



Issue 45
Summer 2011

FREE
Please
take one



Shakespearebeer

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

*Summertime...
and the Drinking is Easy*



Once again we look forward with baited breath as **The Great British Beer Festival 2011 (GBBF)** at Earls Court draws ever closer. CAMRA is hoping for another record-breaking event between the 2nd and 6th August, after more than 66,000 people attended the 2010 event.

Festival-goers this year can expect over 700 real ales, ciders, perries and foreign beers from around the world, with CAMRA claiming to have something to suit every drinker's taste. There's loads more than just beer going on though - take a look at the CAMRA website, www.gbbf.org.uk

Other festivals bordering our branch this summer include...

- **Rugby Beer Festival** 17th -18th June at Thornfield Bowling Club
- **Bromsgrove Beer and Cider Festival**, 30th June - 2nd July, at Bromsgrove Rugby Club
- **Charlbury Beer Festival** on 9th July
- **Hereford Beer Festival**, 8th - 10th July at Hereford Rowing Club
- **Cotswold Beer Festival** at Postlip Hall, Winchcombe from 28th - 31st July
- **Worcester Beer Festival** from 11th - 13th August.

See our festival list inside the back cover for even more great events.



Whilst GBBF is a five day extravaganza you can always get in a bit of practice at our own, more modest but just as enjoyable affair. The Stratford Beer and Cider Festival 2011 runs on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June at Stratford Racecourse and promises plenty of fun as well as first class beers and ciders. Our website gives more details at www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk



**BBC FOOD AND FARMING AWARDS
BEST DRINKS PRODUCER 2010**

WWW.WYEVALLEYBREWERY.CO.UK

Stoke Lacy, Herefordshire, HR7 4HG Tel: 01885 490505

Friday 24th & Saturday 25th June 2011



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE



STRATFORD RACECOURSE
LUDDINGTON ROAD CV37 9SE

www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

Free Entry
for CAMRA
members
including if you
join on site

This year's theme is...

Middle
England and
The Celts

Your local favourites plus
beers from Scotland, Wales,
Isle of Man and Cornwall



Opening Times:

2.00pm till 11.00pm Friday
11.00am till 11.00pm Saturday

- Over 50 real ales and ciders
- Food available all sessions
- Entertainment on Saturday
- Camping & caravan facilities on site
- **Discount Session:** 4.00 til 6.00 Friday
(All beers & ciders 60p a pint off!!)

£10.00 ENTRY PACKAGE

includes Beer Tokens, Glass and
Souvenir Programme

Mini bus shuttle service from Stratford
Railway Station all day Saturday

Thanks to our Sponsors...



wetherspoon

Festival staff needed...

If you would like to work at the festival please contact: John Ross (Festival Staffing Officer)
staffingofficer@stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

Pub News...

Alcester

Alcester residents are delighted to find real cask cider available in the town once more. Dave Lloyd and partner Sharon at **The White Lion** have installed the promised third pump and now offer Thatchers Heritage and two real ales as standard.

Bretforton

Having had a glorious Spring and the start of a similar Summer you can imagine cider sales will soar. **The Fleece, Bretforton** is taking full advantage of this and now has at least four different ciders, generally including their own, on offer as well as the five real ales. That licensee Nigel Smith is fast establishing the pub as a much appreciated cider outlet, probably the best in the branch area, has been recognised by CAMRA's 'Apple' section and is a contender for the Regional Cider & Perry Pub of the Year competition.

Shipston-on-Stour

Sad to report that our great expectations of **The Falcon** have not come to pass (*Shakesbeer issue 43*). The pub is under new management yet again and appears to have given up on real ale. The lease has been taken over by another Shipston pub, **The White Bear**, who, after closing it for a while last March have re-opened it as a sports-pub. When asked about cask beers resident manager Andrew Dundford reportedly said, "we tried it, but football fans drink lager, not real ale". Lets hope that Andy and his football fans soon come to their senses.

Norton

The Norton Grange, just outside of



● Norton Grange Licensee
Trevor Walter

Evesham, has re-opened following a brief closure for an extensive refurbishment and does now look good both inside and out. (Over £40,000 spent by Marstons on the garden, outside eating area and childrens play area).

More importantly, from 10th May licensee Trevor Walter will be joining the Marstons 'Ask For Cask' Campaign aimed at regenerating real ale sales. The special loyalty promotion requires you to buy eight pints of cask ale, (not all at once), to get a specially branded glass, (or free pint when glasses run out). The promotion also provides an extensive choice of ales from the Marstons catalogue. The Norton Grange keeps four on, Banks' Bitter being permanent, Pedigree and Hobgoblin rotating regularly and two guests which, on our visit, were Ringwoods 'Lovey Warne' and Jennings' 'Stickle Pike'. Whether you're out for a meal or just a pint, it's certainly worth a visit.

Ilmington

Congratulations to Quentin Creese and the team at **The Howard Arms** who have recently been awarded Cask

Marque status with maximum marks for their selection of real ales. Currently on offer are, Old Hooky, Wye Valley Bitter and guest beer, 'Celebration' from Cottage Brewing Co. Regularly featured guest beers generally come from local producers such as Cottage, Goffs and Warwickshire Beer Co.

What's more exciting is that Quentin wants to attract more CAMRA members to appraise his ales and has joined the CAMRA discount scheme. Members will receive 10p discount on a pint of real ale on production of a valid membership card.

