

Shakesbeer

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



Ettington Villagers Fight to Rescue their Local Pub

The villagers of Ettington were going to be faced with the loss of one of their favourite local pubs and recent winner of the **Shakespeare CAMRA Pub of the Season (Summer)**. So they decided to form a plan to save the pub and bring it back into the heart of the local community.

A rescue plan for The White Horse, Ettington

The White Horse in Ettington,
Warwickshire went into liquidation and closed in mid-September, but plans have been formed to save the pub if no other buyers step forward. The pub is owned by Enterprise Inns and they are now marketing the pub and searching for a new landlord. In mid-September volunteers met to discuss what could be done. Based on feedback from CAMRA and pub is the hub, the team decided that village support was essential and that a community support project may be required. It was also agreed that if another landlord were to step forward, then this project will be placed on hold as

the objective was to save our pub, and not interfere with normal market competition. An open meeting was held in early October which was attended by over 120 people — double the number that the team anticipated! A survey was handed out and an online version was posted on the village website. The results of the survey were nothing short of amazing showing that 92% of respondents stated that they wanted a "two pub village". When asked whether people thought the village should work together as a community support project, the village responded with support of 82%. The survey then looked for pledges

of funding to purchase shares at £250 each.
Support for this was staggering with 66 people pledging funds totalling £27,250.
With the survey results to guide them, the rescue team decided that they had a mandate from the village to





progress the plan, and that they would now approach Enterprise Inns. By mid November Enterprise had not received any firm offers for the pub, so meetings were planned for late November to develop plans with the community based project.

Contact:

whitehorserescueteam@gmail.com

Source: Steve Moon

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North Cotswold BREWERY











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

Pub News

Moreton Morrell

In October Shakespeare CAMRA members planned a trip over to the **Black Horse** to present a first for the area. A Long Service Award was presented to Brian Quinney in recognition of his services to Real Ale during 30 continuous years at the pub.

Congratulations to Brian.

Stratford-upon-Avon

At the **Golden Bee** a good night was had by all at the opening of their autumn beer festival. A VIP area for CAMRA

members was set aside where the challenge was set to name the mystery beer supplied. Many thanks to Tammy and the team. At the **Queens Head** they will be undergoing major restoration in mid January for a couple of weeks.

We look forward to the new look at the pub. Unfortunate news is that Enterprise Inns has put up to let the **No 7**. Lease prices were being pushed too high for landlord Martin to maintain as business proposition and new tenants were being sought during early November. However new tenants were not immediately coming forward and Martin will remain on as licensee until the final deadline in mid January.

At the **West End** the total raised for the local Special Needs charity now sits at over £1600 which is a fantastic amount over 10 months. The locals and regulars also raised £192 during Air Ambulance week and a darts competition and live music day on the 7th November raised £330 for a local Premature Baby unit. The Team also say keep watching and listening for big things in January.



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Pub News...

Stratford-upon-Avon

It was a big shock when Stratford's major music venue **Cox's Yard** closed in late October cancelling all planned concerts to be held there. The new owners, McKenzie Leisure, plan a major refurbishment and open a TLC restaurant in December. The two bar areas will remain within the building but we will wait to see what happens with interest and hoping for the retention of real ale.

At the **Yard of Ale** landlord Mark Beard will be staying on and is now regularly serving Wadworth beers such as *The Usual* at 3.6%.

Hampton Lucy

At the **Boars Head** the launch of the new *Church Farm Brewery* was a great success with a full range of their beers on. Thanks for Sue and the Team for laying on a night to remember.

Charlecote

Just over the road from the park entrance

The Charlecote Pheasant Hotel

have reinstated real ale. At the request of many hotel, restaurant guests, and after an absence of a few years, they are now serving *Warwickshire Shakespeare County* real ale as a regular.

Bearley

A warm welcome to the areas is to be offered to Darren and Rebecca Rea who have taken over the lease of the





Golden Cross. Rebecca, from large chain restaurant background, was keen to revitalise the pub, restaurant and make it into a clean, family friendly environment with a fantastic party feel every day of the week. Darren who previously trained as a chef is keen to maintain good cellermanship and at a recent visit was serving good pints of *Hooky* and *Hobgoblin*.



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QUIZ NIGHT - first Sunday of every month from 8.00pm (in aid of Air Ambulance)

Pathlow

The security shutters are now down at the **Dun Cow** so we await further developments there.

Snitterfield

The Snitterfield Arms has now undergone all the major refurbishment work and the bar area has been thoroughly refreshed into a modern style with the restaurant area now offering comfortable dining in a Parisienne Bistrot style. The development was recently covered in an article in the Gemini magazine about how the project was progressed.

Wellesbourne

Colin and Penny at the **Stags Head** have been busy with plans to implement major

renovation to the outside of the premises towards the end of the year. The outdoor garden will also be in the spotlight for a revamp with a beer festival planned there in Spring 2013.

Welford

It is with sadness we must report that **The Shakespeare** closed in early November and was the sister pub to the **White Horse** in Etttington. Enterprise Inns are currently considering it's future at the pub.

Redhill

After a short closure at the end of October **The Stag** had just opened at the time of going to press under the new management of Lesley and Tim.

Alcester

Over at **The Lord Nelson** they have stripped back the 70's to find memorabilia including stone marbles, military buttons, a Victorian umbrella, clay pipes and many acorns. Major structural works have now created a comfortable environment for all ages with cosy fires, a beautiful garden, occasional acoustic music and of course real ales and will be offering food in the new year and aim to be open by mid-December.



Pub News...

