

Shakespeare

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



FREE
Please
take one

Norman Knight is Warwickshire Champion

Tim Young and Jane Bishop at **The Norman Knight** have fought off fierce opposition from pubs throughout Warwickshire to be voted **County Pub of the Year 2012**. The award was presented by West Mids CAMRA Area Organiser Andy Burt at a celebration which included enthusiastic CAMRA members and locals.

They took over the pub in 2009 with business partner Matt Findlay and established the **Patriot** brewery on site. (Matt subsequently left the business but, owing to the increasing demand for **Patriot** beer, has returned recently to assist with the brewing). Over the years they have gone from strength to strength restyling, refurbishing and extending the pub, including a new forty seat restaurant extension and new facilities for caravans which are welcome in the back garden.

The pub now boasts an interesting range of **Patriot** beers as well as noteworthy guests, real cider and perry, plus an excellent food offering, lunchtime and evening, which includes probably the best fish and chips in the county on a Tuesday night. It has a phenomenal local following and hosts regular classic car and motorcycle meets, music nights and community events which also attract people from much farther afield.

As far as the members of Shakespeare CAMRA are concerned, this award and much more is well deserved and we thank Tim, Jane, Matt and the whole team for giving us all a great pub.



Barley Wine crowned National Champion

Cumbrian brewery **Coniston** were shell shocked when their *No 9 Barley Wine* was crowned Best Beer in Britain at the CAMRA Great British Beer Festival in early August. The 8.5% ale is the first Barley Wine style of beer to win the competition since Cottage Brewing Co's *Norman Conquest* in 1995, and the first beer with an ABV of over 4% since 2004. Praised by judges for having "fantastic finesse", *No.9 Barley Wine* is described as, "... a delightful sipping beer. Rich in fruit flavours with Marzipan, herbal hoppiness and Cognac overtones finishing with a warming alcohol essence". For all the results see page 8



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COTSWOLD BEST

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SHAGWEAVER

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'N' PORTERED

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Pub News

Welford-on-Avon

Superbly situated on the banks of the River Avon **The Four Ails** surprised us all when it closed its doors in January this year. We're delighted to report that it reopened in May following a total refurbishment and has been given a whole new lease of life by licensee Victoria Tildsley and husband Mark. The couple might be remembered from a spell at The Oddfellows (now **Number 7**) in Stratford a long, long time ago but have spent the last 10 years in Florida. The décor is a strange mixture of traditional and modern and certainly caters for a range of tastes. Definitely an 'up market' predominantly food led pub and restaurant **The Four Ails** does have a few quirky features to pull the punters in, (like an

ongoing 'Star Wars' theme on the menu). As well as a loyalty club and an offering of free meals for kids during the school holidays they present a real challenge for 'hearty eaters'. A full 1lb 'UFO burger' presented in a granary roll the size of a small spaceship and complete with a range of toppings, chips etc. is on offer for a mighty £19.99, (not such a bad deal when you consider it could feed a family of four). Equally important, the full range of three *Purity* beers are on offer and there's plenty of drinking room and a welcome for those who just want to enjoy good beer.

Wixford, nr Alcester

After welcoming new landlords to **The Three Horseshoes** last December it was

a shame to see the pub close its doors again after only a few months trading. You can't keep a good pub closed though and we were delighted to see it open again in early July with Manager Rob Corbett at the helm. The Enterprise lease has in fact been bought by Rob's sister Victoria Tildsley who holds the licence for both this and **The Four Ails**, Welford, (and is reportedly looking for a third pub... watch this space). **The Three Horseshoes** is a lovely looking pub with lots of space and large gardens on the outskirts of Wixford village. Manager Rob says he doesn't want to compete with nearby 'dining pubs' and wants to keep it nice and traditional with good beers and a simple food offering. The simple food offering does include a range of 'speciality pies', home made by Ashley the Chef, which are sure to generate some interest in the village.

The pub is offering the full range of three *Purity* beers which Rob intends to keep on for the foreseeable future.

Hampton Lucy

The award winning **Boars Head** has a new website...

www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy.co.uk and now shows a list of ales currently on as well as those coming soon. With up to six ales always on offer well worth keeping an eye out for your favourites.



Broom Tavern update

We reported in *Shakesbeer 49* that to the dismay of locals, **The Broom Tavern** was in danger of being developed as residential property. It is currently still closed but the new owner, Property Developer Mark Sandford, is currently advertising the freehold for sale as a pub. Although in the current financial climate the advertised price of £395,000 is quite high, it does afford the village a last opportunity to save it. If there's anyone out there with cash to spare and an interest in owning a pub then contact the agents 'Right Move' or local Councillor Jonathon Spence via Stratford on Avon District Council.



Pub News...

Cleeve Prior

After it seemed to be doing so well we were surprised and sad to see Bryan and Pete leave **The Kings Arms** and the doors close again at the end of June. Not for long though as after only a week it reopened in the experienced hands of Chris Bannister-Ward. The ales remain the same, *Old Hooky* and *Adnams Soutwold*, for the time being at least, but Chris has brought the menu back down to earth with, as he called it, "a slightly cheaper, good, honest, traditional pub menu". Chris should know what he's doing, his parents had a pub in Worcester when he was a child and he worked as a manager for Mitchells and Butlers for over 20 years. Now he's decided to work for himself we wish him the very best of luck.

If you want to give it a try **The Kings Arms** is open Mon. 7 'til close, Tues. - Sat. 12 'til close and Sunday 12.00 'til 7.00 (ish).