Evesham

The St Georges Day weekend beer festival at **The Trumpet** was such a success that licensee Matthew Adams intends to hold a bigger and better one in June. With live music and at least 20 beers, ciders and perries on sale, the festival should coincide with Evesham's hosting of the National Morris Weekend over 17th-19th June. Hardly surprising, you can expect a bit of 'traditional entertainment' over the weekend. On Sunday you can couple it with a visit to The Vale's 1st 'Fresh Food Festival' in the grounds of All Saints Church. There may be a charge for the live music at The Trumpet, it's still being costed, but any profits from entrance fees are pledged to the Air Ambulance so be generous and get along.

Salford Priors

Well done to **The Bell** which featured at the Alcester Food Fair in May offering free samples of beer and food. They also now offer luxury en-suite accommodation, (one double) and have been chosen to feature in the AA Good Pub Guide.



Traditional 17th Century Inn offering Home Cooked Meals, Real Ales and Traditional Pub Games

En-Suite Accommodation and Function Room for Weddings, Parties and Business

Open
Monday to Thursday
11.30am - 3.00pm
5.30pm - 11.00pm
Friday 11.30am - 11.00pm
Sunday 12.00 - 10.30pm

No food Mondays and Tuesdays and Sunday evenings

The Wheatsheaf Inn

High Street, Old Badsey, near Evesham, Worcs. WR11 7EJ. Tel. 01386 830380

Alderminster

The Bell is hoping for a good summer and if it happens they have the perfect plan to make the most of it - a picnic. At weekends and bank holidays they will be offering a picnic menu from which you can create your own Grazing Day Hamper to enjoy in their meadow by the river, they will even provide a rug. See their website www.thebellald.co.uk/ events for details

Stratford

Cox's Yard is under new management and has had a refurbishment of the pub and patio. They say that they have created a relaxing yet stylish retreat for any occasion with cosy corners, retro dining and atmospheric lighting but retaining its live music. Interestingly the new menu features soul food and real ales remain on the bar, so best of luck to the new management team

Stratford

The Golden Bee in partnership with **The Rose and Crown** and other Sheep Street businesses, pulled out all the stops for the royal wedding by hosting a street party. They raised in the region of £1000 for charity and had a great time in the process.

Loxley

Another accolade for Gareth Slater and his team at **The Fox**; they were recently voted Shire Magazine's 'Country Pub of the Year'.

Bidford

The Anglo Saxon pub in Bidford closed over six years ago and has had numerous identities since, most recently it was the Spice Avon restaurant. Older locals may remember this as The Masons Arms whose name changed in the 1960s

celebrating the discovery of an Anglo Saxon cemetery behind the pub during excavations for a new road. The good news is that it's looking to re-open as '**The New Saxon**' early in the summer. Our latest information suggests that the property has been acquired by a publican from Birmingham and plans are that it will be a pub/coffee shop attracting visitors to Bidford's Big Meadow.



More Pub News...

Welford and Ettington

A tribute here to Jackie Hensher and husband Mark who took over **The Shakespeare** at Welford late last year (see issue 43), praise is pouring in from all sides about the food offering and the beer and judging by the crowds on our last visit the locals are happy too. Three ales on at our visit, Wye Valley HPA, Bombadier and Mad Goose, and Black Rat cider. (If you ever want honest reviews about a pub, take a look at the excellent website www.beerintheevening.com).



● Jackie, still smiling after four hours in the kitchen

More importantly Jackie and Mark are in the process of taking over **The White Horse**, Ettington which has been shut for several months now. The White Horse was very run down and can't re-open until the builders have finished, hopefully some time in July. Jackie and Mark will divide their time between the two and say that they 'want to give the village back its local' with dart board,

sports teams and community events as well as good traditional pub food. More importantly she believes the village is crying out for real ale and intends to put up to seven on as well as her favourite cider, Moles Black Rat.

Stratford

After being closed for about 8 months it was nice to see '**Oddys**' formerly **The Oddfellow Arms** open its doors again. It shouldn't be too difficult to find either as it has changed its name to **No.7** to match its address in **Windsor Street**, Stratford. It has been bought by Midlands businessman Martin Heath who does get hands on occasionally but leaves most of the day to day running to Bar manager Bob Beckey. The business has all the attributes of an English pub but has a very definite modern European twist in its décor and outlook. There were plenty of takers for a 'meet the brewer' night with Silhill Brewery on May Day where samples of 3.7 and 4.0 Silhill beers and free bites to eat were on offer. The Silhill beers are now a permanent fixture. A variety of



● Bob Beckey with partner and occasional helper, Sophie

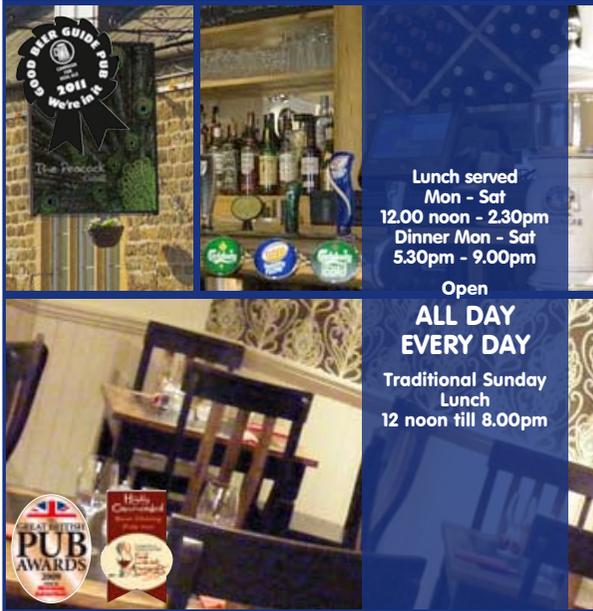
European lager and beers are on offer and even a proper coffee to enjoy with the daily papers, (provided), on the comfy sofas or the sheltered and heated courtyard. Plenty of snack foods are also available including pork pies and mustard.