Alcester

Hats off to licensees Dave Lloyd and partner Sharon Walker as well as staff past and present at Alcester's **White Lion** as the pub was voted the South Midlands Regional Winner in the Enterprise pub group's Community Heroes Awards 2012. In addition to a very splendid certificate Dave accepted £5,000 to assist with community work, from Simon Townsend -



Chief Operating Director of Enterprise Inns at a celebration in early October.
Local CAMRA members were proud to join Mayor, Cllr Lennox Cumberbatch, John Mills, High Bailiff of Alcester Court Leet and other dignitaries at the celebration of the award, (which I'm delighted to report, included some excellent beer and a fine buffet), and applauded Dave and Sharon as they paid tribute to staff,

customers, friends and the efforts of the wider community and other pubs in the town.
Open only to
Enterprise publicans the awards recognise those who make a real difference to the communities that they serve. More than pulling great pints,



offering good food and creating a welcoming atmosphere, the awards celebrate the extra miles travelled by those who bring people together and have a real and positive impact on the community. Amongst other things, like the Pink Casino charity fundraiser, Dave's contribution included an organised pram race, now an annual event, raising money for the local football club and for restoration of the Town Hall. As well as bringing different sections of the community together the project got other pubs and clubs in the town involved and has laid the foundations for future joint community enterprises.

Well done the White Lion, we all look forward to future projects.



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Ettington

Further to the front page article we follow with interest the request by the villagers of Ettington to purchase the **White Horse**.

Newbold-on-Stour

It is with sad new we hear that the **Bird in Hand** in now closed having been sold
by Hook Norton for redevelopment.

Whatcote

A warm welcome goes to Colin & Becky Joesbury at the **Royal Oak** where they have been running the pub for a few months now. Previously the pub was a Hook Norton pub but they are now free of tie selling *Brakspear Bitter, Purity Gold*, a third guest with a fourth hand pump coming soon for mild.

Cherington

The future of another Hook Norton pub the **Cherington Arms** is also unknown now the pub has been closed.

Bretforton

Over at **The Fleece** a recent article in the Telegraph newspaper reports on the fantastic building. Many aspects of the fabric, history, events held at the pub plus of course the beers are covered and make fantastic reading.

Wickhamford

Close to Evesham is the **Sandy's Arms** where the pub has been closed with plans to make it into an antique shop.

Black Horse romps home first in Shipston

It's not easy to keep a good man down — or a good pub for that matter.

Baggy Saunders, licensee of **The Black Horse**, Station Road, Shipston, insists that it's his team, particularly the young bar and cellar manager Jonathon Campbell and Bar manager Gabe Saunders who have put the pub back on the map and earned it **Shakespeare CAMRA Pub of the Season for Autumn**

2012. Baggy did the same a couple of years ago at his other

pub, **The Horseshoe**, Shipston, and, despite his protestations must take credit for his love of 'proper pubs' and real ale allowing the pub to develop and his team to do their stuff. A certificate celebrating the award was presented one evening in November by CAMRA's Keith Barker in a pub chock-a-block with locals and CAMRA members, (including representatives from *Purity Brewery* and *Hogans Cider*, both available on draught). Having struggled for a while **The Black Horse** was bought by Baggy, was closed and reopened as a freehouse, having been carefully restored, in January 2012. The 16th century, Grade II listed property now boasts two welcoming bars with open fires and classic décor which reflects it's heritage.

Always lots going on, three well kept beers, (with a discount for CAMRA members), real cider and an excellent kitchen specialising in Thai food have got the locals flooding in and prove a real attraction to visitors to the town.

Website: www.blackhorseshipston.com



Pub News...

Evesham

It's always nice to welcome a new drinking establishment to the town, especially when it brings back an old face and excellent real ale. After lodging with Worcester City for the past six years **Evesham United FC** opened it's new



ground in July this year and with it a superb clubhouse offering a great venue for club nights and entertainments. The club is fully licensed and open to the general public from about 5.00pm until 9.00pm Monday to Saturday, (obviously you'd need a ticket if there was a match on). The licensee, Morris Allan will be familiar to many having owned and run The Boat, Offenham, (The Bridge), for over twenty years and is determined to get the place buzzing. Amongst the range of keg beers, wines and spirits on offer we were delighted to see a couple of handpulls one of which was offering a very well kept Thwaits, Wainwright. Morris hopes to get the second pump and more working when turnover increases. The clubhouse venue is available for private parties and family or corporate functions and hirers are welcome to use the club's catering facilities or their

own. For larger functions the club can also provide marquees situated adjacent to the main clubhouse. For those not aware, Evesham United is at the junction of Cheltenham Road with the end of the Evesham By-pass.

Sedgeberrow

New licensees John and Olive (plus Jess the dog) took over **The Queens Head** in October and with many years experience running some Good Beer Guide pubs in Warwickshire are ideally placed to get this neighbourhood Hook Norton pub up and running. There will be two regular Hook Norton ales - *Old Hooky* and *Mild* - as well as a guest beer. John is keen to get the pub teams back in action. Monday is ladies night for darts and cribbage, the quiz will be on Wednesdays and Thursday is darts for the gents





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ADMISSION £2

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Stratford Food Festival

Hot on the heels of organising a very successful beer festival in June, the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA found itself involved with another festival — this time the Stratford Food Festival.

Hot on the heels of organising a very successful beer festival in June, the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA found itself involved with another festival — this time the Stratford Food Festival. Taking place



over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd
September, it was an initiative from
Lauren Anderson, Marketing Officer at
CAMRA HQ, to arrange for a CAMRA stall
to appear at the festival for the first time.
The stall enabled festival-goers to find out
more about CAMRA and its aims, as well
as providing samples of beers from local
brewers North Cotswold and Purity,
and beers from slightly further afield from
Byatts, Tunnel and Hook Norton.