Tiddington nr Stratford

It's taken a while but, having closed in November last year, **The Crown** has finally opened its doors again. Mark and Claire Pegram took on the Enterprise lease, oversaw a total refurbishment and some necessary structural work and gave the village its pub back on 4th April this year. There's still a bit of decorating and TLC booked in for October but the pub is looking good and serving good beer. Very much a family pub the couple assure me that well behaved kids and dogs are welcome, one of the two bar areas has a pool table and other entertainment installed and there's plenty of outside space in two large garden areas. **The Crown** already has a pool team but is hoping to establish a second and a darts team, so if you're interested. . . . The pub is open through the week, midday to 3.00pm and 5.30 until 11.00pm and all day from 12.00 Friday

to Sunday. Reasonably priced food is available all sessions except Sunday and Monday evening and a good selection of beer is on offer. At the time of our visit the regular beers, *Hobgoblin* and *Doombar* were available plus two changing guest ales, (*Butty Bach* and *Adnams*).

Congratulations to the residents of Tiddington on getting their pub back and the very best of luck to Mark and Claire.

Ardens Grafton

The Golden Cross got into the Olympic spirit with a Shire Olympics. Events included a tug of war, a sausage eating competition and a baked bean eating with a cocktail stick competition. Also their Happy Hours advertise pints from £2.65, 5.00 to 6.30 Monday to Friday and 3.00 to 6.30 Saturday and Sunday. We're looking forward to their Cider Festival in September

Bretforton

The Fleece is spreading its influence by running outside bars. You may have missed them at the Warwick Folk Festival in July but they will be at Bromyard Folk Festival 7-9th September. Back on home soil, the annual Apple and Ale festival will be held on 21-22 October with over 40 ales and ciders on offer.

Alcester

We wait with bated breath for the reopening of **The Lord Nelson**, Priory Road which, according to our sources, should be sometime in November. The same sources report that **The Swan Hotel** may soon close; not for too long we hope. Whilst still in Alcester it's good to note that the recently restyled **Royal Oak** have on a couple of occasions recently replaced their regular offering of *Rev. James* with the scrumptious *Theakston's Old Peculiar*, surely one of the finest beers ever made.



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
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Telephone: 01295 688060

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

Pub News...

Redhill, nr Alcester

The Stag at Redhill isn't exactly 'off the beaten track' located as it is on the main A46 road between Alcester and Stratford. It is however be a bit of a walk from most residential areas and in order to enjoy the Green King IPA, Abbots Ale and regularly changing guest most people would drive there. For those who find it a bit of a trek and don't wish to drive The Stag has come up with a novel solution; their very own helipad. According to Manager Lee Hicks, "It does enjoy quite regular use, a couple of times a week at least during the summer. Just give us a ring before you arrive and don't fly over the adjoining rare breeds farm, we don't want the lambs having kittens". Driving, walking or flying, The Stag is well worth a visit for its first class menu and a team devoted to serving good beer. If it's

all too much then just stay over in one of the ten en-suite rooms available.

Alcester

The 25th **Holly Bush** beer festival is definitely on its way, probably the first or second week in November but no confirmed date yet. You should be able to get details from their new website.... also definitely on its way but not there yet.

Stratford

The locals at the GBG listed **West End** in Bull Street have raised over £1000 so far for their local charity 'Stratford Special Football for Special Needs Kids'. Funds are regularly raised at a fortnightly Sunday Night Quiz which runs between 8.30 and 10.00 pm – the next ones are 2nd and 16th September. ... I'm sure you can work dates out after that.

Well done also to Roger, Helen and the team who have recently achieved Cask Marque status as an endorsement to the beer quality. A date here for your diaries also as The West End Beer Festival featuring 16 beers from all over the UK will take place over 16th and 17th November.

Broom

We're delighted to report that the 'Bands at the Broom' event of 21st July was a tremendous success and raised over £1500 for charity. The day long festival at **The Broom Hall Inn** featured many local bands and included a beer tent with three ales and three real ciders in addition to the beers always available in the bar. Monies raised were divided equally between the Warwickshire Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes.

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Wednesday evening

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Shakespeare Social Skittling to Glory

Shakespeare branch once again demonstrated some rather shaky skittling prowess when they narrowly defeated North Cotswold CAMRA at a return fixture at **Ecgwins Private Members Club** at the end of April.

It really wasn't the winning but the taking part as some of us recorded less than average scores but, I'm given to understand it's a low scoring alley. Plaudits went to Pete Rowe from North Cotswold and Liz Kirby from Shakespeare as the highest male and female scorers as well as a £10 prize each presented by North Cotswold Chairman Roger Price and Shakespeare Vice Chairman John Ross.

Ecgwins did us proud with some excellent beers, *Sharp's Doombur*, *Spitfire* and *Thwaites Wainwright* on our arrival and *Slaughterhouse Saddleback* later on as the *Thwaites* was finished. A huge vote of thanks to Ecgwins for allowing us to use the alley, to Steward Jamie for the great beers, Jan in the kitchen who laid on a first class supper but mostly to all who turned up to make it a very pleasant evening.



● "Only a tenner but very proud and happy"

Warwickshire
County Pub
of the Year 2010



Book early for your
Christmas Celebration

WE ARE NOW ON SUMMER HOURS (to end september)
(Sunday from late October open 12.00 - 7.00pm)

BAR OPEN:

SUN. - THURS. 12.00 - 10.00pm

FRI & SAT 11.30am - 11.30pm

KITCHEN OPEN:

MON.-SAT. 12.00-9.00pm (Tapas 3.00-6.00)

SUN. 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Contact Sue or Jack on

01789 840533

Visit our website:

www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy.co.uk

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**"Shakespeare CAMRA Warwickshire
Pub of the Year 2010"**



Stretton-on-Fosse

I'm very sad to report that a couple of the best licensees we've seen in a long time are in the process of winding down to a well earned retirement.