There will always be plenty of visitors in Stratford but No.7 has made a real effort to attract a regular local trade with singles nights, student nights, regular music and open mike session and even a 'Proud Crowd' (gay/lesbian) night every 1st Tuesday.

It's certainly an eclectic offering and we wish them every success.

Stratford

The White Swan, Rother Street has been taken on by Fullers and by all accounts the beer is much improved in both choice and quality. Three beers, London Pride, Gales Seafarer and the seasonal Spring Sprinter. We'll definitely check it out and let you know.



Lunch served
 Mon - Sat
 12.00 noon - 2.30pm
 Dinner Mon - Sat
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Open
**ALL DAY
 EVERY DAY**
 Traditional Sunday
 Lunch
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Award winning country dining pub

Delicious, imaginative, locally sourced food, freshly cooked to your order in a warm and cosy atmosphere.

Daily changing blackboard, fresh fish delivered daily from Brixham and Cornwall.

We are dog, child and horse friendly.

The Peacock is nestled in the sleepy village of Oxhill, midway between Stratford and Banbury. It has been tastefully modernised but still maintains its olde worlde charm, with oak beams, flagstone floors and roaring log fire.

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



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A superb look new menu caters for all tastes

4 Cask Marqued Ales kept in premium condition and specially chosen to suit our freshly prepared food. Currently on offer we have Wadsworth 6x, Black Sheep, Old Hooky and Wye Valley Best

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Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 12.00-3.00pm & 6.30pm-11.30pm
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Open all day

The Shires
 Magazine...
**"Country Pub
 of the Year
 2011"**



More Pub News...

Salford Priors

The Bell are asking for help to raise money for **University Hospital Birmingham Cancer Unit** or any charity of your choice by sponsoring the Salford Priors 3 charity event on August 13th.

Three or more routes...

Choose from 4 mile, 10 miles or 40 miles or any combination

Three or more ways to compete...

Walk, run, cycle or any other non mechanical means

Three or more ways to participate...

Get sponsored to participate, volunteer your time to help out on the day or financially support the event
For further information or to sponsor this event contact:



Salford Priors 3

A CHARITY WALK, RUN OR CYCLE EVENT
August 13th 2011

Brian Seabourne on

07855 225139 brian.seabourne@amey.co.uk;

David Atkinson on

01789 772112 info@thebellatsalfordpriors.com

Or visit The Bell website www.thebellatsalfordpriors.com

Wetherspoons Spring Beer Festival

Another 'thank you' to licensee Tammy Montgomery at The Golden Bee, Stratford for a hugely entertaining evening out at the launch of the Wetherspoons Spring Beer Festival.

Some of us, I'm ashamed to say, were more interested in the excellent beers on offer than in listening to a talk from visiting brewer Ian 'Brad' Bradford and wife Viv who travelled from Limestone Brewery in Stone. We paid the price however as a quiz, later in the evening centered, not only on the festival, but on his talk also and no amount of persuasion could prise those valuable few answers from those who knew them. One of Brad's own beers, 'Stone

the Crows' (5.4% abv), was included in the festival, (all his beer names have a 'stone' reference). This rich and dark red beer had a delicious fruity bitterness and probably stole the show for me as best of the night.

Plenty of nibbles with a variety of flavours were laid on to encourage beer

and food matching. Once again the favourite of the night was the chocolate which, according to our membership secretary, Katie, appeared to go with everything.

Thanks again to Tammy, to Brad and Viv and to those members who made it a great night out.



Warwickshire
County Pub
of the Year 2010



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Good Quality, Good Value and
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Pub of the Year 2010"**

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**11.30am-11.30pm Friday & Saturday
and 12.00pm-10.00pm Sunday**

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Visit our website:

www.theboarsheadhamptonlucy4food.co.uk

THE CROWN AND TRUMPET INN

CHURCH STREET - BROADWAY - WORCESTERSHIRE - WR12 7AE



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

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

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



Shakespeare's CAMRA Worcestershire pub of the year 2008-09

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



Cotswold Spring Brewery

Olde English Rose - 4.0%

Straw like in colour this excellent ale depicts every aspect of summer. With an initial dryness on the pallet and a happy finish, this brew is bursting with flavour.

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



Stroud Brewery

Tom Long - 3.8%

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

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



Stanway Brewery

Cotteswold Gold - 3.9%

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

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



Stroud Brewery

Summer Breeze - 4.2%

A crisp summer beer with rye malt and zesty hop character.

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



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

See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



The Fleece, Bretforton

Shakespeare CAMRA Worcestershire Pub of the Year 2011

Just more of the same for Nigel Smith, licensee of The Fleece, Bretforton. Not that he wasn't absolutely delighted to be voted Branch Pub of the Year for Worcestershire, but it was for the third year running.

Nor will we be asking Nigel to give anyone else a chance; if they wish to compete then it's for other pubs to rise to the exceptionally high standards he's set.