The sun was shining on the Saturday when the first group of local volunteers arrived at the festival to man the stand. A good turnout ensured that there was continuous interest in the stand — not just in the free samples of beer, but in finding out more about CAMRA and even signing-up for membership on the day. In typical British style, there was rain on the Sunday, but



this didn't dampen spirits and the next group of volunteers, myself included, were kept busy — not just trying to keep the rain out of the beer . . .!

The food festival was another very successful event for the Shakespeare Branch. Over 16,000 people attended the food festival over the two days and of those 46 joined CAMRA, most notably due to the efforts of Doug Robinson, Regional Membership Co-ordinator. It was really pleasing to see people who did not usually drink real ale try it for the first time and say 'Wow, this is really nice'. Hopefully, they will feel more confident in trying one of their local brews in future.

Supplied by Gwen Godfrey Branch Secretary

Old Friends - New Businesses

Once upon a time I had a friend with a dairy farm, I spoke to him earlier this year and he said he was experimenting with cask ale. After a few months of trying and tasting, (a lot of tasting I was told by his wife, Jo) he decided to diversify.

Andy and their son, Sam, were educating themselves with brewing techniques and trialling colours and tastes, as well as the technical side of getting the right percentages. We had a drink or two in the summer together and came up with the idea of trying a couple of their ales over the bar and the response was very good. A little bit of criticism and a lot of good feedback confirmed the decision to go ahead and become a brewery. Our involvement with the family as a friendship has now turned into a partnership that will hopefully be a successful and profitable business. A launch evening at the **Boars Head** was held on the 1st November serving their beers exclusively. This seems to be a time for old friends and new businesses, and a long time ago I met a man called Guy Holiday. He appeared a few weeks ago to tell me he was involved with **North Cotswold Brewery**. He has since won an award for the Championship Beer of Warwickshire with *Windrush* @ 3.6% and he is obviously very proud of that achievement. We have invited him to allow our customers to taste this award winning beer on that very special — **OLD FRIENDS, NEW BREWERIES** evening. We hope you all enjoyed the night as much as we did.

Supplied by Susan Maindonald / Boars Head

The Krad

Visit
our website to
see the menu.
Christmas
bookings being
taken.

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). Special evenings and events will be available on the website including Christmas and New Year menus, and then our popular "Sip and Sample" evening on Tuesday 5th February 2013.

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

Billy Poole 1942-2012 - RIP

Billy Poole was a real Alcester character but now he is in heaven — probably pulling short pints! He was one of those people who liked a "decent head" on his beer. So when he pulled a pint he never quite filled the glass but, begrudgingly, he would always top it up if asked!

He worked in nearly every pub in Alcester and was the ex-licensee of The Bell Inn. which closed down in the 1990s. TeeJ Deffrey, the landlady of The Holly Bush, gave his eulogy at his funeral in Coventry. She said that Billy used to tease people for a joke with his wicked, cheeky sense of humour. When she first came to Alcester some 17 years ago, "he was welcoming, lovely, condescending and downright rude - so we got on like a house on fire". He also taught her to pull her first pint. Pauline & Neil Burdette from The Three Tuns said that he worked at the Tuns for 13 years and that he always had a good phrase for his locals. Once when a regular came in with her baby he said "You can't

bring that in here" and then, when she was about to reply, he said "I was talking to the nipper!" On another occasion a local, who was looking at a fine array of six ales, said "Well I've tried the Hobsons

"Billy used to tease people for a joke with his wicked, cheeky sense of humour..."

and the Jouster, what shall I try next." His response was "Try the Royal Oak"! (That was the pub next door!) Finally, "Where's this beer come from Billy?" Response: "The cellar!"

He was for ever a Coventry City football supporter and some of his friends bought him a custom-made tie in City colours for his recently 70th birthday, with one of his catch-phrases "Are you sure?" printed on it. In 2003 he was presented with a special award for being Shakespeare CAMRA "Barperson of the Year" - the only such presentation we have ever made. It said: "He belongs behind bars". That certificate can still be seen in **The Three Tuns**. Have a look when you next go in!

Billy was a one-off. He will certainly be missed. God bless him.

Supplied by Alan Whitbread, Ale Taster, Alcester Court Leet

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

Brewery News...



Work on stage one of the brewery expansions is now complete with the second stage looking at positioning of the foundations at the end of the old brewery. Completion is expected by end of February



2013. The aim is to go to fermentation vessels with a capacity of 880 barrels plus extra for special brews. Pictured Jimmy

Swan, Head Brewer of Wye Valley
Brewery putting our 'message in a bottle'
in to the new brewhouse foundations. The
message is a poem by Steve Harris, our
poet laureate from Herefordshire
Bottling is busy at the brewery with
supermarket sales remaining lively and
now all bottled beers have the new label
designs. Limited edition bottled beer

Dorothy Goodbody's Blissful Brown Ale has now sold out but over Christmas there will be the DG Christmas Ale at 6.0% and the DG Christmas Cracker Ale at 4.7%. For those who thought that Dorothy Goodbody was a figment of the imagination look no further than the new calendar for 2013.

Production of *Kiwi* has stopped till 2013 but they introduced their first

mild (3.3%) in early November. They are now selling 5 litre mini kegs which



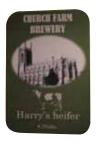
are available from the **Norman Knight** or order by phone. *Nelson* is now their fastest selling beer.



Brewery News...

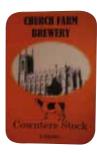


The Breweries steam engine has now commemorated 113 years since it came into service but is now only used on special occasions. Hook Norton Brewery's traditional IPA style beer, *Flagship* has won The Gold Award for its category at the Society of Independent Brewer Awards in Nottingham. They have also re-branded *Cotswold Lion* which is now to be known as "Lion".