Sara and Jean Pierre Gireme from **The Plough** at Stretton on Fosse have no shortage of potential buyers for this classic award winning pub so I doubt it will ever need to be advertised. Sara says they'll take their time ensuring that the village and the branch benefit from like minded people to retain the high quality food and keep the beers flowing. As well as various trade honours the couple were awarded CAMRA's Warwickshire Pub of the Year in 2008 and will certainly be a hard act to follow.

On behalf of Shakespeare CAMRA I'd like to thank them both for the work they've put in and the pleasure they've given over the years. We wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement.



All the winners - Champion Beers of Britain 2012

Affectionately known as CBOB, the Champion Beer Of Britain is normally judged at the Great British Beer Festival in August. The nomination process however is almost an ongoing task.

The finalists for the CBOB are chosen on a regional basis via local tasting panels and regional beer judging competitions. This ensures a good geographical spread for the finalists of this prestigious award.

Overall winners

Gold - *Coniston, No.9 Barley Wine*

(from Coniston, Cumbria)

Silver - *Green Jack, Trawlerboys Best Bitter*

(from Lowestoft, Suffolk)

Bronze - *Dark Star, American Pale Ale*

(from Horsham, West Sussex)

Champion Mild: *Rudgate, Ruby Mild*

(from York, North Yorkshire)

Champion Bitter: *Purple Moose, Snowdonia Ale*

(from Porthmadog, Gwynedd)

Champion Best Bitters: *Green Jack, Trawlerboys*

Best Bitter (from Lowestoft, Suffolk)

Champion Golden Ales: *Dark Star, American*

Pale Ale (from Horsham, West Sussex)

Champion Strong Bitters: *Dark Star, Festival*

(from Horsham, West Sussex)

Champion Speciality Beers: *Dunham Massey,*

Chocolate Cherry Mild (from Dunham Massey, Gtr Manchester)

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The Craic
is back!





Shakespeare
CAMRA
**Pub of the
Year 2011**
Worcestershire



Apple & Ale Festival

Saturday 21st and
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For further details contact Nigel on 01386 831173
Email: nigel@thefleeceinn.co.uk www.thefleeceinn.co.uk

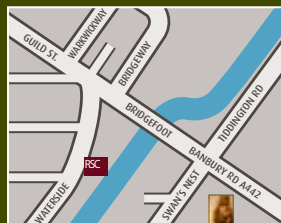
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Stratford Beer and Cider

Friday afternoon grey skies and a bit of rain got last June's Stratford Beer and Cider Festival off to a bit of a slow start. Things brightened up though when the Mayor of Stratford, Councillor Keith Lloyd and his wife Elaine, watched by a host of eager drinkers, presided over the official opening.

Encouraged by festival organiser Julian Stobinski, Councillor Lloyd tried a number of the ales on offer, later looked in on the judging of the West Mids Bitter of the Year competition and probably stayed a while later than he'd intended.

Through Friday evening the crowds began to grow and the beers and ciders, all in excellent condition, began to flow. The theme of the festival, 'Beers Local and Coastal' allowed all the local favourites as well as an opportunity to showcase some interesting beers from around the country. Palmers, 'Tally Ho' (5.5%ABV), a deliciously complex dark ale with caramel/coffee hints, was amongst the first to sell out on Saturday and was voted overwhelmingly to be the best beer of the festival.

On Saturday we had lots going on, plenty of eager customers and at last we welcomed the sunshine. We were once again delighted to be visited by the Hook Norton Brewery Dray. The Shakespeare Hospice ran a

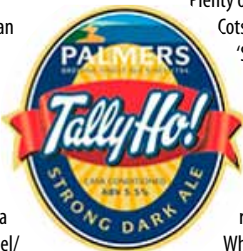
raffle which included prizes donated by local breweries, North Cotswold and Purity, (festival goers donated unspent tokens which, topped up by Shakespeare CAMRA added £500 to the monies raised by the hospice).

Plenty of entertainment, mainly sponsored by North Cotswold Brewery included Sea Shanties, (by 'Sharp as Razors'), two bands, ('Silver Brough' and 'Worried Men') and traditional dancing courtesy of 'Shakespeare Morris'.

As always the festival was totally run by volunteers and we are tremendously grateful that they turned out for the 6th year running to make this a successful weekend.

When it's all over the volunteers do finally get a chance to relax and enjoy some of the beers which didn't run out.

Thanks also to our sponsors who make the event affordable and to all the breweries, (many of whom donated or discounted beers). Finally, thanks to over a thousand customers who supported us once again... see you all next year!



Left: Branch
Centre: Councillor
Right: Festival



● Enjoying the Festival inside...



...and out



er Festival Round Up



Chairman Lloyd Evans,
Keith Lloyd and wife Elaine
Organiser, Julian Stoninski



The West Midlands Beer of the Year Competition

This competition is held at branches throughout the midlands for different categories of beer which then qualify for further judging in CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain competition. The 'Bitters' judging was of six finalist beers, (typically less than 4.0% ABV), selected by branches throughout the West Midlands, the best of which will go to the Great British Beer Festival in August 2013. Our selected winners were 1st Hobson's, Best Bitter and a close 2nd Kinver, Light Railway.



● Beer judging by brewers, publicans and beer drinkers not involved in the competition



Festival volunteers working hard



...and after it's all over

Thank You to our Festival Sponsors...

