

Shakespeare

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



Coach and Horses, Harvington 300 Not Out!

What would you do to celebrate 300 years of being a pub in this village? Some might think that you would have a party to celebrate on a particular day, others might propose that you have a banner made to display on the outside of the pub but no, Steve and Di Salter of the **COACH AND HORSES** in Harvington came up with the unique idea of selling three hundred beers over the year.

Now just to be clear this was three hundred different beers over a twelve-month period and not just three hundred casks from a repeated limited range but if they were to be counted in the target they could only be included once in the overall total. Chalk boards were then made above the bar to record each of the beers and the drinkers from both bars were encouraged to keep their individual totals by completing personal record cards which were kept behind the bar in the lounge.

January the 1st 2018 was the agreed start

date and not long after *Kinver Black Ram Stout* at 5.2% was seen as being the first beer to be written on this "wall of fame". Over the next few months various other beers appeared on a regular basis and we tried to work out if the progress over a weekly period would be an indication to see if the target could be achieved.

Di in particular remained positive and as the year moved on the target remained in sight and was boosted by the excellent annual beer festival organised through a lot of very hard work at the Coach.

December showed that they were getting

very close and as the chalk boards filled extra ones were made around the door in the lounge area. On December 13th the magic total was reached with *Gloucester Docks Dark* at 5.2% being the beer which allowed Steve and Di to achieve their target.

The overall figures proved to be really astounding and by the end of December they showed



that 314 unique and different casks of beer had been consumed with 396 casks overall being sold in the twelve-month period. With regards to the record cards Les Hancock's showed that he had drunk 311 of the 314 with James Pickard on 296 and his sister Lorna close by on 283.

What a way to celebrate three hundred years of the pub. This will remain as a unique achievement which could only have been achieved through the hard work of Steve and Di in sourcing such a wide variety of beers, especially for a tied house, and the dedication they have shown throughout this period in maintaining the quality of beers that have been on offer in this multi award winning pub - thank you!



◀ Use your mobile phone's QR reader to scan

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Chairman's Christmas Message



As the year draws to a close, I am writing to thank you for all your tremendous work and support in 2018.

This year, you've helped to shape

CAMRA's future through the Revitalisation Project, as well as continuing to campaign on a local, regional and national level. You voted to ensure campaigning for real ale, cider and perry remains at the very heart of what we do, to introduce pub campaigning into our Articles of Association, and to increase opportunities to inform, educate and train people on the importance of real ale, cider and perry.

We will continue to campaign to ensure you get the best quality pint for the fairest price and enjoy the very best that British brewers have to offer, in the best pubs across the UK.

One of our biggest campaigning successes this year was the totally unexpected freeze in beer duty and a new package of Business Rate Relief for smaller pubs announced in the Autumn Budget. Although we welcome these changes, they are just a sticking plaster, and on 30 October, hundreds of you descended on Westminster

for our Mass Lobby Day. This day of action gave you the opportunity to speak direct to your MP and encourage them to commit to CAMRA's new three-point plan below.

1. The introduction of a preferential rate of duty for draught beer.
2. Reform of the Business Rates System to address the unfair burden on pubs.
3. An urgent review of the Pubs Code so that the Market Rent Only option becomes a genuine choice for tenants.

Our membership numbers continue to grow, and we enjoyed media attention with our National Competitions, including The Champion Beer of Britain. In addition, our publications the 2019 Good Beer Guide, The Pub Manifesto, CAMRA's Essential Home Brewing together with the Good Beer Guide Belgium have been well received. We have so much to look forward to in 2019: our Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference in Dundee (5 - 7 April), our National Festivals, the Great British Beer Festival Winter (taking place in Norwich in February) and the Great British Beer

Festival in August. Let's not forget the many excellent beer festivals organised by local CAMRA Branches, which are not only excellent campaigning events, but raise our profile, membership figures and generate funds which allow us to continue to campaign.

Our success is purely down to you, and without your support we would not be able to do the things we do, from delivering branch magazines, to writing to your MPs, to working at beer festivals, submitting beer scores - the list of things you undertake is tremendous.

I am confident our success will continue in 2019, and this is down to the support you give us each and every year.

Thank you for everything you have done and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jackie Parker, National Chairman

Jackie will be standing down as chairman after the AGM and Conference in April she will be replaced by Nik Antona

New Chairman Announced

The Campaign for Real Ale has announced its new chairman-elect as Nik Antona, who will take on the leadership of the organisation following its Members' Weekend, AGM and Conference to be held in Dundee in April.



Nik Antona takes over from Jackie Parker, who is stepping down after a year in the role, and after nine years as a member of CAMRA's

National Executive.