Church Farm Brewery

November 1st saw the launch their new range of beers at the Boars Head where Sam and Ren provided a selection. The Church Farm Brewery are dairy farmers that have turned their hand to brewing. Two of their beers had already been tested at the pub and the initial response has been very good. Now they have perfected the art and tweaked and problems we are unveiling them to the locals and hopefully helping spread their name to get them on their way.



Loss of Consul - A regular at our Beer Festival

The following article has been kindly supplied by the Hook Norton Brewery:

"We mourn the loss of Consul aged 27, who sadly passed away on Saturday 29th September. Consul, pictured, had been Lead Shire Horse at Hook Norton Brewery for eighteen years and had delivered to the local pubs on no less than 1500 occasions. Consul also attended many shows, pulled Santa's slay, several wedding carriages and a funeral carriage in that time, and had been loved by all who had come in contact with him. Described as steadfast and reliable with a loving nature, Consul was seen as the leader of the Shires, who seemed to 'father' the new arrivals and often helped Roger Hughes, The Brewery's Drayman, by 'rounding up' the other horses at stable time. Consul was a horse of great character and will be sadly missed by the Brewery staff and customers alike.

Rest in Peace Consul."



Pure UBU, pronounced OO-BOO, is named after our faithful/feared canine friend UBU, protector of our secrets.

Pleasurably balanced and full in flavour, UBU 4.5% ABV is a premium and full flavoured amber beer.

A blend of four English malts combined with Northern Brewer and Cascade hops creates a complex combination of spicy and fruity flavours.



Brewery News...

It's Official - Shakespeare Breweries are the Best in Warwickshire!

Since 2006, a competition has been held to find the best beer in Warwickshire. The competition is open to all breweries located within the county and each brewery that wishes to enter is asked to provide a cask of one of their beers. The choice of beer is the brewery's, which means that the competition involves beer with a varying range of styles and gravities. How the competition is held is decided by the hosting pub — the only requirement is that the beers are displayed with just tasting notes and ABV.



For the last few years, the competition has been held at the Merchants Inn in Rugby. The Merchants, being no stranger to successful beer festivals, put on all twelve beers in the competition in their back room and asked customers to vote for the beer that they thought was the best. Steve Heighton, Pubs Officer at

Rugby CAMRA said: "We organised for the County's major real ale brewers to compete in a straight beer off. Each brewer submitted one beer and the general public visited the pub and voted for their favourite beer. We had the highest number of Warwickshire brewers ever assembled in one pub."

It was a close contest, with over 200 votes being

counted. The results were:

1st Place: North Cotswold,

Windrush

2nd Place: Purity, Gold 3rd Place: Slaughterhouse,

Starboard Porter

A fantastic result for the Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA, with both of 1st and 2nd places being awarded to breweries within our Branch area.

Guy Holiday of North Cotswold **Brewery** reported "We are thrilled to have won this prestigious CAMRA award up against such strong competition. It is testament to all our hard work in developing this range of beers. What is so pleasing is that the beer was voted for by the general public."

If you would like to know more about the North Cotswold Brewery and where you can try their award-winning beer, take a look at their website www. northcotswoldbrewerv.co.uk or contact Jon or Guy 01608 663947.

Supplied by Pete Godfrey / North Cotswold

Brewery Liaison Officer



FINE ALES FROM THE FOSSE

The brewery has had a good summer despite the weather with the new website now up and running www.northcotswoldbrewery.co.uk. They have re-started brewery tours having one day a month for tours (see website for details) and will do tours by appointment for groups of 12 or more - the shop is now open 5 days a week. There will be more "meet the brewer nights" starting with **Thomas Lloyd** in Warwick.

The big news of course is winning CAMRA "Warwickshire Beer of the Year 2012". A few new pubs that serve North Cotswold beer regularly: Warwick — **The Old** Fourpenny Shop Hotel / Vine / Anchor (Leek Wootton); Leamington — Crown (Cubbington); Cotswolds — Duck on the Pond (South Newington) / Exchange (Banbury) / Lampet Arms (Tadmarton) / Masons Arms (Carterton) / Saye & Sale (Broughton).



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Each second Wednesday of the month 8.000m -Open Acoustic Session

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

Check out the website for forthcoming events



Bear Free House & Kitchen



- Now 8 real ales
- ✓ 28 wines by the glass.
- premium draught lagers
- fabulous pub food
- 🖊 Sunday roast



Telephone: 01789 265 540 Swan's Nest, CV37 7LT 5 minutes walk from the RSC







'Tally Ho' and off to Dorset

Drinkers at Stratford Beer and Cider Festival last June were unequivocal in their votes for the Beer of the Festival. More than 50% of all votes cast went to the strong, dark and delicious 'Tally Ho', an award winning beer from **Palmers**Brewery in Dorset. As always, we felt a need to thank the brewer for making so many people so happy and in September a group of us set off to do just that.

On the Monday we set off for Bridport and Palmers in a variety of campers and caravans determined to make the most of out time in Dorset. Head brewer Darren Battens met us at the brewery and led us to a vard where our assorted vans could camp out of the public eye. With time to explore the delights of Bridport whilst waiting for other branch members to join us we visited a few local pubs and amongst those worthy of report was the Ropemakers Arms, a Palmers pub celebrating Bridport's rope making heritage and full of interesting odds and ends. Their range of Palmers beers at the time unfortunately didn't include Tally Ho but a 5% '200' and

lighter 'Copper Ale' slid down a treat. Another Bridport pub well worth a visit is the GBG listed **Tiger**, a freehouse with a very friendly crowd and an excellent range of beers.