- Cannon Royall Brewery • Hook Norton Brewery • Wye Valley Brewery
- Fullers • Highgate and Davenport • North Cotswold Brewery
- Sharp's Brewery • The Fleece Inn, Bretforton • The Holly Bush, Alcester
- The Bear Freehouse at The Swan's Nest, Stratford



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*5p donation only applies to 'The Few'



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Brewery News...



Over the past months Wye Valley have been searching for a real life Dorothy Goodbody the invented persona whose iconic form has been the face on a range of Wye Valley Beers for over 16 years now. The successful beauty will appear in a photo-shoot for their 2013 calendar. According to managing Director Vernon Amor, they are looking for - and I quote - "... a vivacious character with a

bit of our Dorothy at heart; a gorgeous but real-life beauty who looks believable as Dorothy and can carry off our 1950s photo shoot in style. We imagine our 'Dorothy for the Day' as someone with real spirit and an irresistibly charming mix of confidence and innocence."

As our so called summer draws to a close we look forward to some exciting Autumnal beers. Any time now a brand new beer, *Dorothy Goodbody's Blackberry Blush*, should hit the bars. This 4.1% beer with a distinctive blush hue has a delicate fruity aroma and a tart finish. October sees the return of *Hop 101*, a

4.5% golden beer which uses the new Herefordshire bred hop which was first used last year. November, along with bonfires and sparklers, brings us *Dorothy Goodbody's Big Bang*, 4.5%, a red brown beer with a malty sweetness and a hint of warming ginger.



Diamond Queen, brewed to celebrate the jubilee has proved such a success that Bird's are continuing to produce it. Re badged as '*Summer Daze*' this 4.2% dry

and hoppy bitter will be available long after said summer has been and gone. Whilst the number of stockists for Bird's beers are growing they're yet to establish a regular outlet in the branch. Just keep your eyes open at some of the larger freehouses like **The Bear**, Stratford and **The Fleece**, Bretforton who have them quite often.

Of course, now that the Long awaited shop at Bird's Brewery in Bromsgrove has finally opened, the full range of beers can be bought to enjoy at your leisure. All are available in bottles or 5 litre minikegs, (8½pints) and draught beers can be obtained in Polypins or 'Bag-in-Box' if pre-ordered.



The new team at North Cotswold appear to be working well and have added over forty new customers as well as doubling their regular stockists in the past few months. Amongst other profile raisers a Jubilee Week takeover of **The Bear at The Swan's Nest** in Stratford saw the whole range of North Cotswold Beers available, a very successful bar at a charity event at **The Broom Hall Inn**, (see page 4) and a 'Meet the Brewer' night at **The Vaults Real Ale Bar** in Knowle.

This year's new *Windrush Ale*, a

refreshing 3.6% light beer has proved a phenomenal success and is now rivalling *Cotswold Best*, 4.0% as their best seller. There's no excuse for not finding the beers locally as new regular outlets in our area include the **Church Street Town House**, Stratford Upon Avon, **The Ferry**, Alveston, **Boars Head**, Hampton Lucy, **The New Inn**, Clifford Chambers, **The Roebuck** and **The Holly Bush**, Alcester and **The Broom Hall Inn**

Brewery News...



Success in the International Beer Challenge 2012 as *Pure Gold* won a Silver Medal. In the design and packaging awards *UBU* won a Gold Medal and *Pure Gold* a Bronze.

Purity continues to flourish and alongside there regular charitable causes have now found the capacity to take on a long term cause to support. I'm delighted to report that they've decided to focus fundraising efforts on a charity close to our hearts and theirs, The Shakespeare Hospice. The Hospice, supported for the past 6 years by Shakespeare CAMRA, offers nursing care and support to patients with life limiting illnesses and support for their families.

The path of business never runs smoothly and the ongoing development of **Cannon Royall** is no different. For a brief time, problems unrelated to the brewery caused the closure of **Hartlebury Club** as a showcase for their beers. Problems resolved for the time being at least and the club reopened after just a week. The intended purchase of pub premises is ongoing but slow. Determined to find secure outlets for their beers Cannon Royall are looking at a number of pub premises in and around Worcester. Watch this space though... by the next issue we might well see a dedicated Cannon Royal pub in our own branch area. In the meantime new and exciting beers continue to be developed – the latest is called '*Lager it Ain't*' (4.2%ABV), which, amazingly, has been described as having an initial taste 'similar to a Bavarian lager leading to hints of orange and tangerine'. Sounds interesting and should be available now.

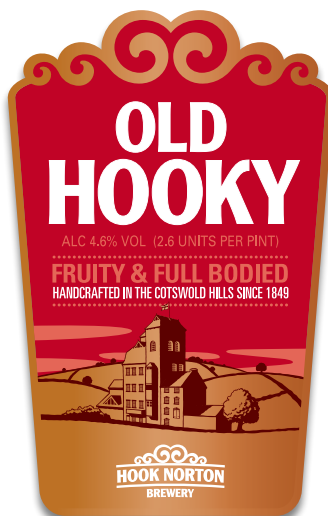
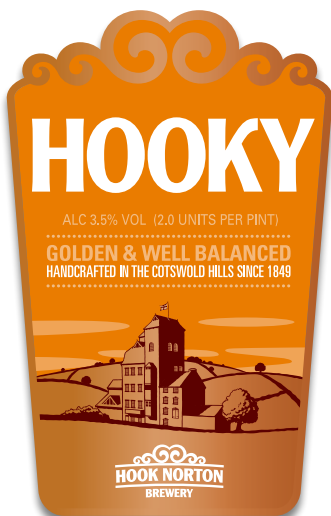


It seems **Hook Norton** is attempting to rival the nations amazing Olympic Medal tally with a few of their own in the International Beer Challenge 2012 which reported in July. They won a Silver Medal for *Old Hooky* and Bronze Medals for *Hooky Bitter*, *Hooky Gold* and *Twelve Days*.