Meeting in Hastings this month (February) CAMRA's National Executive elected Nik as chairman-elect. Based in Burton-on-Trent, Nik has been a National Executive member since 2009, and currently chairs the Finance

and General Purposes Committee. He was a CAMRA Regional Director for five years, representing the West Midlands.

Nik said: "I'm delighted and honoured by the confidence my National Executive colleagues have shown in me by electing me to take over as Chairman in April.

"Jackie has been a strong leader for the organisation and I'm keen to carry on where she will leave off - making sure CAMRA is effective in its national campaigns, especially in seeking much-needed reform

of the Pubs Code, calling for a review of Business Rates on pubs and campaigning to get a reduction in beer tax on pints served in pubs.

Jackie said: "It's with great sadness that I choose to step down as chairman of the Campaign. It's the right time, however, as I come to the end of my third term as a National Executive member. I've spent nine years as a National Executive member and served as a Regional Director for three years prior to that. I believe it's healthy for an organisation to refresh its leadership regularly and now is the time to step aside and give someone else the opportunity to lead the Campaign."

Chairman's Letter

Hello Everyone...

I would like to start my letter by offering Steve and Di Salter of the **COACH AND HORSES** in Harvington my congratulations. Just before Christmas they achieved their aim of serving 300 different beers in 2018 to celebrate the three hundredth birthday of the pub. A unique success which could only be achieved by the hard work and dedication shown by Steve and Di in sourcing the beers and for serving them in such excellent condition.



The start of this year has also proved to be a very busy time for the branch with a variety of very different meetings already having been held since the Christmas period. As a result of these one of major decisions that we have resolved is our proposals for our pub entries into the 2020 GBG and I would like to offer my thanks to Pete Godfrey our GBG Officer for all the work that he has done in taking this process forward on behalf of the branch. Branch POTY's will also be officially be announced soon so watch out for details of the presentation evenings as historically they always result in good social evenings being enjoyed by all those present.

However, it is not all about meetings and on the social side the festival helper's trip for 2018 was organised on behalf of the branch by John Bloomfield. This year we enjoyed a visit to the Dudley Winter Ales festival before adjourning to **MA PARDOE'S** and on the return journey stopping off at **ALESTONES** in Tardebigge Court which is the current Redditch and Bromsgrove CAMRA branch Pub of the Year.

I am also pleased to say that organisation of our own annual festival is starting to gather in pace after the first initial meetings. So, look out for some interesting beers and remember the dates for this year, which are slightly earlier this time around - **June 22nd and 23rd**. Your help and support would again be appreciated if we are to make this this another successful event.

Finally, on a personal note, I do like this time of year for drinking beer as the darker options become more readily available in our pubs. Some of those that have really impressed me recently have been *Marston's Owd Roger*, *Theakston's Old Peculiar*, *Uley Pigor Mortis* and *Hooky Twelve Days*.

Best wishes as always, Lloyd

From the Editor...

In a packed edition this spring we have news of changes at the top in CAMRA, a simplified(?) explanation of the new business rates and how they affect pubs. Also a reader writes about real cider.

As always, I rely on readers' input to keep me up to date on what is happening in pubs and breweries in our region. Special thanks go to Jim Sargent who works very hard visiting as many pubs as possible.

Please send any news or interesting facts to
editor@shakespeare.camra.org.uk

Thanks for your support - Bernard



The editor reserves the right to amend or shorten contributions for publication.
Email: Editor@shakespeare.camra.org.uk

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NEXT Branch Meeting is the AGM

**Tuesday, 30th April 8pm,
at THE FLEECE INN, The Cross
Bretforton, Evesham**

(A full list of future meetings can be found in the CAMRA Members Section)

ADVERTISING RATES AND CUT-OFF DATE SHAKESBEER 71

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Pub News & Beer Reports...

Evesham

BCM

Going strong since opening in March 2018, Evesham's newest real ale outlet, BCM, (**BROMSGROVE CHEEKY MONKEYS**), in Bridge Court, Bridge Street, launched its own house beer, *BCM Pale Ale* (4.4%) a malty and slightly sweet, light golden beer from Birmingham Brewing Co. The launch on 7th February was well attended by locals and CAMRA members and was bolstered by a 'Meet the Brewer' session with Birmingham Brewing director and brewer Paul Harwood. The launch also initiated a 'tap takeover' where for the following week the five available real ale pumps would serve a range of Birmingham Brewing Co. beers.

Be aware that if you're thinking of visiting to try the bar's less common range of real ales that it only opens from Thursday to Sunday. You can keep abreast of events and promotions by following the pub on Facebook at BCM Evesham.