Tuesday saw a brief trip to Bridport's harbour and promenade before our contingent of eight gathered at the brewery to meet Darren again. A publicity shoot of the Beer of the Festival award presentation, arranged by the brewery saw Darren bring out the long awaited Tally Ho—amazingly, this was over 50 days old having been kept in an open vessel for the brewery to do taste tests as it aged. Although not perfect it was extremely good and, as many





of us proved, perfectly fine to drink. A three hour tour behind the scenes in the historic brewery buildings, viewing every stage of the centuries-old brewing process as well as modern methods and exploring Palmers brewing heritage proved one of the most informative I'd been on and was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire group. We finally ended up in the brewery wine store where plenty more beer was on offer together with Palmers own lemonade, ginger beer and even Palmers scotch whisky, blended specially for them. The Wine Store alone is well worth a visit if you're in the area.





Our trip was complete on Tuesday evening when Darren was our guest for dinner at the **Three Horseshoes**, Burton Bradstock one of the best of Palmers many pubs and which sported the full range of Palmers beers including *Tally Ho*. An excellent meal, plenty of beer and more words of appreciation

from Stratford Beer Festival Organiser Julian Stobinski, finally saw the presentation of the Beer of the Festival Certificate and the end of our visit.

Thanks, to Darren especially for a great welcome and for brewing such



wonderful beer, to all at the brewery and the **Three Horseshoes** for their hospitality and not least, to those Shakespeare members who made it such a memorable trip.

Supplied by Bob Kirby



As a thank you to all the staff that helped out at the Stratford Beer Festival the branch organised a trip to the Birmingham Beer Festival on October. A bus service was supplied to and from the event to allow all the helpers to have a great day out.



The Palmers Brewery were so pleased with winning the award they issued the following press release:

Palmers Wins Top Prize At Beer Festival In Shakespeare Country

STAFF at Palmers Brewery raised a glass after Tally Ho! won the coveted title of Beer of the Festival at the Stratford Upon Avon beer and cider festival.

Festival-goers and members of the Shakespeare CAMRA branch voted for their favourite beer in their sixth summer festival. *Tally Ho!* was one of the first ales to run out, and polled over 50 per cent of all the votes.

Festival organiser Julian Stobinski, 55, of Norton in Worcestershire, brought his CAMRA comrades to the Bridport brewery to present the certificate to Head Brewer Darren Batten on Tuesday, 11 September, 2012.

He said: 'Tally Ho! won by an overwhelming landslide. We had over 60 different beers at the festival and the theme was local and coastal beers. Normally there are only a couple of votes in it so this proves how popular Tally Ho! is. I voted for it, as it is so rich and dark, one of the best beers I have tasted.'

Darren took the CAMRA crew on a three-hour tour of Palmers Brewery. He said: 'Everyone at Palmers Brewery is delighted that beer lovers in Shakespeare Country are so fond of Tally Ho! a nutty, full strength dark beer.'

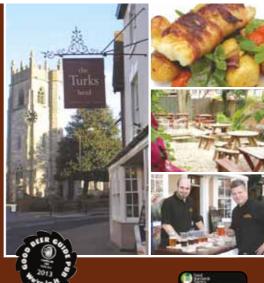
Julian described the tour of Palmers Brewery
- famous as the only thatched brewery in
Britain — as the best he's been on. He added:
'It was fascinating to go behind the scenes and
see the mix of modern plant and historic brewing
apparatus which was used in the centuries-old
brewing process. There are not many breweries
like it left in the country.'

Supplied by Palmers M/F

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4 High Street Alcester B49 5AD Tel: 01789 765948 www.theturkshead.net

Celebrations at The Turks Head, Alcester

Over the last 11 years **The Turks Head** have worked hard on their offering and they are delighted to be included in the Good Beer Guide 2013 as recognition of these efforts.

Carl Buxton, Owner says, 'it's a culmination of years of hard work from the staff and a confirmation that real ale, along with craft beer as a whole, is the future for our industry. Customers are demanding something more when parting with their hard earned cash in difficult times and real ale fits that bill perfectly. A living product that requires effort and skill to showcase it at it's best.'The 'Turks' real ale sales have now quadrupled with four real ale pumps showcasing Britain's cask conditioned triumphs from breweries such as Wye Valley, Hook Norton, Otter, St Austell and

Skinners. They also offer four imported premium craft draught beers, two of the finest English draught ciders and a diverse wine list featuring eight wines by the glass plus a full line up of spirits, bottled beers and ciders.

The 'Turks' has timber frames, flagstone floors and three snug fireplaces which gives the owner managed freehouse pub lots of olde-worlde charm. With quiz nights, open mic evenings and cook-off competitions there is plenty going on. The Turks food motto is 'keep it simple but do it well.'The very best ingredients are home cooked and presented in

generous portions. Dine on delicious pub classics, comfort dishes, sharing platters, thin crust pizzas and a selection of salads with their famous triple cooked chips at prices that won't break the bank. Every Sunday they roast a 28 day dry-aged Aubrey Allen joint of beef with all the trimmings and every Saturday morning they serve brunch.

• ...it's a culmination of years of hard work from the staff and a confirmation that real ale, along with craft beer as a whole, is the future for our industry...

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Shakespeare's CAMRA pub of the year 2012

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



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http://www.cotswoldbrewery.co.uk



Stanway Brewery

Lords a Leaping - 4,5% An ember beer with a fine balance of malt and hops. Brewed especially for the Crown and frumpet Inn.

http://www.stanwaybrewery.co.uk



Stroud Brewery

Ding Dong - 4.5%
Dark porter, with rish liquerice, a hint of Christmas spice and easy enough to drink several pints! http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk



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Christmas Steps + 4.2% Having a reddeh hue with a nich fruity black current aroma but having a distinctive chocalate spicy tasts, just right for those cold implie.

http://www.butcombe.com

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

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CAMRA HQ, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4LW

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Bob's Ride - A new article for those who

This none too taxing ride of 12 miles from the centre of Stratford into typical Warwickshire countryside includes visits to two of our best local pubs plus some very interesting sight-seeing on the way.