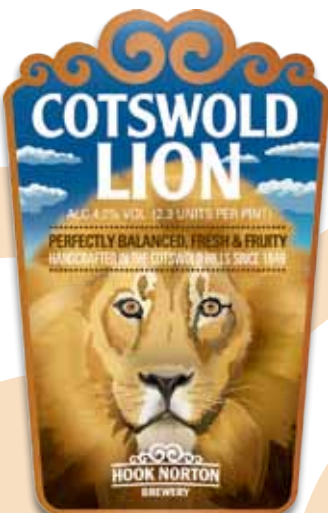
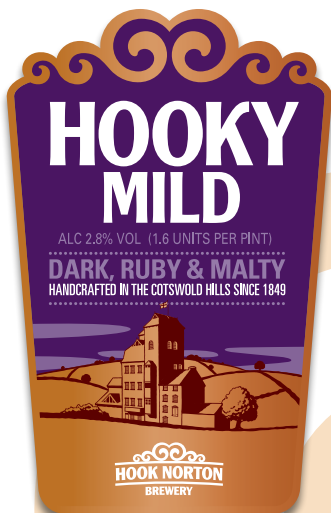
The brewery's success is made evident by its plan to add to the forty four sites they currently operate. They are searching for freehold pubs in market towns in and around the Cotswolds and within a 50 mile radius of Hook Norton including Worcester and Warwick. All the more venues to enjoy their permanent range of beers and in the next few months their seasonals, the strong, pale *Haymaker* (5.0%) available now and the IPA style *Flagship* (5.3%), which should appear through September and November.

All's going well for **Patriot** who are struggling to keep up with demand - so much so that business partner Matt Findlay who dropped out of sight about 18 months ago has returned to Whichford and is heavily involved in the brewing process again. A new beer '*Settle for Bronze*' (4.0% ABV), somewhat pessimistically brewed to celebrate the Olympics, although it is a nice bronze colour, has proved a real hit and may well join the ever popular *Morris* and *Kiwi* in their permanent stable, whilst *The Few*, brewed to commemorate the battle of Britain, is still proving a hit. Patriot beers make occasional appearances at our better freehouses and beer festivals and '*Morris*' is now a permanent fixture in the **White Horse** at Ettington. It also makes regular appearances at **The Black Horse**, Shipston.... Is there an equestrian theme developing here?





Handcrafted beers from the Cotswold Hills since 1849



HOOK NORTON
BREWERY

Visit www.hooky.co.uk for more information about the range of Hooky beers
or to find your nearest Hook Norton pub.

A Warm Welcome to Weatheroak Brewery

Welcome to *Shakesbeer* to **Weatheroak Brewery**, just off our patch in the village of Studley, Warwickshire.

The five barrel brewing operation outgrew its original home at **The Coach and Horses** Weatheroak, where it started in 1998, and moved to Studley in 2009. Run by father and son team Dave and Toby Smith they supply their range of six ales to about forty outlets within a rough thirty mile radius.

In November 1999, in order to satisfy a growing demand for Weatheroak beers they opened an Off Licence in Alvechurch, (now closed), selling real ale in any quantity from a single pint to eight gallons, supplied direct from the brewery. Continuing their success and in order to showcase their beers Dave and Toby have recently opened **The Victoria Works**, (formerly The Nags Head), just across the

road from the brewery site in Redditch Road. This is now the brewery taphouse where the full Weatheroak range is always available with the same take away opportunity previously available at Alvechurch. Amongst those on offer are *Keystone Hops* (5.0%ABV) which was an award winner in CAMRA's Warwickshire Beer of



● Brewers Dave and Toby Smith

the Year 2009 and *Victoria Works* (4.3% ABV), which was voted Champion Beer of Warwickshire in 2010.

WEATHEROAK BREWERY'S NEW TAP HOUSE

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Is now OPEN



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www.the-victoria-works.co.uk

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CAMRA AGM and Members' Weekend

The CAMRA AGM and Members Weekends are always a bit special as an opportunity to renew acquaintances from previous years and to explore the pubs and beers of the local area and, for those interested, to attend the Conference and listen to the debates and speeches.

This year the AGM visited Torquay, a typical seaside town with lots of young people and noise, but not great for real ale. It's a shame that by far the best place to drink was the AGM members' bar with over 70 West Country beers and a fine range of ciders and perrys.

The only place in Torquay to really take advantage of the thousand or so CAMRA members descending on the town was the Good Beer Guide listed **Hole in the Wall**. A mini beer festival there saw half a dozen beers on gravity and I was delighted to find *Otter Head* amongst them, surely one of the finest beers ever brewed.

Torquay is however a good base from which to explore the rest of Torbay and we caught the bus to Newton Abbott intending a brief visit to the National Cider Pub of the Year, **Ye**

Olde Cider Bar. If I wasn't a seasoned cider drinker before we popped in, I was certainly well on the way some 4 hours later when we finally came out. An amazing selection of cider and perry, welcoming staff and friendly customers, (seemingly more so the longer we stayed), made this the absolute jewel in the crown of our weekend.