The award was presented by Branch Chairman Lloyd Evans who paid tribute to the pub's unremitting pursuit of quality and Nigel's tireless enthusiasm for his trade. The pub will now go forward for judging against other branch PotY's and has for the first time been entered in CAMRA's Regional Cider PotY competition. There is always so much more than beer and cider available at The Fleece. **Take a look at their website** www.thefleeceinn.co.uk



All Beer and Skittles with our North Cotswold Neighbours...

A huge vote of thanks to North Cotswold CAMRA and to the Butchers Arms, Mickleton who provided a great nights entertainment back in March.

What started as a friendly invitation to an 'inter-branch' skittles match developed into a battle royale as the teams won legs in turn and matched each others experts and 'could do better's'. A fine turn out gave North Cotswold a team of 14 players meaning we had to persuade our bus driver, Stuart Oddy to join us and match numbers. God job too; the match came down to the final couple of balls in the final leg and Stuart did us proud with his best score of the night, allowing us to scrape an overall victory by the narrowest of margins. Honours even on highest scores also as North Cotswold walked off with a £10 prize for the highest mens score and our own Lizzie, £10 for the ladies. (I'd like to say she bought a round with her winnings but it's still tucked away, awaiting framing!).

All in all a great night out - good food, beer and cider courtesy of The Butchers Arms, good company courtesy



of our North Cotswold neighbours and good competition courtesy of all concerned.



Shakespeare
CAMRA

**Pub of the
Year 2010**

Worcestershire



The Fleece Inn

Bretforton WR11 7JE

*The quintessential English Pub - owned by
The National Trust - run with love of tradition*

Local Regular & Guest Cask Ales & Cider

*Mediaeval Thatched Barn available to hire for
Functions and Events*

*Each second Wednesday of the month 8.00pm -
Open Acoustic Session*

*Every Thursday from around 8.45pm -
Folk Night - everyone is welcome*

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

Check out the website for forthcoming events



The NORMAN KNIGHT

Whichford, Shipston-on-Stour,
Warwickshire Tel: 01608 684621
www.thenormanknight.co.uk

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The micro brewery in the Cotswolds,
able to supply you with quality real ales.

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sales@thepatriotbrewery.co.uk
www.thepatriotbrewery.co.uk

“The Pub on the Village Green”

Winner of CAMRA Pub of the Season 2010

Fantastic new 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 three roasts

Fantastic music events throughout the summer
(see website)

Brewery News

North Cotswold

North Cotswold Brewer Jon Pilling is busy brewing as fast as he can to keep up with demand, amongst other customers pub co. JD Wetherspoons have increased their order. He's currently on the lookout for a new business partner whose investment he hopes will enable him to double capacity to 20 barrels a week and hopefully take on a pub in which to showcase his beers. He had a number of beers at the recent Ludlow Spring Food and Beer festival, had a coffee stout at the Bath Coffee Festival and is brewing 'Agincourt' a 4.5% honey beer for the 'Longbow Festival' in Swindon. His Cappucino Stout will also be featured at the **Stratford Beer Festival on 24/25th June**.

Purity

Congratulations yet again to Purity as 'Mad Goose' swept to victory in the HEART of ENGLAND fine foods (HEFF) Diamond Awards, (drinks category), celebrating the best of local food and drink from across Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Birmingham and the Black Country.

On hearing that they had made the finals MD Paul Halsey said, "We are all so proud of how successful Mad Goose has been over the past two and a half years. The brewing team put their hearts and souls into each brew in order to keep the quality of the beer consistent. It's great to have all their hard work recognised."

The winners were revealed on Saturday 15 May at a glittering black tie Gala Dinner at Aston Villa Football Club.

A row of five circular beer labels from Cannon Royall Brewery. From left to right: 'Arrowhead Extra' (yellow background), 'Kings Shilling' (yellow background), 'Arrowhead Better' (blue background), 'Fruiterers Mild' (red background), and 'Teddy Bear' (yellow background).

"To Beer or not to Beer
...No Question"

Shakesbear

 4.2% ABV

Award Winning Uphampton Ales from...

Cannon Royall Brewery Ltd.

Uphampton Lane, Ombersley, Nr. Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 0JW
Telephone: 01905 621161

A cartoon teddy bear character dressed as a cool guy. It wears a red hat, sunglasses, a white ruffled shirt, and blue shorts. It is holding a large pink lollipop.

Cannon Royall

An unfortunate and unforeseen circumstance called 'Gareth' meant that some deliveries of our favourite Cannon Royall beers were slightly delayed recently but the van is now back on the road.

Beer drinkers after something unique are in for a treat as a special brew called 'Shakesbear', (4.2%), a 'light porter style beer with a subtle fruit aroma, a gentle sweetness and a bitter finish' has been brewed for the Stratford Beer Festival. You won't find it anywhere else yet.

Something else different every time and with some interesting results is on sale at The Hartlebury Club. 'Jim'll Mix It' is a mixture of all the beer left over after the different brews have been racked. You may find something similar at The Fruiterers Arms, Uphampton, called 'Fruiterers Choice'.

Hook Norton

It may be a closely guarded secret - it's certainly not made clear on Hooky's website, but their glorious Double Stout now appears to be available all year round and not just in January and February as they suggest. I've given it a bit of a rest for May as I enjoy Special Dark Mild but be assured, as long as it's there I'll keep drinking it.