Cross the River Avon via Clopton Bridge and immediately turn left up the Tiddington Road (B4086) before taking the first turn to the right into Loxley Road. Take care cycling over the gently 'sleeping policemen' (which do little to slow down any traffic) but generally this is a quietish lane rising gradually until you pass The Croft School. After 4.5 miles of pleasant cycling you reach the tranquil village of Loxley. Turn right at the village green and prepare for a short but steep climb into the heart of the village. Unless you're Bradley Wiggins you will be out of breath and desperate for a pint!

Fortunately within two hundred yards you come across **The Fox** on the left. The pub dates back to the 1660's and is one of the older buildings in the village. Could this have been the home to Robin Hood? In 1100 AD a generous man

known as Robert Fitzodo is recorded as being the owner of the village 'hence Robin of Loxley'. According to its website, "The Fox is not a Gastro Pub but a traditional ale pub which specialises in fresh fish from all over the world and

Unless you're Bradley
Wiggins you will be out
of breath and desperate
for a pint!

offers a range of more traditional British dishes such as fresh cod and chips, gammon steaks and homemade pies."
More importantly it offers four real ales which are usually in tiptop condition.

ancient ploughed strips can be seen, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and contains a wide variety of wild flowers. A pleasant downhill section follows with woodland on either side of the road. Reaching Woodlands Farm on a corner bear left towards Charlecote. Very soon you will be passing Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield. During the war it was devoted to the training of UK and Commonwealth aircrews, pilots, navigators, bomb-aimers, wireless operators and air gunners. At its peak in March 1944 RAF Wellesbourne was turning out 113 aircrews a month. Sadly, Wellesbourne lost 96 Wellington aeroplanes in operational and training accidents. 80 airmen were injured and 315 killed.

Having slaked your thirst, retrace your steps but down the hill and turn right.

On your left St Nicholas Church still

stands on the site given by King Offa. The meadow by the church, where

At a crossroads continue ahead over an ancient bridge before passing Charlecote Park on the left. This superb Tudor house has been the home of the Lucy family since the 12th Century and is well worth a visit. As you cycle past you will doubtless see some of the fallow deer that roam the parkland. This is where, according to local legend, a certain William Shakespeare was supposed to have done a spot of poaching! Take the next turning left.

This is a lovely lane that leads you into the village of Hampton Lucy. In AD 781 Offa, King of Mercia, granted 17 hides of land in Hampton to the Bishop of Worcester (the name "Hampton" is derived from the word "Ham", meaning land by the river). The parish then became known as "Bishop's Hampton", a name it retained until 1549. Pause



o fancy a bike ride into the countryside



for a few moments on the bridge as you cross the River Avon and see the river in its natural state

Bear left in the village into Church Street and soon you will see The Boar's

Head pub. This gem of a pub was Warwickshire County Pub of the Year in 2010. Here you can sample up to 7 real ales, most of them from small microbreweries and the food is recommended tool Once vou've dragged yourself away from here,

continue along the road and enjoy the wonderful road surface! With only 4.5 miles to go, you are now cycling along Shakespeare's Avon Way. Up a short hill you will pass Hatton Rock before soon

reaching the A439 Warwick Road. This can be a busy road so take extra care as you cycle back into Stratford passing the Welcombe Hotel golf course.

Supplied by Bob MacVie

Charlecote Park... this is where, according to local legend, a certain William Shakespeare was supposed to have done a spot of poaching!... 55

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Real Ale

Greene King

IPA and two

changing guest beers

Save Your PintMass Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 12th December

Have you had a moan or two of late as to how the price of beer has increased over the last few years? Well speak to a CAMRA member and they will tell you that a major reason is a not so little thing called the beer duty escalator. Introduced under the last government this vicious little tax means that each year beer duty goes up by inflation plus 2%. This means that now that with a pint costing, say £3, almost £1 is VAT and excise duty.

CAMRA has been working hard with many parts of the beer industry and we have now exceeded 100,000 signatures on an e petition calling on Government to remove the escalator - and the numbers continue to grow. This is only the 12th petition to reach this magic number, which led to a debate in Parliament, and we were delighted, when recently, a motion for the Government to conduct a thorough review of the economic and social impact of the escalator was passed.

But CAMRA believes this on its own may not be enough. The lobbying of individual MPs to get them on board will be key to achieving a turn around. To this end, a Day of Lobbying is being organised on 12th December to lobby as many MPs as possible. It is in all beer drinkers' interests to make as much noise about this unfair tax, a tax that is contributing to over 12 pubs closing every week as people increasingly have to reduce the number of times they visit a pub due to financial pressures. And it is not just real ale that is impacted - it all beer: real beer, keg beer and lager.

CAMRA is inviting everyone, whether you are a member or not, to join us on this very important day. You may be busy but this campaign is worth one day of your time to change the future. This is a also rare opportunity to see inside, the Palace of Westminster and to see how it works. It really is impressive!

So what can you do? Register with CAMRA at www.saveyourpintlobby.co.uk or phone 01727 337 851 and arrange a meeting with your MP on 12th December. We have arranged an initial meeting at the

e...a Day of Lobbying is being organised on 12th December to lobby as many MPs as possible. It is in all beer drinkers' interests to make as much noise about this unfair tax, a tax that is contributing to over 12 pubs closing every week

Emmanuel Centre in Westminster, before taking the short walk to Parliament. CAMRA is coordinating attendance as there are restrictions as to the number of people who can be in Parliament's lobby area at any one time.

Afterwards, we will have a debrief, some free time to visit some pubs and then to have a rally at 4pm accompanied by some beer thanks to the support of Fuller's, Shepherd Neame and Wychwood.

This is a major opportunity to change beer tax so if you don't do anything else in the next six months, this should be it.

