



**Issue 38
Autumn 2009**

**FREE
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take one**



SHAKES BEER

Newsletter of Shakespeare branch of CAMRA - Real ale in Shakespeare country & The Vale

One Hundred Thousand People Can't Be Wrong!

For the first time in it's 38 Year history CAMRA membership has topped the 100,000 mark. This historic landmark was announced on the opening day of the Great British Beer Festival.



Founders of CAMRA
Jim Makin (Left), Michael Hardman, Bill Mellor and Graham Lees

In 1971 four drinkers, Graham Lees, Bill Mellor, Michael Hardman, and Jim Makin, concerned about the growth of mass produced, homogenised beer and it's effect on Britain's craft brewing industry, founded what was originally named The Campaign for the Revitalisation of Ale. Michael Hardman, CAMRA's first Chairman, was also responsible for the creation of our monthly paper,

What's Brewing and the now bestselling Good Beer Guide, currently in its 36th year. In recognition of his services to real ale and the brewing industry he was awarded an MBE in last years honours list.

Mike Benner, CAMRA Chief Executive, said,

'We are overjoyed at reaching 100,000 members, brought together by our passion for great British beer and community pubs. But while we may relax and raise a glass or two to celebrate at the opening of the Great British Beer Festival today, we are not complacent and tomorrow the hard work campaigning for drinkers' rights will continue.'

CAMRA has grown into a powerful campaigning force, promoting small brewing and pub businesses and fighting the continued consolidation of local breweries by the major players. Amongst many other activities CAMRA is committed to reducing tax on beer, reforming licensing regulation and getting a fair deal for the publican and beer drinking public. It also makes an effort to promote less common varieties of beer and other traditionally brewed beverages including stout, porter, mild, and traditional cider and perry.



More and more people of all ages and backgrounds are realising the need to speak out for quality and choice in their local pub. More and more people are realising that unless action is taken there won't be many local pubs left. More and more people are joining CAMRA.

For a round-up of Great British Beer Festival news and Champion Beer of Britain results, see page 14

See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



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News from around the area

Broadway

In support of England's Ashes sponsors, **Crown and Trumpet** licensee Andrew Scott has added Marston's Pedigree to his stable of beers. This popular pub is also one of the few places in the area where you'll find **Stroud Brewery's** latest beer, Summer Breeze, 3.6% abv. This light and zesty seasonal ale should still be available in September.

Alcester

Thanks to Russell who now manages both **The Royal Oak** and **The Cross Keys** and has a regular offering of either Deuchars Caledonian IPA or Purity Mad Goose in each. The ales are much appreciated and are going so well at the Keys that they're considering a second.

Alcester

If you missed the Summer Beer Festival at Alcester's **Holly Bush** don't worry, licensee TJ has already organised the next one over the weekend **30th October - 1st November**, to include lots of scary Halloween fun and about 20 real ales.

Ettington

Ettington Community Centre is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual Ettington Real Ale Festival which will be taking place on **Friday 25th September (8-12)** and **Saturday 26th September 2009 (2-12)**. There will be live local bands and something for the family audience on Saturday afternoon too. Everyone who went last year said they enjoyed it so much that the centre are going to do it all again and hope for even more visitors.



As always the beer will be top quality complementing the excellent food and music on offer. It is kept in ideal conditions under guidance from the organiser of Heart of Warwicks, Harbury Real Ale Festival, ensuring it satisfies the requirements of experts and enthusiastic amateurs alike!

For more information please contact Robert Bradshaw on 07771 904367 or by email to robert6@tesco.net

Stratford

Thanks to Roger and Helen Hatch of **The West End**, Stratford who are making a real effort to keep their locals happy. 17th June saw a 'local and regulars night' where the popular licensees said 'thanks' to everyone for their support and supplied a free buffet to accompany their regular beer offering.

Another great night was enjoyed on 15th July when **The West End** hosted a Timothy Taylor promotion night. Taylor's 'Ram Tam', rarely seen outside the TT catchment area, and 'Golden Best' joined the regular 'Landlord' for the night. Aided of course by the fact that the beer was in first class condition, a promotional price of £2.25 a pint and a few free samples ensured that it all sold out by the end of the evening. A raffle of promotional gifts supplied by Alex the TT rep. raised over £100 for The Shakespeare Hospice.

Alcester

Congratulations to Dave & Cathy at **The Lord Nelson** who have just celebrated a very successful first year in the pub. A special guest ale brewed by Wadsworth, *Not on Your Nellie*, was available alongside local brews from Wye Valley and Warwickshire Brewing Co. Free food (fish and chips), face painting, a yard of ale competition and music from *Kathleen Turner Overdrive* all combined to make for a wonderful evening in the pub's beer garden

Bretforton

It seems there is always something going on at **The Fleece**. Latest attraction is holding a fifteen beer, fifteen cider festival over the weekend **2nd - 4th October**. With fine food and entertainment throughout the weekend you should jump at the chance to sample some Buckle Street beers and Fleece ciders. Opportunities don't come along that often.

Shipston-on-Stour

Saturday September 12th sees a 12 beer festival in a marquee at the **Sports**

Club in Shipston. Beers of Nottingham will be the focus of the festival plus presumably ales from North Cotwold as they are setting up the bar. Music and a barbecue will also be featured at this one day event which starts at 4.00 pm.