We did manage to squeeze in a trip to Brixham, a small fishing port and possibly the prettiest part of Torbay. After indulging in proper seaside stuff like fish and chips and crab sandwiches whilst looking at the replica Golden Hind in the harbour we did try a couple of pubs, including another **Hole in the Wall**, a friendly and quirkily decorated pub.

Next year's AGM is in Norwich, an amazing beer drinking city and home to the wonderful **Fat Cat**, twice CAMRA National Pub of the Year. If you've never been to an AGM before then 19th – 21st April 2013 will be a great time to start.



● Cider smiles in Newton Abbott



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All day 11.30am - 11.00pm

Happy Hour
4.00pm till 6.00pm
every midweek afternoon

NO FOOD
Monday, Tuesday and Sunday evening

A friendly welcome at the sign of The White Horse

Shakespeare CAMRA Pubs Officer Pete Godfrey finally stopped singing the praises of **The White Horse** long enough for Manager Nick Maskellini to thank the branch and pay full tribute to his team when he received our Pub of the Season Award for Summer 2012.

Nick, who took on the pub in Summer 2011, (after it had been closed for some months), has built it into a popular and thriving local. He said he was, "grateful that the work they do and the effort involved had been recognised". The team includes Chef Phil Allott, who has been with Nick since the pub reopened and gets full credit for the amazing food reputation the pub has acquired. Phil honed his skills at such prestigious

establishments as the award winning *Bluebell* in Henley and *Charrington Manor*, Chipping Campden. According to Nick, Phil has applied his knowledge to traditional pub food and using local ingredients produces everything from bread to chutney, from scratch, in the pub kitchen. Credit also to Rob Palmer who looks after the cellar and presented us with some



● Manager Nick with the Award and (crouching on his left Ale man Rob Palmer)

cracking beer on the night. Local Patriot beer, *Morris Brew*, was going down a treat and now heads *Wye Valley HPA* and *Old Hooky* as the pubs best seller. A huge 'well done' to Nick and the White Horse team – they've returned to us and the village a friendly, high quality and good value pub.

THE CROWN AND TRUMPET INN

CHURCH STREET - BROADWAY - WORCESTERSHIRE - WR12 7AE - 01386 853202



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



Free Wireless Internet Available.

Shakespeare's CAMRA pub of the year 2012

For Autumn 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

Jack O'Lantern - 4.2%
Stroud Brewery's Halloween Beer, a dark bitter with a hint of smokiness to ease into the lengthening nights.
<http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk>



Stanway Brewery

Wizard Brew - 4.0%
An amber beer with a fine balance of malt and hops. Brewed especially for the Crown and Trumpet Inn.
<http://www.stanwaybrewery.co.uk>



Butcombe Brewery

Butcombe Bitter - 4.0%
Notably bitter, clean tasting, refreshingly dry and distinctive.
<http://www.butcombe.com>



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



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Open 7 days a week 12 noon till late

Food served Monday to Saturday

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Dinner Tuesday to Thursday 7.00pm till 9.00pm

Friday and Saturday 7.00pm till 9.30pm

25th
Beer & Cider Festival
Coming Soon!

Keep an eye on our
website



Cider...with Old Rose

Over the past few years real cider producers and 'Apple' the cider and perry arm of CAMRA have worked hard to inform consumers about our real cider and perry treasures. One producer, **Westons**, has been making cider in the Herefordshire village of Much Marcle for about 130 years and their *Old Rosie*, first launched back in 1988 is the UK's leading hand pulled traditional cider.

In an attempt to broaden the cider's appeal still further, Westons have completely restyled its image giving it a new sophisticated look which was unveiled on 7th August at the Great British Beer Festival. The connection between 'Old Rosie' cider and the cherished 1921 Aveling and Porter steamroller featured on pumpclips has been reinforced and according to Ian Lewis, Head of Marketing, "What we now have is a range of Old Rosie bottles and pump clips bursting with personality that will appeal to both Old Rosie loyalists as well as real ale drinkers who will also drink cider", (cask ale drinkers are 11% more likely to try cider than non-cask ale drinkers).

Old Rosie is allowed to settle out naturally after fermentation resulting in a truly old fashioned, full flavoured, cloudy Scrumpy with a well balanced medium dry character. It currently holds three CAMRA gold medals and for those who haven't yet tried it the following pubs within the branch stock it regularly .

- Aston Cantlow, **Kings Head**
- Badsey, **Round of Gras**
- Bretforton, **The Fleece**
- Edgehill, **Castle**
- Ettington, **White Lion**
- Evesham, **Cider Mill**
- Harvington, **Coach and Horses**
- Little Compton, **Red Lion**
- Newbold, **Bird in Hand** (not in winter)



Locally Produced, Fresh, Seasonal Food with Fantastically Conditioned Ales and a Great Atmosphere

Debbie and the team will welcome you and ensure your stay is enjoyable whilst behind the scenes our four very talented chefs led by Sam take great pride in sourcing only the finest quality local produce and prepare all of our food freshly on the premises.

All our menus are available throughout our Bar and Restaurant areas as well as our Patio & Gardens. We regularly change our menu to ensure we use fresh seasonal produce and the specials boards change every few days.