June sees the launch once more of Haymaker, (5.0%abv), a strong pale ale with a very distinctive taste. According to the brewery, plenty of Goldings hops during the brewing give it a certain something extra - 'like sunshine dancing on the tongue'. Look out also, in August, for Hook Norton's first wheat beer, Summer Haze, (4.5%abv). Described as light, fruity, highly effervescent and refreshing. Don't be put off by appearance, the protein in the wheat can cause a slight haze in the beer.

Patriot Brewery

A couple of new faces on my last visit to **The Norman Knight** and Patriot Brewery. First, Winston, a gorgeous black Pug with a liking for beer. Eight months old and full of character - I'm sure it won't be long before he appears on a pumpclip of his own.

Secondly John Romer a North Oxfordshire CAMRA member who is indulging his passion for beer by helping licensee/brewer Tim Young experiment with different malts and hops. Some excellent new beer are resulting including John's first effort, the popular 'Romers Rookie' (4.0% abv), a very pale and hoppy session bitter. Next from the stable was 'Romer Therapy', (4.2% abv) and a third which should make an appearance at Stratford Beer Festival, 'Morris Brew' (3.8% abv).

Wye Valley

A plethora of awards at the recent SIBA Wales and West Region Beer competition at the Ludlow Spring Festival. From over 200 beers Wye Valley came away with a gold, three silvers and a bronze. Dorothy Goodbody's Country Ale romped to gold once more having been Regional winner in 2009 and National Champion in 2010. The silvers were awarded to bottled HPA, Country Ale and Wholesome Stout whilst their bitter won bronze in the 'standard bitter' category.

Dorothy Goodbody's Imperial Stout is one of 14 beers which, in May set sail on the 60ft clipper, Thermopylae, from the Thames through the Baltic to arrive in Saint Petersburg in June to celebrate the Imperial Russian Stout heritage. On arrival in Saint Petersburg, there will be a beer festival and beer judging to celebrate a trip which has not been attempted for 200 years.

Back home we look forward to the delights of the brewery's seasonal offerings: in June, Ginger Pride (4.3%) with its distinctive ginger finish, in July, Flower Power (4.4%) with added fresh elderflower and in August, Summer Sting (4%), brewed with a late infusion of nettles to give a grassy aroma and spicy aftertaste.



It's not only the excellent pubs and breweries in our area putting us on the map - it seems that a local wholesaler/distribution company, **Inn Express**, has gained a '**Cask Marque Award**' for its care and distribution of real ale, only the second company in the Country to achieve this status.

Inn Express are based in Haseloe, Alcester and have been operating since 2002. The company has grown steadily now employing over 30 people and using a fully liveried fleet of vehicles making daily deliveries within a 35 mile radius of its base. As well as cask ales and wine the company also supply spirits, kegs beers, soft drinks and snacks, bar sundries and beer gas - basically everything a pub would need. They even have their own beer, or at least one brewed exclusively for the company by Wadsworths, 'Happy Daze', (3.6% abv).

The 'Cask Marque Distribution Award' highlights best practice in the handling of cask ales and encompasses things like storage, temperature and stock rotation all ensuring that their beer gets to the pub in tip top condition. With a growing customer base in excess of 700 they're obviously delivering a much needed service in our area.

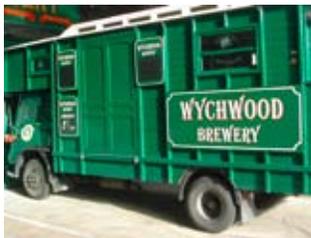
To view a very comprehensive brochure visit the company website at www.inn-express.com.

Shakespeare goes to the wonderful **World of Wychwood...**

The Wychwood Brewery is tucked away behind the main street of the market town of Witney, in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. It has a long but chequered history having started life as Clinch's, in 1841 and brewed successfully for over 120 years.

The brewery was sold to Courage in 1961 and promptly closed. In 1983 the site was purchased by a brewer, Paddy Glenny who opened the Eagle Brewery, later changing its name to Glenny's. It was rechristened Wychwood in 1990 and has grown phenomenally since. A victim of its own brewing and marketing success they first won the licence to brew Brakspear's beer in 2002, and most recently have been bought up by the Marstons group.

All this and so much more was explained to a visiting Shakespeare CAMRA branch on a really interesting visit to the



brewery. Our guide Dave Parsons talked us through the brewing processes of Wychwood and Brakspear products and followed up by forcing us to taste a variety of draft and bottled beers in the brewery bar.

Having effectively whetted our appetite we were obliged to stop on the way home at the very excellent **Rose and Crown**, Charlbury, a regular GBG pub and frequent Pub of the Year for North Oxford CAMRA. We weren't disappointed as a diverse and well kept range of beers kept us satisfied until hunger drove us from this wet

sales only pub.

A truly delicious fish and chip supper awaited us at **The Norman Knight**, Whichford, cooked by licensee Tim's own fair hands and served with his own brew of Patriot, Sir Winston.

A final and excellent pint at **The Plough**, Stretton on Fosse, just rounded the day off nicely.

We were stuffed, satisfied and happy as our long suffering driver, Stuart from Responsive Accessible Transport dropped us off around the branch area.

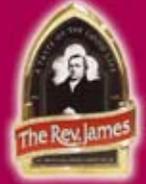
A huge thank you to Wychwood Brewery, landlords Tom Longfellow and Tim Young and everyone on the bus who made it a great day out.