Shipston-on-Stour

More good news for Shipston drinkers; **The Falcon**, Church Street re-opened on 22nd August after a 7 week closure. We welcome new tenants Alison and Stuart both new to the trade, who arrived from Redditch to reopen this Punch Taverns pub on a short term basis with an option for a longer lease. Real ale will definitely feature and the first two beers to appear were Adnams Bitter and Old Hooky.

Oxhill

The award winning **Peacock** is putting its culinary expertise to good work and hosting a charity dinner in aid of local charity *Shipston Homecare*, which provides total care of terminally ill patients in their own homes. The dinner, on **21st October** will have a Portuguese theme with speciality dishes from the country as well as a tutored tasting of Jose Maria da Fonseca wines and port supplied and directed by a local expert. A good cause and a guarantee of good food.

Moreton-in-Marsh

North Cotswold CAMRA will hold their **2nd Beer Festival at Moreton - in - Marsh Cricket Club on 25th to 27th September**. With over 40 ales and ciders, food, entertainment and camping on site it looks to be a good one. A beer list wasn't available as we went to print but details will be available in due course by following links from the website at www.northcotswoldcamra.org.uk

LocAle

We are pleased to announce that Hook Norton Brewery is supporting our LocAle campaign and that the following Hooky Pubs have signed up:

The Bird in Hand, Newbold on Stour
The Castle Inn, Edgehill
The Coach and Horses, Shipston on Stour
The Gate Inn, Upper Brailles
The George Hotel, Lower Brailles
The Queens Head, Sedgeberrrow
The Red Lion, Ilmington
The Royal Oak, Whatcote
The Trumpet, Evesham

The Fish & Anchor offenham



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Branch Pub of the Year Presentations 2009

Shakespeare CAMRA area, covering parts of two counties is in the fortunate position of being able to select a Pub of the Year for each if we so wish. Having to select the best from over 200 pubs and clubs is not a simple task. It goes without saying that the shortlist of pubs we choose from have excellent beer but this year, for various reasons, two stood out from the competition with that something extra special.

The Boars Head at Hampton Lucy, run by Sue Maindonald and her trusty sidekick Angela Heron has often featured in these pages and is deserved winner of our **Branch Warwickshire PotY 2009**.

Sue is as proud of her food offering as she is of her beers and does well in the pubs rural location to attract plenty of custom for both. The pub's ceaseless efforts were well demonstrated on 2nd July when a sizeable crowd, locals, visitors and CAMRA members turned out



A touch of class - beer in champagne flutes!

to celebrate their selection.

Sue did the company proud offering six excellent beers, with a range of strengths and styles and a sample of Crabbies Alcoholic Ginger Beer which went down oddly well. All the beers were on offer throughout the evening but to tempt those too timid to fully indulge and to add

a touch of class to the proceedings, tasters of everything on offer were ferried out in Champagne flutes, to the eager flock, accompanied by titbits



Sue (centre) accompanied by husband Nigel, Helen and the PotY Certificate.

ranging from smoked salmon canopés to cocktail sausages and spicy prawns. In all it added to a wonderfully festive atmosphere and a grand night was had by all.

Our belief that The Boars Head was a worthy competitor were confirmed as the pub subsequently earned Runner Up in the CAMRA Warwickshire County Pub of The Year

Thanks Sue for running a great pub.



The Fleece at Bretforton, **Branch Worcester PotY 2009** has of course done it before on numerous occasions. It doesn't make it any less special though and licensee Nigel Smith could never be accused of resting on his laurels.

The Fleece, owned by The National Trust since 1977, dates back to the 17th century and is steeped in history. A place of

real character needs a special character to run it well, and licensee Nigel certainly fits the bill. There is always something going on at the pub and between folk nights, vintage car rallies, festivals and shindigs, we were amazed that he managed to fit us in for a presentation at all. Fit us in though, he did, and on 22nd July a good turnout congratulated him on a well deserved award and drank his health from a bar, well stocked as always with good beers and ciders, soaked up by sandwiches and snacks.

To relax from the rigours of running The Fleece, which hosts wedding celebrations, parties, pigs roast and other events too numerous to mention, Nigel relaxes by running outside bars and events, touring and dancing with The Pebworth Morris, establishing his own brewery (**Buck-**

le Street), making his own cider (and a very interesting 'Plum Jerkum') and not least, regularly contributing to these pages with observations from his side of the bar, Fleece Follies. Thanks Nigel, just for doing it all!

For details of a Joint Buckle Street & Fleece celebration see page 14.



Mine host enjoying last years Alcester Folk Festival



Closing date for copy for the next issue of SHAKESPEARE will be November 16th 2009



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Check out the website for forthcoming events

Shakespeare CAMRA Worcestershire Pub of the Year 2009



Stratford

We're overjoyed to see that a sixth handpump has been added to the feast of beers available at **The Bear**, at **The Swan's Nest**, Stratford and a seventh, dedicated to real cider is under consideration.

Shipston

The *Yorkshire folk* at the **Black Horse in Shipston** celebrated their first anniversary during August. The pub attracts people from near and far to taste good food and excellent cask beers in tiptop condition. A live band often from the Shipston area plays every Saturday and folk musicians gather monthly on the first Sunday evening.