The Original Golden Cross Faggots Are Back!! People used to travel from far and wide for The Golden Cross Faggots. We have secured the original recipe and have brought them back, the only thing missing are the dolls to watch you eat them (for those that remember) **DON'T MISS OUT!**



Cider and Harvest Festival Sat 22nd September

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01789 772420 www.thegoldencross.net

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Bar 12pm to 3pm & 5pm to 11pm Monday to Thursday
12pm to 12am Friday & Saturday • 12pm to 10.30pm Sunday
Food 12pm to 2.30p & 5pm to 9pm Mon to Fri
12pm to 9pm Saturday and 12pm to 8pm Sunday

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alley



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and **Poker** first Wednesday
of the month



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mobile bar

Real Ale
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changing
guest beers

Food served

Traditional Pub food
and Sunday lunches

Mon-Fri: 6-9pm

Sat: 12-9pm

Sunday lunch: 12-3

Opening times:

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Sat. 12-12 :: Sun. 12-11.30

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Bh

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Our Minstrel & other Drunken Sailors

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www.alanwhitbread.co.uk



Well, here's a song you all know! You may not see many drunken sailors in our neck of the woods (or sailing ships for that matter) but I bet you know the chorus and at least some of the verses.

It is of course a very old song, a version having been given in FA Olmstead's book *"Incidents of a Whaling Voyage"* 1839. A five-verse set of lyrics and tune were published in 1891 in the third edition of the shanty collection *"Sailor Songs or 'Chanties'"* by J Davis & F Tozer. It started with the chorus:-

Drunken Sailor (aka Hooray An' Up She Rises)

*Hooray! And up she rises,
Hooray! And up she rises
Hooray! And up she rises
Early in the morning.*

What shall we do with a drunken sailor?
[3 times]

Early in the morning.

Put him in the long-boat and make him
bale her.

What shall we do with a drunken soldier?
Put him in the guardroom till he gets sober.

Other early authors called it a "runaway", "walk away" or "stamp and go" shanty. It was said to be used for tacking, i.e. tightening up the corner of a sail, with several men running along the deck pulling the rope. They would stamp loudly on the deck on the word "Hooray". It was sung in "quick time" and the job didn't take long to complete.

Capt WB Whall, a veteran English sailor of the 1860s–70s, claimed that this was one of only two shanties which were sung in the Royal Navy (where singing at work was generally frowned upon). Moreover, the song had largely gone out of use as a "walk

away" shanty when the size of ships' crews reduced, making it was no longer viable as a working method.

The song became popular in the first half of the 20C and many other verses were added. Stan Hugill, the last working shantyman, in his collection of sea shanties *"Shanties from the Seven Seas"* 1961, quotes sixteen verses, some of which are given here.

Put him in a long-boat till he's sober
Keep him there and make 'im bale 'er.
Trice him up in a runnin' bowline.
Tie him to the taffrail when she's yard-arm under.
Put him in the scuppers with a hose-pipe on him.
Take 'im and shake 'im an' try an' wake 'im.
Give 'im a dose o' salt an' wake 'im.

Obviously it's the sort of song for which some people make up their own verses.

Vaughan Hully of Shakespeare CAMRA brings it really up to date by singing three of his own verses when he sings it with our local shanty team "Sharp As Razors" (I'm a member of that team too!) We sang it at our own Stratford-upon-Avon Beer & Cider Festival in June. His extra verses are:-

Make him say he's very, very sorry
Give him 40 hours Community Service
Send him on a course for alcohol awareness

If you want to hear (and join in with!) such traditional songs being sung try the following places:- 2nd Tuesday at **The Cottage of Content** at Barton (over the river from Bidford) B50 4NP; 2nd Sunday at **The Shakespeare Inn** at Welford-on-Avon (near the maypole) CV37 8PX; 4th Sunday at **The Mary Arden Inn** at Wilmcote (opposite the Shakespeare property) CV37 9XJ and Every Thursday at **The Fleece Inn** at Bretforton (a National Trust Inn) WR11 7JE (a GBG pub!).

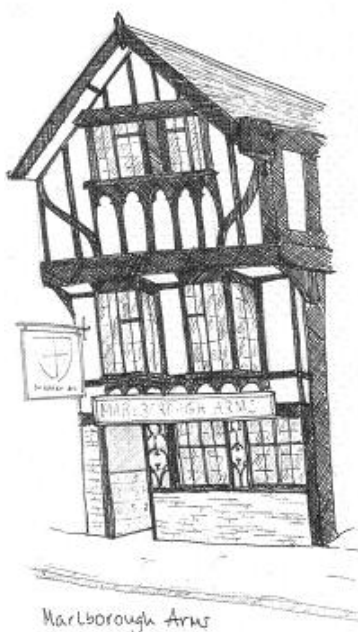
SHARP
AS RAZORS



A Beery Trip to Chester

Chester is well worth an extended visit with its Roman ruins, the River Dee, the City Walls to walk around, The Rows shops, a Cathedral and a zoo. It also has a wealth of great pubs and our most recent visit centred on some of the best of those.

At the beginning of July this year we stopped at the Travelodge in town which overlooks the remains of the Roman amphitheatre and our nearest real ale pub was the **Marlborough Arms** in St John Street. This is a quirky little pub which offers beers from the Stonehouse



brewery and a wide range of rums. (Shame about the state of the Gents loos though.) Despite the rain, we decided to have a walk out to **Telfords Warehouse** at Tower Wharf, a converted

warehouse on the canalside just outside the city ring-road. Local branch Pub of The Year (joint) 2012 it had a reasonable range of beers and an interesting menu. From here you can also stroll back along the canal to the **Old Harkers Arms**, Russell Street, passing the **Mill Hotel** over a bridge on the other side of the canal. The bar of the hotel has 16 handpumps and a small canalside patio, but on this occasion we didn't go in. We did pop into the **Canalside Inn**, home of Swifty's Brewery although there were none on and we wished we hadn't tried what was available. I think we caught them on a bad day as the beers were not well kept and we quickly departed for the neighbouring **Old Harkers**. Another refurbished warehouse, this is full of character with lots of book shelves and pictures on the walls. There was a choice of 9 beers here, all in excellent condition. I can also recommend the