Any queries, Emily Ryans, Campaigns Manager, will be available to help: emily.ryans@camra.org.uk; 01727 337 851.

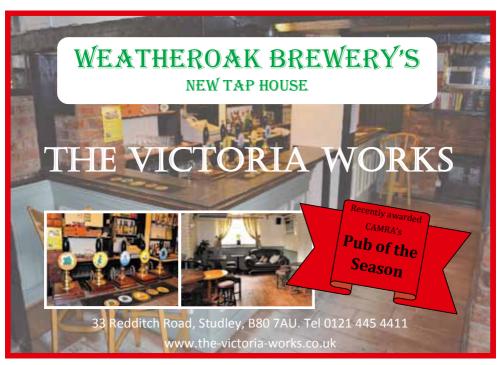
For our area, the timings are as follows:

Arrive at Emmanuel Centre
12pm - 1pm

Meet with MP 1.30 - 2.30pm

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Friday, Saturday & Sunday All day 11.30am - 11.00pm

> Happy Hour 4.00pm till 6.00pm every midweek afternoon

> > NO FOOD

Monday, Tuesday and Sunday evening

Doin' the Manch

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player, Alcester

www.alanwhitbread.co.uk

Here's a song which is a bit longer than the usual ones seen in this series. It was composed by the late, great singer/songwriter Keith Marsden who was challenged to write about a pub crawl in Bradford, near to where he lived.

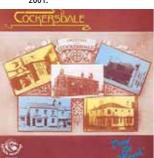
"The Manch" is a major road in Bradford, now much changed by road widening and development etc, but it was once renowned for the number of pubs on it - 27 or 28, depending on how you counted! Either way, a drink in each was quite a challenge and this clever and witty song is typical of Keith's skills as a wordsmith. Essentially, you start at the



Keith Marsden

bottom of Manchester Road walking up the 2 miles hill to Odsal Top, taking in a pint in each of the pubs on the way. Of course, sensible people would roll down the hill!

I believe that you can still obtain a re-released CD of the original 1988 album Cockersdale (his singing group) recorded which has the song on it - "Doin' the Manch" can be obtained from Fellside Records FECD72, 2001



Several of these pubs may still be in the GBG so see if you can spot any. Have you been in any of them recently or do you know the fate of some of them! Please let us know and we will publish the results in the next issue of Shakesbeer magazine.

Keith Marsden - Cockersdale CD "Doin' the Manch", re-released in



 The New Inn, Manchester Road, Bradford, taken in 2009.

I was eighteen when my dad first took me to a pub, And I've never, ever seen him quite so mad. "A pint of your usual, sir" the barman said, But he was asking me, not Dad.

"Now if surfeiting the appetite will sicken and so die, I'll not long have a boozer for a son. They say there's twenty-seven pubs from here to Odsal Top, And tonight we'll have a pint in every one."

We kicked off at the Majestic. Little Alex kicked us out, When Dad said he was scared what he might catch. We didn't mean to set on fire the White Swan and the Devonshire, But Dad was always careless with his matches.

The Oddfellows knew we'd been. We caused a riot in the Queen, But I was right till Dad said then:

"We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin, So we'll have to go back down and start again. "We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin, So we'll go back down and do the Manch again."

We thought we'd make a start with a quiet game of darts, Before we'd gone a beer too far, But we were slinging arrows in the Albany snug, And the board was in the public bar.

There were arrows in the ceiling. There were arrows in the walls. There were arrows in the barmaid's thigh, Till a very ugly landlord with a very ugly club, Suggested we should both go forth and multiply.

Broken glasses they were counting as we slipped out of the Fountain, And the Toll Bar crowd were still in hot pursuit. In the fighting, father all but killed the landlord of the Talbot, When the silly bugger criticised his suit.

And we were walking on our knees by the time we reached the Fleece, But I was right till Dad said then:

"Like it, lad, or lump it, we have missed the Horse & Trumpet, So we'll have to go back down and start again. "We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin. Like it, lad, or lump it we have missed the Horse & Trumpet,

So we'll go back down and do the Manch again."

Court Leet Ale Taster



Just then we chanced to meet a young lady of the street, And Lord, had she some lovely wares to sell! Unfortunately, Dad was somewhat sick upon her dog, For after fourteen pints he wasn't feeling well.

As he searched for his teeth, he found the dog underneath, Jumped back and knocked the poor woman flat.
"I've had pork pies, pints, pickled eggs and peas tonight,
But I can't remember eating that!"

Well, the Station and the Junction then both showed us no compunction,

When they threw us in the street upon our ears. We'd all sorts of hell on in the New Inn and the Nelson, And we had the Wickham landlord close to tears.

As newts we were pissed as when we staggered into Listers, But I was right till Dad said then:

"Trouble now of course is, we forgot t'Waggon & Horses, So we'll have to go back down and start again.

"We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin. Like it, lad, or lump it, we have missed the Horse & Trumpet. Trouble now of course is, we forgot t'Waggon & Horses, So we'll go back down and do the Manch again."

Then Dad pinched a bulldozer so that we could ride in style, But he flattened three police cars straight away. His driving wasn't polished and in no time he'd demolished, Hong Kong Harry's corner Chinese take-away.

As the Chinese with his chopper chased us up to Chellow Street, His nearness to my necktie wasn't nice. When my breath began to steady, I said, "He were mad enough already. Did you have to order curried cat and rice?"

We had Whitbread's. We had Webster's. We had Hammond's. We had Hey's.

We had John Smith's and Sam Smith's too. We were right bloody gluttons with some OBJ by Dutton's, And Bass both Red and Blue.