Vicki MacFarlane, her brother Liam and mum Sue from The Black Horse

Edge Hill

Major changes are already happening at **The Castle** a unique and historic pub which boasts views across several counties. Landlord Tom is intent on taking the pub back to its traditional 'olde worlde' ale house roots, his aim being to have at least six handpulls and include guest ales. The pool table and juke box had already gone when we visited and some refitting started. The back room previously used as an eating area, he wants to revert to a large bar and more besides. Watch this space and we'll keep you posted.

Alcester

Dave Lloyd licensee of **The White Lion** for the past five years is finally bowing to public demand and will be putting in the pub's first handpump in the near future. Having canvassed locals on their choice of real ale, Fullers London Pride seems to be the current front runner. Thanks Dave,

it's a start.

Further signs of hope in Alcester - **The Swan**, closed and in limbo for some time now is advertising for interested licensees to contact Enterprise. We may yet see it open.

Whichford

More news from **The Norman Knight**. Our wishes will come true and in due course we will see the **Patriot Brewery** operating from the pub. Currently running with at least four beers from regional breweries and Westons Scrumpy, Tim and Matt were a little taken by surprise at how popular the pub is and have decided to extend the drinking areas before settling down to brewing. The brewing equipment is there though and it will happen.

Lower Brailes

Following the success of his St Georges day celebration last April, Dave Wiggins is doing it all again at **The George**, over the weekend **11th-13th September**. He's running a 20 ale festival featuring the Hooky range, plus beers from all over and a Pimms Bar for the ladies. This weekend of fun is starting on Friday night with blues and Americano music to accompany the 'tasters' and continues from midday to midnight on Saturday with a barbeque and pig roast. With entertainment from returning local band 'The Riffomers' on Saturday night, the weekend culminates in a Sunday lunchtime Jazz session.



The Riffomers

Stratford

Festival of Food takes place on the recreation ground opposite the town's Royal Shakespeare Theatre from **25th to 27th September**. Organisers say this years festival promises to be bigger and better than previous years and includes a number of demonstrations from local

business people and hotel chefs, as well as celebrity chef Aldo Zilli and local personality Alan Coxon. With Purity running the beer tent at least you'll have something tasty to wash those delicacies down.

Pathlow

We are celebrating the somewhat restrained re-opening of **The Dun Cow** at Pathlow and are happy to welcome landlady Karen Ford and partner Paul Bevan to the branch. This Enterprise pub opened in early July with no major fanfare as the busy couple were still cleaning and redecorating after having been closed for about six months. Karen has a wealth of experience with over 15 years in Great Yarmouth and Coventry pubs and a spell as British Legion Steward. Although the pub will continue to offer traditional pub food, (with an already growing reputation for its steaks), Karen wants drinkers to feel welcome also. Her current cask offering of Caledonian Deuchars IPA and Tetleys makes me feel at home straight away.

Pathlow-Stratford

Something new and exciting at **The Stratford Armouries**, (about half a mile behind The Dun Cow). In aid of local charities including 'The George Povey Gardening Trust' (for children with disabilities), family run Warwickshire fine food business, **1086 Forest of Arden** and **Purity Brewery** are sponsoring a forty beer festival with ciders, German lagers and beers from local breweries including a mystery guest. The festival, which will run on **9th - 10th October 2009** offers sightseeing tours of Stratford, a wonderful mix of traditional food, a number of bands playing a mixture of music and special guest star **Colin Young of The Foundations** on Saturday night (remember 'Build me up buttercup' and 'Baby, now that I found you'). A free bus service from the railway station and town centre will get you there or, for a fee, there is pre-booked camping available on site. Doors open 12 noon and close 11.00 pm and entry costs £3.00.. There's an added bonus, **CAMRA members go free!** Sounds like a great day out. Full details of this and other attractions at The Armouries can be found at www.stratfordarmouries.co.uk



*Do you enjoy a
good pint of beer?*

The Fox at Loxley loves the traditional hand pulls, serving a range of quality beer such as 6X, Black Sheep and Wye Valley Brewery's Golden Ale. These beers, along with our local Hooky, smooth Guinness and refreshing cider including Black Rat Scrumpy give so much choice.

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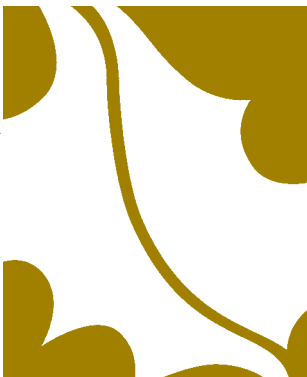
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Ringing the changes at Salford Priors

After being closed for over six months The Bell at Salford Priors reopened on 24th July following extensive refurbishment.

Hoping to buck the general downturn in the pub trade and with over ten years experience in the trade, new licensees Dave and Sally Atkinson hope they have a handle on what the public want. With the bar offering a very pleasant and relaxing drinking environment, four real ales including a dark mild and Thatchers cider, they certainly gauged it right for us.

In addition to the excellent beers, sandwiches and bar snacks are on offer until 6.00pm every day except Sunday and the old lounge has been tastefully transformed into an informal restaurant offering an extensive menu of predominantly locally produced and totally home cooked food. The restaurant is open every lunchtime and evening throughout the week and all day at weekends.

Dave and Sally appear to have gone out of their way to support local suppliers and businesses; if they continue to offer the same high quality fare and service we saw then I'm sure that visitors and locals alike will support them.

For full details of The Bell and the food and drink on offer, take a look at their website, www.thebellatsalfordpriors.com, it's well worth a visit.