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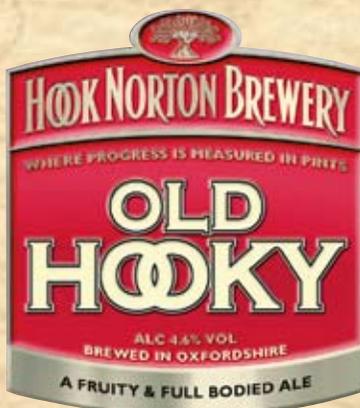
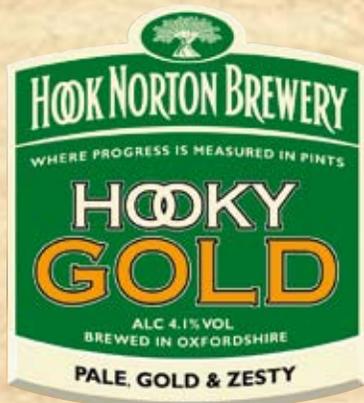
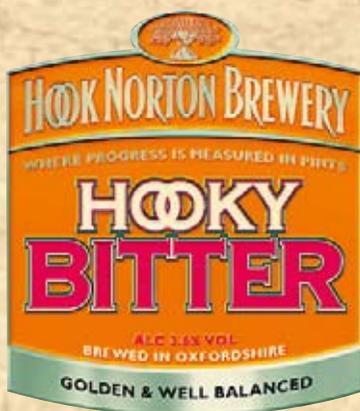
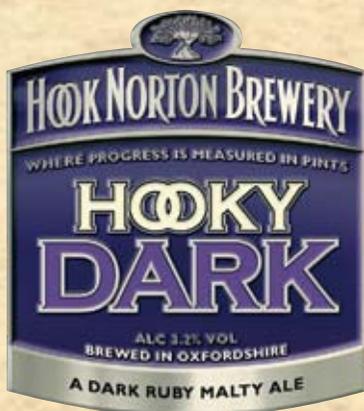


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Hooky's **Trumpet** hits the high notes...

One of Shakespeare CAMRA's main aspirations is to raise the profile of pubs which sell real ale in good condition and encourage people to use them. One of the ways we do this is by selecting a 'Pub of the Season', four times a year, which we recognise has contributed something a bit extra to our cause or the local community.

The Trumpet, Hook Norton's only pub in Evesham, has suffered over the last couple of years with a variety of managers and short term tenants, often with variable beer quality and has had very little work done by way of decoration and infrastructure. The result, inevitably, customers drifting away and finding other places to drink. Any licensee will tell you that it's one hell of a job attracting these customers back.

Over the past eight or nine months Matthew Adams, licensee of the The Trumpet has increased the beer range, kept it in prime condition, established pub teams and quiz nights, run a beer festival and reintroduced a basic food menu to the pub. It could still do with a bit of a makeover, (Hook Norton take note), but the basic requisites of a good local, i.e. good beer and customers, are back. This is why The Trumpet has been selected as our Pub of the Season, Spring 2011. Thank you Matt and keep up the good work.



● Branch Chairman Lloyd Evans presents the PotS Certificate



Fancy a pint in Shipston-on-Stour?

Shipston-on-Stour is a small market town situated in South Warwickshire and ideally located for visitors to the North Cotswolds and Stratford-upon-Avon. It is surrounded by places of interest including Chipping Campden, Broadway and Moreton-in-Marsh all of which offer attractions to the discerning beer drinker. Shipston is also the home of branch member **Jim Sargeant** who supplied the following information on the real ale pubs in the town.

The Black Horse (1), Station Road is an ancient thatched pub, (the only thatch in Shipston), usually offering Wadworth 6X and Greene King IPA on handpump and is open all day Fri & Sat. It's located seven or eight minutes leisurely stroll from the town centre to the north but it's well worth the walk. Closed Mondays.

The Falcon (2) in Church Street is close by Pettiphers Garage and is one of three Punch Tavern pubs in the town.

At Easter 2011 the tenancy was taken over by the White Bear who became the fourth landlord in less than two years. The pub was closed for a while for refurbishment and reopened as a sports bar. First on handpump was Black Sheep Bitter and also Old Rosie but unfortunately the appearance of real ale has become somewhat sporadic. The pub opens at 4pm Mon-Fri and 12 noon Sat. SKY Sports TV is available on many screens.

The George Hotel (3) is in the Square and usually has 3 cask beers such as Tribute, Spitfire and maybe Tetley Cask. Renowned for its food in the restaurant there is also a bar menu available all day and offers accommodation.

The White Bear (4) is also in the Square and almost next door. Much refurbishment to the bars and bay window frames took place during 2010 resulting in a fine line-up of six handpumps. Two are dedicated to



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WARWICKSHIRE PUB OF THE YEAR 2008





1. The Black Horse



2. The Falcon



3. The George Hotel



4. The White Bear



5. The Coach & Horses



6. The Horseshoe Inn

a perry and a cider and the others to cask beers including London Pride. The Falcon acts as a Sports Bar annex in the evenings and weekends.

The Coach & Horses (5) is a Hooky house often with four and sometimes five beers from the extensive Hooky range including guests. Coming out of

the George or the White Bear, turn left to the end of the Square, cross over and continue for 80 yards to find the pub on the right.

Last but by no means least is the *Good Beer Guide* listed **Horseshoe (6)**, a black and white timbered pub opposite the car park entrance to the White Bear.

There are three cask beers which may be Otter, Doom Bar and Brakspear Bitter together with a cider such as Hogan's Warwickshire Wobbler. CAMRA members get a 10p discount so make sure to take your card. There is a covered and heated smoking area in the courtyard.