food here. To my mind the jewel in Chester's crown is the **Brewery Tap**, the taphouse of Spitting Feathers brewery and joint pub of the year 2012 with **Telfords Warehouse**. Found in Lower Bridge Street up some stone steps this is a fabulous old building formerly a Jacobean banqueting hall. The beers here were in superb condition and again, excellent food. Just down the road from the **Brewery Tap** is the gloriously renovated **Cross Keys**, a Joules taphouse. The pub is worth a visit just to see the stained glass and etched windows. Continuing down the road past **Okells Bear & Billet** and over the river bridge you will encounter **The Ship** on your right. This is an interesting pub, with old school desks, advertising signs and some well kept beers. It was an ideal stop off prior to the walk on to the **Carlton Tavern** in Hartington Street, Handbridge. A high ceilinged local with a central bar this pub has been rejuvenated in recent years and is very CAMRA friendly. Back in town the **Old Pied Bull** on Northgate is next door to **Nicholson's Red Lion**. The **Red Lion** had run out of most beers by the time we got there (Chester races the weekend before had seen many pubs running low on beers when we were visiting) so we spent extra time in the **Old Pied Bull** which is a free house offering 6 real ales. There is also a micro brewery in the cellar which the friendly staff invited us to view.

So many good pubs and so little time, Chester is certainly well worth a visit.

Liz Kirby



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Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



Meetings and Socials

September

- 7th - 8th** Belbroughton Beer Festival, Belbroughton Recreation Centre, DY9 9TJ
- 11th - 12th** Palmers Brewery, presentation of Beer of the Stratford Beer & Cider Festival award
- 12th 8.00pm** Branch Meeting, Wilmcote. Meet at Mary Arden Inn then on to Masons Arms
- 15th** Evesham Pie and Ale Festival, Market Place, Evesham
- 15th - 16th** North Cotswold 5th Ale and Steam Weekend (with Glos. & Warwick. Steam Railways), Winchcombe Station GL54 5LB
- 21st - 22nd** Weighbridge Beer Festival, Alvechurch Marina B48 7SQ
- 22nd - 23rd** Stratford Food Festival featuring CAMRA Bar
- 22nd** Cider and Harvest Festival Golden Cross, Ardens Grafton
- 28th - 30th** (5th) North Cotswold CAMRA Beer Festival, Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club

October

- 5th - 6th** Wythall Beer Festival, Wythall Community Centre, B47 6LZ
- 6th, 12noon-4pm** **West Midlands CAMRA Regional meeting, Garden Suite, Swan's Nest Hotel, Stratford upon Avon CV37 7LT**
- 10th 8.00pm** Branch Meeting Ettington. Meet at White Horse then on to Chequers
- 11th - 13th** Oxford Beer Festival, Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1BX
- 17th** 8.00pm Stratford Beer Festival Meeting, The Fleece, Bretforton
- 21st - 22nd** Apple and Ale Festival, The Fleece Bretforton
- 25th - 27th** Birmingham Beer Festival, Second City Suite, B5 6LT (Stratford Beer & Cider Festival helpers trip 27th)

November

- 14th 8.00pm** Branch Meeting Broadway. Meet at Crown and Trumpet then on to Swan Hotel
- 21st 8.00pm** Stratford Beer Festival Meeting, The West End, Stratford
- 22nd - 24th** Dudley Winter Ales Fayre, Dudley Concert Hall, DY1 1HP

December

- 12th 8.00pm** Christmas Pub Crawl, Alcester. Meet at Holly Bush, finish at Holly Bush

Keep an eye on the branch website for updates to the diary and what's on at www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

Subscribe to Shakesbeer

If you are a CAMRA member in the Shakespeare branch, you should receive a copy of Shakesbeer through the post (one per household). If you prefer, a PDF copy can be sent to you by email - just let Shakesbeer know.

If you live outside the area or are not a CAMRA member but would like to subscribe and receive copies through the post, then please send a cheque made out to "Shakespeare CAMRA" for £5 for four issues, published quarterly, to:

**Shakesbeer, 21 Monks Walk,
Bridge St, Evesham, WR11 4SL**

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The Editor reserves the right to amend or shorten contributions for publication.

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A family run community pub serving a range of real ales, and food every lunch time and evening. Comfortable and welcoming atmosphere for everyone, and dog friendly for those out walking. Birthday Parties, Christenings etc. can be catered for. Wi-Fi available.

Regular Ales include Timmy Taylor's Landlord and Golden Best, Sharps Doombar, Cannon Royall, Milwards Musket Ale with one other guest ale usually available, and we have regular cask ale weeks where we will have ales from around the UK available.

Quality food is freshly prepared in our kitchen by our resident chef using locally sourced fresh ingredients, with monthly menu changes and regular food theme evenings. Roast served every Sunday from Noon to 2.30pm, and a daily specials board is always available.

Dates for your diary...

Live Music

"COFFIN DODGERS"

29th Sept. and 22nd Dec.

Cask Ale Week

in October will feature a number of Ales from the Midlands

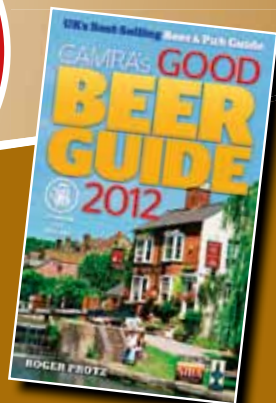


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WYE'S WORDS No. 3



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