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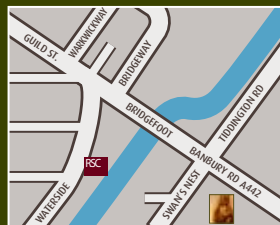




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Brewery News - Purity Brewing Co.

As well as showcasing its beers at some major food and drinks festivals like GBBF, Cheltenham Food Festival and Taste of Birmingham, (sorry you've missed them), Purity currently supplies about 350 pubs around the country. They can now add to that number following a successful trial of Pure UBU in over 40 of Mitchells & Butlers' pubs earlier this year. Pure UBU will now be available in a number of M & B Ember Inns and Vintage Inns pubs in the Midlands, plus a small number of Nicholson's & Classics pubs totalling about 80 in all.

Hardly surprising as Pure UBU, (4.5% abv) an amber coloured premium ale, was placed in the "World Top 50 beers" by the International Beer Challenge 2007 and was most recently 'Highly Commended' in the World's Best Golden Ale category of the 2009 World Beer Awards. (A competition organised by Beers of the World magazine).

Other opportunities to sample Purity Beers are:

Moseley Folk Festival, a three-day music event, which takes place on the 4th, 5th and 6th September where Purity Brewing Co. will be the official beer supplier.

Birmingham Beer Festival 10th - 12th September

Stratford-upon-Avon Food Festival, taking place from the 25th - 27th September where Purity will stock and operate the official beer tent.



Buckle Street Brewery

Buckle Street and The Fleece at Bretforton have teamed up for what looks to be an entertaining and inebriating weekend in October. A festival of fifteen beers (plus what's in the bar) and fifteen ciders kicks off on Friday

2nd with a tasting for friends of the brewery by invitation only in the barn. Three Buckle Street beers will be on offer plus the celebrated Fleece Follies Cider and infamous Plum Jerkum. The barn is thrown open to all on Saturday when festival goers will be entertained in the afternoon with demonstrations of cider pressing accompanied by Shanty Singing and Morris Dancing and some serious live

music in the evening. On Sunday, anything left has to be sold. A slim chance of some bargain beers then, but don't hold your breath. There's not likely to be much left. Hot and cold food is available all weekend with a traditional Hog-Roast on Saturday. How can you be anywhere else?

North Cotswold Brewery

Brewer Jon Pilling has a busy late summer and early autumn schedule, being involved in organising and / or supplying a number of festivals and producing special and seasonal beers.

Heart of Warwicks. **Harbury Beer Festival** in early September will see the last firkin of a three year maturing beer, Jon's 'Arctic Global Warmer', which presents fans of rare and strong beers & barley wines with a 'not-to-be-missed' weekend. This may help redress the balance, (or otherwise), for those who attended the Hook Norton festival recently and missed North Cotswold's 10% 'Monarch IPA' a firkin of which disappeared in 20 minutes.

Saturday 12th September sees a 12 beer festival in a marquee at the **Sports Club in Shipston on Stour** where North Cotswold beers together with ciders and perry from Gwatkins will be on offer.

Moreton in Marsh Cricket Club plays host to The North Cotswold CAMRA beer festival on **September 25th to 27th** where Jons beers will be present among the 40 or so planned.

Whilst in Moreton you can catch North Cotswold's beers at **The White Hart Royal** which is a regular host of 'Pigbrook'. Jon is also supplying a new brew for the Minehead Festival at the town's steam railway station in the second week of September. Fittingly, it is called '**Isambard Kingdom Brown Ale**' in honour of the father of the Great Western Railway.



Hook Norton Brewery

The Hooky Ale Trail leaflet detailing six different trails across Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and taking in all of the company's 47 pubs, was launched at **The Reindeer pub in Banbury in July**. Anyone interested in visiting the lot needs to register with the brewery to receive an **Ale Trail badge** and be in line to receive awards including a **brewery tour for two**, a ceramic tankard and a beer variety pack on completion.



As always we look forward over the next few months, to the Hook Norton seasonal specials: **September - Copper Ale (4.8% abv)** A premium dark red ale with a strong, dry and slightly spicy palate and aftertaste. **October - Flagship (5.3% abv)** An India Pale ale style of beer. Admiral hops contribute to a full fruity mouth feel, and a sweet fruity aroma. **November - Steaming On (4.4% abv)** A dark reddish - brown ale, with a very unusual slightly smoky flavour. This is derived from the use of a small amount of 'Peated Malt', which is normally reserved for Whisky production.

Wye Valley Brewery

Wye Valley are now bottling all their own beer on site as June saw the opening of the brewery's own bottling facility.

In July they added another pub to their growing estate when they opened **The Morgan** on Clarence Road, Malvern. The pub, previously **Punch Taverns**, **The Cavalry Arms** is a short walk from Great Malvern Station and the 44 bus route. 'The Morgan' name relates to the close geographical relationship between Wye Valley Brewery and the famous **Morgan Motor Co**, who are this year celebrating their Centenary Year.

Saturday 25th July was a beautiful sunny day, a perfect day for harvesting! **Chris Davies** from Upper Derdale Farm spent the day harvesting his field of **Maris Otter Barley**, which he has grown especially for Wye Valley Brewery. Next year the brewery hopes to use this barley, with local hops to brew a truly local Herefordshire beer.

A chance to taste the Wye Valley range outside of their own pubs from 11th - 13th September 2009 at **Ludlow Food Festival** and 24th & 25th October at **Flavours of Hereford Food Festival**.



