rendering communities powerless to save them. CAMRA chief executive Mike Benner said the loss of pubs to supermarket empires will become an "all-too-common sight".

He added: "Weak and misguided planning laws and the predatory acquisition of valued pub sites by large supermarket chains, coupled with the willingness of pub owners to cash in and sell for development, are some of the biggest threats to the future of Britain's social fabric. At a time when 18 pubs are closing every week, this is damaging a great British institution." Within the branch area we already have a number of pubs that are currently closed and although we are very pleased to say that we are not aware of any that are likely to be converted into small supermarkets, please keep us informed if you know otherwise.

Subscribe to Shakesbeer

If you live outside the area or are not a CAMRA member but would like to subscribe and receive copies through the post at £5 for four issues, published quarterly, then please send an e-mail request to shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk or a written request to CAMRA HQ, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW. The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten contributions for publication. Copyright © Shakespeare CAMRA 2013

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Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

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Dinner Tuesday to Thursday 7.00pm til 9.00pm

Friday and Saturday 7.00pm till 9.30pm

Shakespeare CAMRA
**Branch
Pub of the
Year 2011**
Warwickshire



Beer, Beer, Beer

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player,
Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster

www.alanwhitbread.co.uk



Charlie Mopps is the mythical inventor of beer, as described by the drinking song "Beer, Beer, Beer". His name is presumably meant to rhyme with barley and hops, two main ingredients in beer.

It is not clear where the song originated. Whilst it is thought to have originated on Royal Navy ships, it has a Music Hall ring about it. In his book "A Taste of Ale" (Green Branch Press, 2000) the folk historian, Roy Palmer, notes that the song "was once widespread in the oral tradition: for example, British soldiers in India sang it in the 1930s & 1940s".

It certainly gives a clue to its age by quoting the cost of a beer in the last verse: 8½d a pint plus 1sh 6d in tax. In post-1971 money that equates to 3½p a pint plus 7½p in tax, or a total price of some 11p. Oh how we wish that was the price of beer today! The current price is, say, £3.20 a pint, of which some £1.10 is VAT & Excise Duty. What a lot of money and what a lot of tax!

The popularity of the song has meant that it spread to numerous countries: obviously to England but also to Canada, Australia & the United States and, of course, the Irish have made it their own. There have been numerous recordings of the song since the 1950s, including versions by well-known artistes, such as the Clancy Brothers, the Pogues, the Spinners and the Dubliners.

Here (right) is one version of the lyrics:-



*A long time ago, way back in history
When all there was to drink was nothing but cups of tea
Along came a man by the name of Charlie Mopps
And he invented a wonderful drink and he made it out of hops
Hops, hops, hops, hops, hops*

Chorus...

***He might have been an Admiral, a Sultan, or a King
And to his praises we shall always sing
Look what he has done for us, he's filled us up with cheer
Lord bless Charlie Mopps,
The man who invented beer***

*Here in Chesterfield [or substitute your own locality] we drink beer
a lot.*

*Down Whittington Moor [ditto] on a Saturday night, the pace gets
rather hot.*

*We'll drink a half, or sometimes two, it's cool and fresh and clear:
God bless Charlie Mopps, the man who invented beer.
Beer, beer, beer, beer, beer*

Chorus...

*The Admiral, the Connaught, the Hole in the Wall as well
One thing you can be sure of, it's Charlie's beer they sell
So come on all me lucky lads at eleven O'clock ye stops
For five short seconds, remember Charlie Mopps
One, two, three, four, five*

Chorus...

*A bushel of malt, a barrel of hops, you stir it around with a stick,
The kind of lubrication to make your engine tick.
Forty pints of wallop a day will keep away the quacks.
It's only eight pence ha'pp'ny a pot and one and six in tax.
Shame, shame, shame, shame, shame*

Chorus...

The Lord bless Charlie Mopps!



If you want to hear (and join in with!) such traditional songs being sung try the following places:-

First Tuesday at **The Cottage of Content** at Barton (over the river from Bidford) B50 4NP, second Sunday at **The Blue Boar Inn** at Temple Grafton (near Binton) B49 6NR, fourth Sunday at **The Mary Arden Inn** at Willmote (near the Shakespeare property) CV37 9XJ and every Thursday at **The Fleece Inn** at Bretforton (a National Trust Inn) WR11 7JE (a GBG pub!).



Join CAMRA Today

Complete the Direct Debit form below and you will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12 and a fantastic discount on your membership subscription.

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

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For Young Member and concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk or call 01727 867201.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Applications will be processed within 21 days

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title _____ Surname _____
 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

01/06

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& Beer Drinkers**

**Enjoying Real Ale
& Pubs**

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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



March

13th 8:00pm Branch meeting. Meet at George Hotel, Lower Brailles, OX15 5HN, then onto Gate Inn, Upper Brailles OX15 5AX

20th 8:00pm Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. Meet at Holly Bush Alcester B49 5QX

14th -16th 34th Burton Festival, Burton Town Hall Burton Upon Trent DE14 2EB

22nd-23rd 1st CAMRA Gloucester Beer & Cider Festival, Historic Blackfriars Priory Gloucester GL1 2HN

April

4th-6th Walsall Beer Festival, Walsall Town Hall, Walsall WS1 1TP

17th 8:00pm Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. Meet at The Fleece Bretforton WR11 7JE

24th 8:00pm Annual General Meeting. Meet at Holly Bush Alcester B49 5QX

25th-27th Stourbridge Beer Festival, Town Hall, Stourbridge DY8 1YE

26th-27th Coventry Beer Festival, Coventry Rugby Football Ground, Coventry CV1 3GE

May

15th 8:00pm Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. Meet at The Fleece Bretforton WR11 7JE

22nd 7:30pm Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival flyer distribution. Meet at Golden Bee CV37 6EE then two groups will tour the town centre pubs distributing publicity material before finishing off at The Bear CV37 7LT

18th-19th North Cotswold Ale & Steam Weekend, Winchcombe Station, Gloucs GL54 5LB

June

14th-15th **STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BEER FESTIVAL**
55 beers, 25 ciders. Fri, 14 June 2013, 12:00-23:00 / Sat, 15 June 2013, 11:00-23:00 Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse CV37 9SE

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

CAMRA Branch Contacts

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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





Featured in
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(The West End, Warwickshire)



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