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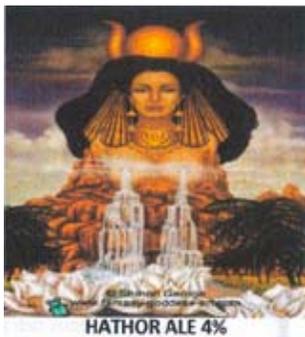


Shakespeare
CAMRA
Pub of the Year 2010
Warwickshire

Here come the girls...again

No apologies for continuing to venerate the ladies - having proved themselves more than worthy adversaries in the tasting department, (see Shakesbeer issue 43), they are also growing in numbers as outstanding brewers.

Another hit for Sue, Angela and the team at **The Boars Head** for a first class beer festival over the Royal Wedding weekend. Their biggest festival yet with thirty guest beers from Brewsters, (women brewers), all over the country. Hats off to Sue and Angela for an excellent range of beers, from light session bitters to rich dark stouts and porters. As important, every beer offered was in first class condition. In keeping with the Brewster theme of the weekend, earlier in the year Sue and Angela christened themselves 'Heron Brewsters' and set off to Church End to brew their own beer. They came away with 'Hathor Ale', aptly named after an Egyptian Goddess said to have invented beer and hailed as the personification of love, beauty, music, motherhood and joy, (or as Sue put it, 'queen of drunkenness and dance').



Although all sold separately the deal of the weekend was the purchase of the festival programme and 13 half-pint beer tokens and a meal for £20. It took us a couple of days and the purchase of



● Nick and Nigel monitor Jac's blind tasting

at least three 'token deals' to taste the lot: a rotten job but...

My personal favourites were 'Thriller in Vanilla', (5.1%abv), a rich dark porter from Brown Cow Brewery in Selby, Nth Yorks. and 'Hellcat Maggie', (4.8% abv), a golden, hoppy brew from Brewsters Brewery in Grantham. I feel somewhat justified in that 'Hellcat Maggie' was the first beer to sell out and was gone by

Saturday afternoon. Saturday also saw a 'blind tasting' run by local regulars, Nick and Julie Bergman, where entrants were invited to taste and attempt to identify five of the beers on offer to win eight pints of beer. I personally failed, identifying just four out of five but feel somewhat vindicated by the fact that no-one got all five and I did better than both Sue's partner Nigel and bar manager Jack Stephens who were selling it!

Unfortunately we left before the end

of the weekend, whose highlights included an Indian banquet served with Waen Brewery's Porter House Blue, (6.1% abv) and a chance to meet and chat with its brewer Sue Hayward and on Monday a barbeque and jazz band.

Thanks Sue and all concerned for a real triumph.

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The Charge of the Tight Brigade...

This year the CAMRA AGM and members' weekend took place in Sheffield and three Shakespeare branch members took the opportunity to explore one of the finest real ale cities in the UK.

Sheffield has an excellent and efficient tram service which runs coincidentally (or not) along the Upper Don Valley real ale trail, known more succinctly as The Valley of Beer. Forward thinking AGM organisers published details of stops and nearby pubs. Using our day passes we were able to explore the route and although we didn't go into all the pubs we passed (what do you take us for?) we certainly hit upon some gems.

The furthest outpost we made it to was the **New Barrack Tavern**. Not far from Hillsborough football ground this is a friendly multi roomed outlet for Castle Rock beers offering up to 11 ales. As a fan of dark beers I was pleased to find Castle Rock Black Gold here, a very drinkable mild.

Just one stop back along the tram line is the **Hillsborough Hotel**, home of Crown Brewery and including a very fine Stannington Stout, but we were

soon hopping back on the tram to the **Wellington** next to the Shalesmoor stop. Sister pub to the **Dragon** in Worcester, this is home to the Little Ale Cart brewery and offered a splendid range of 10 beers, including a stout. Crossing the road towards Kelham Island, we called in at the **Ship**, an old fashioned friendly local also with good beer and at a reasonable price, before heading to the **Kelham Island**

Half a pint, half a pint,
half a pint onwards
Into the valley of
beer rode the three
drunkards...

Tavern. This CAMRA National Pub of The Year 2009 and 2010 lived up to its billing with a superb range of 12 beers on offer. Keeping up with the dark theme we selected a mild, a porter and a stout between us and they were all pronounced good.

Around the corner is the **Fat Cat**. Next to the Kelham Island brewery and offering a magnificent choice of beers and great food we were hard pressed to move on from here. Ever. But move on we did to the **Harlequin** where we forgave the over loud live band because here we were able to sample the delights of Boggart's Rum Porter. However, we were eventually defeated



● Our home for the majority of the weekend, **The Fat Cat**

by the music and returned to the Fat Cat to see the evening out.

If ever you are in Sheffield and can tear yourselves away from the Valley take a tram ride to the railway station. Next to platform one we found the **Sheffield Tap**. Formerly the first class refreshment rooms this has been recently refurbished and is now a pleasant bar which has made a feature of the ornate tiles and high ceiling.

Alongside some interesting guest ales, four Thornbridge beers were on tap here, including Brock, a very smooth stout.

A short walk from the station is the **Rutland Arms**. Along with its regular 8 handpumps this friendly corner pub boasted a Wall of Cider for the members' weekend and had an upstairs room with a bank of 50 bag in the box ciders. Tempted though we were we stayed true to the beer and also had some very good food here.

In many ways we barely scratched the surface of the drinking mecca that is Sheffield, but the bits we scratched certainly soothed our itch for good beer.