All change and no change at Cannon Royall Brewery

Shakesbeer is very pleased to welcome Cannon Royall Brewery to its pages and will hopefully include regular updates in future Brewery News. The brewery was founded in 1993 in a converted cider house behind the Good Beer Guide listed, Fruiterers Arms at Uphampton just outside the village of Ombersley in Worcestershire.

A relatively small brewery, producing approx. 16 barrels per week, Cannon Royall has, until now been owned and run by Jim Wonders who has been brewing since 1987.

Due partly to ill health Jim is selling the brewery to Glenda Harvey, (Secretary of CAMRA's Kidderminster sub branch) but is staying on to continue brewing his award winning ales. Also staying on is Rob Barker, the backbone of the brewery, so there will be no change in the brewing or quality of the beers. One change that is taking place is Ian Mercer (Chairman of Kidderminster sub branch), will be get-



Brewer Jim with Glenda and Ian

ting on board to learn the trade from the ground up. He will be working alongside Jim and Rob brewing, selling, cleaning, delivering and generally taking the strain from Jim.

It's an exciting time for all concerned and there are plans to hold an open day in the near future when the 'new-comers' have settled in. New brews are in the pipeline along with plans to bring back some of Jim's old favourites from years ago - Trafalgar Stout has been asked for as has Buckshot. Meanwhile, it's business as usual at the brewery.

Beer and Trains with North Cotswold CAMRA

Neighbouring CAMRA branch North Cotswold, in conjunction with Gloucester and Warwickshire railways ran their first Ale and Steam Weekend on 6th and 7th June. The festival which comprised of 16 ales, mainly with railway associations and a few ciders and perries took place in the waiting room

of Winchcombe Station. Free entry for those enjoying the train journeys and a nominal charge by way of platform tickets for those like us, who went along just for the beer. It seems that railway enthusiasts and beer lovers are well matched as the event sold out and called for more beer on the Sunday. We look forward to the event being repeated next year.



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Award Winners!

You can't keep a good pub down

The Peacock at Oxhill

This bird just won't be kept down. After their recent success in the 'Quality in Tourism' awards owners Pam Farrell and Yvonne Hamlett have scooped *The Morning Advertiser* sponsored Great British Food Pub of the Year award for the East and West Midlands Region as well as being voted 'Best Newcomers of the Year' for 2009. These culinary whiz kids will join other regional winners at an award ceremony at the London Hilton in September when

they find out if they've progressed further in the competition. There's more! **The Peacock** has again been shortlisted for The 2009 Coventry and Warwickshire Food Awards. Unfortunately, unless you were there, you've just missed an opportunity to sample the award winning fare at the pub's second beer festival of the year over the late August Bank Holiday. You will however get another chance over the weekend **30th October to 1st November** when at least eight

ciders as well as plenty of beers will be on offer. Alternatively, just visit anytime the pub's open. You can view sample menus at the pub's excellent website at www.thepeacockoxhill.co.uk



The Plough at Stretton-on-Fosse

Following it's victory as branch and County Pub of the Year 2008/9 **The Plough at Stretton-on-Fosse** has again reaped it's just desserts by being voted the best Freehouse in the East and West Midlands in the prestigious Morning Advertiser Great British Pub Awards 2009. Landlady Sarah Gireme and husband Jean-Pierre will be donning their glad

rags on September 7th to receive the award at London's Hilton Hotel, at which time they will also discover how they got on in the National Competition. Whether they go further in the competition or not, the couple say they are 'over the moon' at getting this far and will be celebrating the award at The Plough on **Sunday 20th September** (from about 12.00

pm), when Jean-Pierre will prepare one of his fabulous Pig-Roasts. Needless to say, all are invited.



We're always looking for something to celebrate...

In Shakesbeer we try to recognise and celebrate as many pubs as we can and welcome any items of news with which to give our local pubs a plug.

With over 200 pubs and clubs in the Shakespeare CAMRA branch area competition for The Good Beer Guide is fierce and the number of entries we are allowed is limited. The choosing of our Pub(s) of the Year, (enjoyable but difficult), gives us another one or two. We try to celebrate all those that make it in our pages but we want to do more. Not every deserving pub can get in the Guide and many which almost make it remain relatively unknown except to CAMRA members. In an attempt to redress this the branch want to do two things:

Firstly, for deserving pubs which, with a larger allocation of entries, would have made the Good Beer Guide we have created an award which recognises the fact that they consistently sell good beer. Those pubs will be presented with a certificate and reported in these pages.

Secondly, Shakespeare CAMRA will select a **Pub of the Season**. Four times a year, the first being this October we will celebrate a pub and licensee who we feel has contributed something special to CAMRA values or the local community. Good beers are obviously a prerequisite but not the only deciding factor and we want you, our readers, to assist in choosing. **If you think your local deserves recognition, let us know why and it will be added to a shortlist from which a winner will be selected.** Let us know your nominations, if you are a CAMRA member through any branch meeting or, whether a member or not by post to **Shakesbeer, 21 Monks Walk, Bridge St, Evesham, WR11 4SL** or by email to chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk.





Dinner
Mon - Sat
5.30pm till 9.00pm

Lunch
Tues - Sat
12 noon till 2.30pm

Traditional Sunday Lunch
12 noon till 8.00pm

Make the most of this Autumn

For sample menus go to www.thepeacockoxhill.co.uk

Portuguese themed dinner in aid of local charity Shipston Homocare on Wed., 21st October and Cider Fest - at least 8 ciders and Beer Festival 30th Oct. to 1st Nov.