We had Inde Coope and Allsop's and some Ramsden's that was all slops, But I was right till Dad said then:

"We missed out all the Bentley's. We've not had a drop of Tetley's,

So we'll have to go back down and start again.
"We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin.
Like it, lad, or lump it, we have missed the Horse & Trumpet.
Trouble now of course is, we forgot t'Waggon & Horses.
We missed out all the Bentley's. We've not had a drop of Tetley's,
So we'll go back down and do the Manch again."

The police with a van cleared the Yorkshire Divan, The landlord and his wife and kids as well. The Foresters was quiet. There was not a sign of riot, For the customers were all inside the cells.

There were Specials running up the street and firemen running down. Troops and tanks were standing by at Odsal Top. Some nuns who came to pray for peace just stayed to sober up the priest,

Who'd got so drunk he tried to kiss a cop.

There was still a hue and cry in both the Woodman and Red Lion, And the Craven Heifer tried to bar the door.

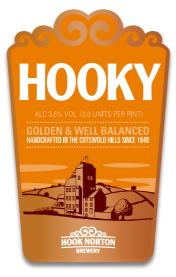
We thought we might get drunk if we'd another in the Truncliffe, So we thought we'd better have one to be sure.

As we fell through the doors, on all fours at Mary Shaw's, I was right till Dad said then:

"You can have a little rest, now you're halfway through the test. Then we'll have to go back down and start again.
"We should have had a nip in the Blue Lion and the Griffin.
Like it, lad, or lump it, we have missed the Horse & Trumpet.
T'trouble now of course is, we forgot t'Waggon & Horses.
We missed out all the Bentley's. We've not had a drop of Tetley's.
You can have a little rest, now you're halfway through the test,
Then we'll go back down and do the Manch again."

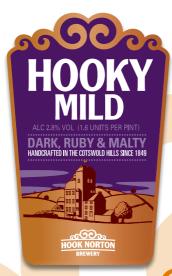
If you want to hear (and join in with) such traditional and new folk sonas try the following places:-

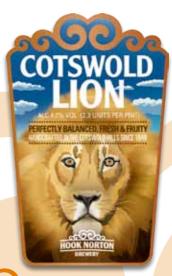
1st Friday at the **Norman Knight** at Wichford CV36 5PE (a GBG pub!);
1st Sunday at **The Fox** at Loxley CV37 9JS; 2nd Tuesday at **The Cottage of Content** at Barton B50 4NP; 2nd Sunday at **The Shakespeare**at Welford-on-Avon CV37 8PX; 3rd Sunday at **The White Hart** at
Newbold-on-Stour CV37 8TS; 4th Sunday at **The Mary Arden** at
Wilmcote CV37 9XJ and Every Thursday at **The Fleece** at Bretforton
WR11 7JE (a GBG pub!).





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Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



DECEMBER

6th	7.30pm Birmingham CAMRA Branch Meeting &
	Christmas Social. The Barton Arms, Aston B6 4UP

12th CAMRA "Save Your Pint" Mass Lobby of Parliament. Emmanuel Centre, Tufton St, London, SW1P 3DW -Arrive at the Centre between 11:00am and 12:00pm. Arrange to meet with your MP between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. (See www.saveyourpintlobby.orq.uk)

12th 8.00pm Branch meeting / Christmas Pub Crawl, Alcester. Meet at Holly Bush B49 5QX

15th CAMRA West Midlands Regional Meeting 12:00pm (till 4pm) The Barrels, Hereford HR1 2JQ

29th CAMRA West Midlands Regional Real Ale, Cider & Perry Awards 2012. Meet 12:00pm (till 4pm) Barton Arms, Aston R6 4UP

JANUARY 2012

9th 8:00pm Branch meeting. **Stags Head**, Wellesbourne, CV35 9QS, then onto Fox, Loxley CV37 9JS

16th 8:00pm Good Beer Guide Long / Short list meeting. The Bear, Stratford-upon-Ayon CV37 7LT

23rd 8.00pm Stratford-upon-avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. The Fleece, Bretforton WR11 7JE

23rd National Winter Ale Festival (NWAF)

(to Feb 2nd) Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival, George Watson Hall, Tewkesbury GL20 5PX

FEBRUARY

1st & Redditch Winter Ale Festival. The Rocklands Social

2nd Club, 59 Birchfield Rd, Redditch B97 4LB

13th 8:00pm Branch meeting. Fish & Anchor, Offenham, WR11 8QT, then Bridge Inn WR11 8QZ

19th 8:00pm Good Beer Guide Final Selection Meeting. The Bear, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7LT

23rd CAMRA West Midlands Regional Meeting 12:00pm (till 4pm) Hare & Hounds, Bridgnorth WV15 5AX

27th 8:00pm Stratford-upon-Avon Beer festival Meeting 2013. West End, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6DT

MARCH

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

20th 8.00pm Stratford-upon-avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. Holly Bush, Alcester B49 5QX

APRIL

4th (TBC) Walsall Beer Festival at (TBC)

17th 8.00pm Stratford-upon-avon Beer Festival Meeting 2013. The Fleece, Bretforton WR11 7JE

24th 8:00pm Annual General Meeting. Meet at Holly Bush, Alcester

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

CAMRA Branch Contacts

Chair - Lloyd Evans chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk
 Vice Chair - Vacant
 Secretary - Gwen Godfrey secretary@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Young Members Coordinator - Simon Williams BYMC@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Branch Contact - Keith Barker ... contact@shakespearecamra.org.uk
• Website - Keith Barker ... websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Pubs Officer - Pete Godfrey pubs@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Campaigns Officer - Jason Norledge ... campaigns@shakespearecamra.org.uk
• Apple Contact - John Ross ... cider@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Social Secretary - Vacant socials@shakespearecamra.org.uk

• Newsletter - Jason/Keith/Pete shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk
• Public Affairs Officer - Vacant



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