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Good Pub Guide to charge for inclusion

Whilst beer drinkers and licensees wait with baited breath for the Good Beer Guide 2012 whose entries are selected, purely on merit by CAMRA members and the general public, some of our licensees are less anticipatory when it comes to the privately published Good Pub Guide.

For the first time in its 29 year history pubs are required to pay in the region of £200 for their entries and many don't like it. There is a general feeling that whilst initially the accolade may be worth paying for, as more and more good pubs drop out having declined to pay, the guide will lose its integrity and become less worthwhile. Good Pub Guide editor Fiona Stapley

insists that the judging criteria will remain the same but said: "Putting together a guide like this is quite expensive and we are looking at the business model. More and more guides like this are charging." If standards do remain the same it will be interesting to see if there are still 5000 entries despite a number refusing to pay and dropping out.



The Good Beer Guide is regarded by many CAMRA members as a 'Beer Bible'. Since it was first published in 1974 it has grown to include a substantial description of pub entries as well as cask ale breweries and lists of the beers produced with tasting notes. CAMRA also publish the Good Cider Guide and Good Bottled Beer Guide.

Our Wanderming Minstrel's No Fool



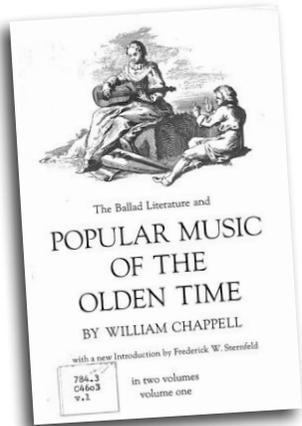
Alan Whitbread
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In the Spring edition of Shakesbeer I wrote about a modern song from the singer/song writer Harvey Andrews. Well I'm back to writing about a traditional drinking song. In fact, "Who's the Fool Now?", which is sometimes known as "Martin Said to his Men", goes back over 400 years and yet is still sung today, particularly at morris feasts and, indeed, in pubs!

A few years ago I was very pleased to obtain a 1965 reprint of the book "Popular Music of the Olden Time" by William Chappell, originally published in two volumes in 1859. Chappell (1809-1888) took over as senior partner in the London publishing house, Chappell & Co., when his father Samuel Chappell, the founder, died in 1834. William had an abiding interest in songs & tunes of the olden time and with scholarly acumen, he set about a life's work of collecting, cataloguing and publishing old songs. His work resulted in him publishing a number

of important works, culminating in "Popular Music of the Olden Time". We have so much to thank him for, as the book is a treasure trove of old and often forgotten songs, together with their music, the background to them and sometimes even who sung them. Thumbing through it the other day, I came across what I had thought to be a Music Hall song but which I found to be one of the oldest songs in Chappell's book! In fact, I found that "Who's a Fool Now?" was in Viscount Fitzwilliam's "Virginal Book" 1610, in Freeman's "Deuteromelia" 1609 and in the

Stationer's Company "Book of Ballads" 1588. Now that's pretty old! Chappell suggests that it "is a satire on those who tell wonderful stories" and gives the first five verses detailed below. Of course, many additional amusing verses are sung nowadays, including the penultimate verse, which is quite often sung at morris events. The "Squire" is the chairman of the morris team and the "Bagman" is the secretary. The structure of the song repeats in each verse and chorus words are in *Italics*.



*Martin said to his man. **Fie, man, fie** I saw the mouse chase the cat....*
*Martin said to his man. **Who's the fool, now** Saw the cheese eat the rat*
Martin said to his man. I saw a flea heave a tree....
Fill thou the cup and I the can Twenty miles out to sea
***Thou hast well drunken man, who's the fool now** I saw a maid milk a bull....*
I saw the man in the moon.... At every pull a bucket full
Clouting of St. Peter's shoon I saw the Squire buy a round....
I saw the goose ring the hog.... Saw the Bagman turn it down!
Saw the snail bite the dog Martin said to his man
I saw the hare chase the hound.... Fill thou the cup and I the can
Twenty miles above the ground

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** 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, WR11 7JE.

Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



Meetings and Social

June

4th Black Country Tour-contact 01386 761313

15th 7.30pm, Meet Old Tramway, Stratford for pre-festival publicity tour

July

12th 8.00pm, Broadway, meet Horse & Hound then onto Crown & Trumpet

August

9th 8.00pm, meet Gate Inn, Lower Brailes then onto George Hotel

September

13th 8.00pm meet George Hotel, Shipston then onto Horseshoe Inn and then Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse

Beer Festivals

June

2-4 Wolverhampton, Wulfrun Hall

17-18 Rugby, Thornfield Bowling Club

18 Evesham, Trumpet (ties in with The National Morris weekend)

17-18 Cheltenham, food & drink festival, Montpelier, Cheltenham

17-19 Alcester, Holly Bush (in conjunction with folk festival.)

24-25 Stratford Racecourse, CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival, camping available

30 June - 2 July Bromsgrove, Rugby club

July

8-10 Beer on The Wye, Rowing Club, Hereford

9 Charlbury, Oxon (Charity event.)

15-16 Warwick, Warwick Racecourse (Lions Club festival.)

28-30 Stafford, Blessed William Howard School

29-31 Cotswold, Postlip Hall Winchcombe

August

2-6 Great British Beer Festival, Earls Court

11-1 Worcester, Worcester Racecourse

September

2-3 Harbury, Village Hall

17 Inkberrow Festive of Fun, Sands Road

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