The Peacock Oxhill

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.

Main Street, Oxhill, Warks. CV35 0QU
Telephone: 01295 688060

French Chef Jean Pierre and
award winning landlady Sara Gireme
welcome you to

The Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse near Moreton-in-Marsh

Tel: 01608 661053



- Traditional 17th Century Inn
- Open 7 days a week
- Large menu
- Meals & snacks every session except Sunday night
- Inglenook Fireplace
- Sunday Spit Roast in the bar in Winter and Spring
- Four Real Ales & Three Draught Ciders
- Folk Music second Sunday of month



WARWICKSHIRE PUB OF THE YEAR 2008



See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



Great British Beer Festival 2009

Once again GBBF, (held 4th - 8th August at Earls Court), broke all records as the crowds who attended, more than 64,000 of them, enjoyed a cornucopia of over 500 beers, ciders and perries, including golden ales, fruit beers, stouts, bitters and international beers.

Over 1400 new members were signed up and in celebration of CAMRA's landmark achievement of over 100,000 members, every 100th visitor to the festival received a voucher for a free pint.

If you missed it then it'll be back at Earls Court on August 3rd 2010.

As always the Festival hosted the competition for the Champion Beers of Britain which was this year won by York Brewer Rudgates with it's Ruby Mild. The beer is described in the Good Beer Guide as, "A nutty, rich ruby ale, stronger than usual for a mild", which at 4.4% abv we can't argue with. Ruby Mild was selected from over 60 finalists in seven beer categories.

The full results are published here:

Overall winners

Champion Beer of Britain - Rudgate, Ruby Mild (York, North Yorkshire)

Second - Oakham, Attila (Peterborough, Cambridgeshire)

Third - West Berkshire, Dr Hexter's Healer (Thatcham, Berkshire)

Individual beer category results

Mild category

Gold - Rudgate, Ruby Mild (York, North Yorkshire)

Silver - Bank Top, Dark Mild (Bolton, Lancashire)

Bronze - Highland, Dark Munro (Birsay, Orkney)

Bitter category

Gold - Surrey Hills, Ranmore Ale (Guildford, Surrey)

Silver - Butcombe, Bitter (Bristol, Avon)

Joint Bronze - Humpty Dumpty, Little Sharpie (Reedham, Norfolk)

Joint Bronze - Triple fff, Alton's Pride (Alton, Hampshire)

Best Bitter category

Gold - Southport, Golden Sands (Southport, Merseyside)

Silver - Buntingford, Britannia (Royston, Hertfordshire)

Joint Bronze - Evan Evans, Cwrrw (Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire)

Joint Bronze - Thornbridge, Lord Marples (Bakewell, Derbyshire)

Joint Bronze - Vale, VPA (Brill, Buckinghamshire)

Golden Ale category

Gold - Dark Star, American Pale Ale (Ansty, West Sussex)

Joint Silver - Adnams, Explorer (Southwold, Suffolk)

Joint Silver - St Austell, Proper Job (St Austell, Cornwall)

Strong Bitter category

Gold - West Berkshire, Dr Hexter's Healer (Thatcham, Berkshire)

Silver - Thornbridge, Kipling (Bakewell, Derbyshire)

Bronze - Grain, Tamarind IPA (Harleston, Norfolk)

Speciality Beer category

Gold - Nethergate, Umbel Magna (Pentlow, Essex)

Silver - Wentworth, Bumble Beer (Wentworth, South Yorkshire)

Bronze - Amber, Chocolate Orange Stout (Ripley, Derbyshire)

Winter Beer of Britain winner

(announced in January 2009)
Oakham, Attila (Cambridgeshire)

Bottled Beer of Britain winners

(Champion Bottled Beer of Britain competition sponsored by Travelodge)

Gold - Titanic, Stout (Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire)

Silver - Great Gable, Yewbarrow (Gosforth, Cumbria)

Bronze - White Shield Brewery, White Shield (Coors, Burton-on-Trent)





The Little Lark Studley

as featured in the Good Beer Guide 2009

Four Real Ales :: Traditional Cider
20 Traditional Fruit Wines
Mulled Wine :: 20 Single Malts

Great Value Food served Lunchtime and Evening seven days a week
Come and try our Desperate Dan Cow Pie, Local Faggots and Beer Battered Fish & Chips



Themed Food Night second Wednesday of every month

Redditch and Bromsgrove CAMRA

PUB OF THE SEASON - Spring 2009

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ESSENTIAL**
to avoid
disappointment

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. As well as a selection of other guest ales.

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



Serving **lunch** and **dinner** all through the week using locally produced ingredients to make seasonally cooked homemade dishes. Sunday roast with Cotswold beef and Tewksbury mustard.

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

For Autumn our two featured beers shown below as well as other welcome guest ales.

Please enquire for further details or for christmas party menus.



Stroud Brewery
Jack O'Lantern - 4.2%

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>

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

See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



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Beer by Bus

A thirst, a bus pass and a spirit of adventure took our much loved CAMRA stalwart Jim Sargeant from his home in Shipston on Stour to every one of Hook Norton's 47 pubs in a year and, for good measure, to The Hook Norton Brewery, using only public transport. Jim set himself this mammoth task in April 2008 when the senior bus pass became 'access all areas', started not surprisingly with Shipston's own Coach and Horses and visited the final pub The Gate Hangs High just outside Hook Norton itself on 31st March 2009.

The obvious joy Jim takes in bus and coach travel and his love of Hook Norton beer have combined to provide an invaluable snapshot of pubs in eight CAMRA branch areas with details of how to reach each and every one from Shipston or along the bus routes. Good Beer Guide and Good Pub Guide references help the reader and a few personal insights add to the charm of

this delightful booklet.

Jim's efforts have prompted Hook Norton to act on long standing plans to publish 'Ale Trail' guides of their own. Now, in each of the 47 pubs is a leaflet with details of six different pub crawls across Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, Northamptonshire and Gloucestershire, with small prizes on offer for anyone who completes

each crawl. A special t-shirt and certificate will find its way to anyone who manages all 47 pubs. Unlike Jims efforts there is no time limit to complete the trails.

To join the Ale Trail you need to pick up one of the leaflets from a Hook Norton pub and register with the brewery - visit www.hooky.co.uk.

Whilst hoping to get the work published in due course, (any potential sponsors please make contact), Jim is delighted to share his experience and will forward interested parties a PDF version of the booklet. Contact Jim via jsargeant@iee.org. In due course we hope also to publish Jim's work on our own website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



If you like a bit of history, The Tuns, situated in a lovely old beamed building, with its flagstone floor and a glass frame revealing the original wattle and daub construction of the building, will take you back to a gentler time; a time when you visited the pub for companionship and conversation and of course excellent beer. The facilities are basic and the furnishings spartan, but the lack of TV, music, entertainment machines and a signal for mobile phones turn the place into a haven of peace and well-mannered conversation.

It was the lack of the aforementioned facilities, especially a kitchen, which brought the 'Tuns Picnickers' into being. The brainchild of a few Alcester based

If you go down the The Tuns today...

Alcester's very interesting history extends back to Roman times; the town was granted a Royal Charter to hold a market in 1274; then the Three Tuns was built and, in June 2009, it was invaded by pirates. (Please forgive the centuries of missing historical data but we're only including the important bits).

members, a small but hungry band who experienced a similar event at The Monkey House, (see 'Cider HouseRules, Shakesbeer issue 36), the picnic, which occurs on the first Wednesday of the month, overcomes the lack of catering facilities by inviting members to bring their own fare. This the growing band are delighted to do and the food, ranging from speciality sausages, pies, breads, cheeses, pickles and all things manly to such delicacies as fruits and salads seems to become more varied and interesting on each subsequent occasion. Thankfully the copious measures of beer needed to wash it down are equally exciting and varied with Hobson's best on as standard and up

to seven guests.

As earlier stated the affairs are generally quite genteel and serve to put the world to rights. The June occasion however saw the picnickers dressed in red bandanas and sporting pirate paraphernalia in an attempt to persuade resident songster Alan Whitbread to perform a highly entertaining rendition of 'The Pirate Song'. As always great fun was had by all, fine food, good ale and great company. Here then is an open invitation to all to join us on the first Wednesday for more of the same.



Serving wench Pauline keeps the ale flowing at the first Tuns Picnic in April 2009



So Good It
Should be
Hallmarked



To order some Real Ale
from a Real Brewery
Call 01608 730384
www.hooky.co.uk

An Apple a Day doesn't keep our Wandering Minstrel away!

Having given the words and history of the beer songs "Ale, Ale Glorious Ale", "Good Ale Thou Art My Darling" and "Bring Us A Barrel" in the last three newsletters, its about time that I redressed the balance by giving a song about cider!

The song "Drink Up Thy Zider" was written by Adge Cutler in the early 1960s and was recorded by the band The Wurzels, which Adge established in 1966. Adge was the leader and wrote most of their early songs, including the immortal "Drink Up Thy Zider", which reached number 45 in the UK charts in 1967. The original group consisted of Adge Cutler (vocals & wurzelstick), Reg Quantrell (banjo & guitar), John Macey (bass), Reg Chant (accordion) and Brian Walker (wurzelphone).

By 1968, John Macey and Reg Chant had departed and been replaced by Henry Davis (bass/violin/wurzelphone) and Tommy Banner (accordion/piano). Tommy is still actively wurzelling to this day and is therefore the longest serving Wurzel of all time.

Alan John Cutler was born in Portishead on 19 November 1931. Nicknamed "Adge" by his friends, from his initials AJ, he lived in the small north Somerset town of Nailsea. He spent his earlier years pursuing various jobs he would use as material for later songs, including being

road manager for Acker Bilk and working in a cider mill (Coates of Nailsea). Tragically, he died on 5 May 1974 when he crashed his MG sports car at a roundabout in Chepstow when returning home after a gig.

The remaining group members at the time, "Scottish Wurzel" Tommy Banner (accordion/piano), Tony "Gaffer" Baylis (wurzelphone/bass) and Pete Budd (banjo/guitar), decided that Adge was irreplaceable, so they continued as a trio. This brave decision proved to be a shrewd commercial move, as they went on to have a number one hit single in 1976 with "Combine Harvester", followed by a string of other successful records. Wurzelmania swept not only Nempnett Thrubwell and Clevedon, but the whole of the UK!

The band is still performing today - and long may they continue! They are now a four-piece band, consisting of Tommy Banner (accordion/keyboards/vocals), Pete Budd (guitar/banjo/vocals), Sedge Moore (bass), and John Morgan (drums).



DRINK UP THY ZIDER!

*Drink up thy zider George, pass us round
the mug
Drink up thy zider George, the garden's
ver'nigh dug*

*Thy cheeks bin gettin' redder
From Charter'ouse to Cheddar
An' there's still more zider in the jug*

**Drink up thy zider, Drink up thy zider,
For tonight we'll merry be
We'll knock the milk churns over
And roll 'em in the clover
For the corn's 'alf-cut and so be we!**

*Drink up thy zider George, thee bissn't goin'
far*

*Drink up thy zider George, thee's gettin' quite
a star*

*There's dung o'er all thy tat'ers
An' 'alfway up thy gaiters
An' there's still more zider in the jar!*

*Drink up thy zider George, get up off thick mat
Drink up thy zider George, put on thy girt
big 'at*

*We'm off to Barrow Gurney
For to see my brother Ernie
An' there's still more zider in the vat!*

*Drink up thy zider George, 'tis time we 'ad
a rest*

*Drink up thy zider George, the finest ever
pressed*

*There's nothing like good cider
To make your smile grow wider
An' there's still more zider in the West!*

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;
- Last Tuesday at **The Shakespeare Inn** at Welford-on-Avon, CV37 8PX;
- Every Thursdays at **The Fleece Inn** at Bretforton, WR11 7JE.

Alan Whitbread
Folk Singer & Concertina Player
www.alanwhitbread.co.uk

October is CAMRA's Cider Month

Unlike real ale production, which can happen at any time of the year, real cider & perry can only be made when the fruit is ripe. Great skill goes into producing both products. October is a very active time for producers, especially for those who make only a small amount of cider. Harvest time for cider fruit is roughly from September to November and by October production is in full flow.

The next few months then are ideal times to see and taste real cider close up: How about going to the Cider Festivals at **The Fleece at Bretforton on 2nd - 4 October** (see page 12), or **The Peacock at Oxhill on 30th Oct - 1st Nov** (see page 14)

or **The Apple Day & Harvest Fair, (27th Sept.)** at Mary Arden's Farm in Wilmcote, for traditional crafts, food, stalls, live music and entertainment in celebration of the good old English apple. Further afield try **Ross Cider Festival (4th - 6th Sept)**, Broome Farm, Peterstowe, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, **A Festival of Perry at The Malvern Showground, (26th-27th Sept.)**, proud to be home to the National Collection of Perry Pear Trees. The show features perry tastings and a large collection of perry pears.

Apple Day at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, (24th Oct.) features apple cake, apple ice cream, cider tasting and lots more. And finally **Tenbury Wells Applefest, (17th Oct.)**, amongst a host of other attractions features apple identification, pressing and an apple surgery, with over 200 varieties on display.



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Shakespeare Branch Diary & Beer Festival Round up

Meetings and Branch Events

September

9th: 8.30pm Branch meeting **Halford Bridge**, then on to **Bird in Hand** and **White Hart**, Newbold

12th: 12.00 pm Regional meeting **Red Lion**, Warstone Lane Birmingham, B18 6NG

18th: 8.00pm Festival Helpers thank you celebration **The Fleece**, Bretforton

October

2nd: Social North Cotswold Brewery

14th: 8.30pm Branch meeting **The Four Alls**, Welford then on to **The Shakespeare** and **The Bell**

November

11th: 8.30 pm Branch meeting, **Black Horse**, Shipston then town crawl

14th: All day, Pub & Brewery trip Sheffield, (beer of the festival 2009 presentation)

17th: 8.30 pm Pub of the Season presentation - (to be decided)

December

16th: 8.30 Alcester pub crawl, meet at **Holly Bush** do Alcester and end at Holly Bush

Local Festivals

4th - 5th September

Harbury Beer Festival, Harbury Village Hall

12th September

One day 12 beer festival, Shipston-on-Stour Sports Club

12th-13th September

George Hotel Beer Festival, Brailes,

25th - 27th September

North Cotswold 2nd Beer Festival, Moreton-in-Marsh Cricket Club

25th - 27th September

Stratford Food Festival, Recreation Ground opposite Royal Shakespeare Theatre

25th - 26th September

Real Ale Festival, Ettington Community Centre

2nd - 4th October

Ale and Cider Festival The Fleece, Bretforton

30th October - 1st November

Holly Bush, Alcester winter ales festival

30th October - 1st November

Peacock, Oxhill Cider and Beer Festival

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 the Chairman 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

CAMRA Branch contacts

- **Chair - Bob Kirby**
chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Vice chair - Julian Stobinski**
vicechair@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Secretary - Liz Kirby**
secretary@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Treasurer - Bob Mansfield**
treasurer@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Membership - Katie Williams**
katiewilliams@live.co.uk
- **Campaigns Officer - Laura Bennett**
laura.bennett@hotmail.co.uk
- **Young members Coordinator - Simon Williams**
BYMC@shakespearecamra.org.uk

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

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☐

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(Partner at the same address)

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☐

£27

☐

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

I enclose a cheque for

Signed Date

Applications will be processed within 21 days

0709



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to: Campaign for Real Ale Ltd, 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW

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To the Manager Bank or Building Society

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Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder (s)

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference Number

Originator's Identification Number

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Please pay CAMRA Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with CAMRA and, if so will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

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