Harvington

COACH AND HORSES

As many of you know, landlords for the **COACH AND HORSES** were traced

Beer Drinker, Reader or CAMRA Member - the reports and short stories below all come from people like yourself, so if you find yourself in one of our wonderful pubs, feel free to drop us a note about anything you think should be in this section! editor@shakespeare.camra.org.uk

back to 1718, so last year we set ourselves the task of trying to source three hundred different beers to celebrate 300 years of trading as a pub. We are pleased to tell you that we actually managed 314 different real ales last year. Alongside this we were raising money for our charities of the year which were Crohn's and Colitis and Alzheimer's society. In May last year, Nick Dore and Andy Lane both cycled over 300 miles in a week to carry on with the



300 theme. In total over the year £2,300 was raised for Crohn's and £2,300 was also raised for Alzheimer's. We continued to support Midlands Air Ambulance charity and including our Christmas raffle just under £2,500 was also raised. Our

Poppy appeal collection also raised over £300. We just wanted to say a massive thank you to all our customers for their generosity and support over the last 12 months. We hope that you all have a healthy and prosperous 2019 and look forward to seeing you soon.

Great Alne

MOTHER HUFF CAP

Re-opened on 28th November 2018 intending to serve North Cotswold and Purity ales. Sadly the pub closed again on 29th January 2019. The Proprietors regret the decision to close the pub but after more than 9 years run by a series of tenants and most recently by the owners it has proved to be impossible to operate on a commercially viable basis. They are sorry that this decision leaves Great Alne without its local pub.



Great Wolford

FOX AND HOUNDS

This pub is currently on the market at £550,000 having failed to gain planning permission to convert into 2 houses. The only pub in the village it has been closed since 2016. This seems like a great business opportunity for the right buyer at the right price.



• Birmingham Brewing Director and brewer Paul Harwood with Dave Johnson



Loxley

THE FOX INN

This pub is up for sale. Ei are reported to be selling 370 properties to a private investment company but this sale appears to be a one-off. Hopefully the pub will continue to trade under new ownership.



• The Fox Inn

Pebworth

THE MASON'S ARMS

Pushing ahead with improvements including painting and new signage, refurbishment of the gents toilet and Skittle Alley which is available for booking. Live music will be on the cards. Recent offerings include *Shepherd Neame Spitfire*, *Wye Valley Butty Bach* and *Butcombe Rare Breed*.

Sedgeberrow

THE QUEEN'S HEAD

Hook Norton Brewery list this pub up for lease. More info is required on this.



• The Queen's Head

• The Norman Knight



Stratford-upon-Avon

THE CORNER HOUSE

The Union Cocktail Bar in Stratford upon Avon has now re-opened under the name of **THE CORNER HOUSE**.

Whichford

THE NORMAN KNIGHT

Since the Stratford Brewery stopped brewing (summer 2018) this brewery pub has not been slow in showcasing other locally brewed ales. On this reporter's visit in December 2018 the seven handpumps were supplied by two from *Goff's*, two from *Prescott*, one from *Hook Norton* and two ciders (*Hogan's Wild Cider* and *Ilmington Grumpy Frog*). Next beers to go on were blackboarded as *Ringwood Old Thumper*, *Clouded Minds Luppol* and *Avant Garde Cutting Edge*.

Roving reporter Jim Sargent also sampled the delights of the following establishments...

Ratley

THE ROSE AND CROWN

Has five beers on handpump. Three regulars are *St. Austell Tribute* and *Wye Valley Bitter* plus *Butty Bach*. On a recent

visit the two changing beers were *What the Fox's Hat* from *Church End and Vale Pale Ale* from the *Vale Brewery*. The open fire was most welcoming.

Edgehill

THE CASTLE

Just up the road from Ratley **THE CASTLE** had an equally welcoming open fire and the beers at this *Hook Norton* pub were *Hooky*, *Old Hooky* and *Greedy Goose*. Also, on handpump was *Weston's Old Rosie* cider. The Castle is open all day every day.



• The Castle

Lower Brailles

THE GEORGE

Also open all day is another *Hook Norton* house, **THE GEORGE** in Lower Brailles. Since arriving in summer 2018 the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Pub News & Beer Reports

landlord and head chef Rob MacRae has earned a reputation for good food and fine ales. Lunchtime and evening meals are available every day including Mondays.

Upper Brailles

THE GATE

In nearby Upper Brailles **THE GATE** has been sold by *Hook Norton* and is now a free house run by Baggy and Sheelagh Saunders whose family also own the **BLACK HORSE** in Shipston. By popular demand *Hooky Bitter* has been retained and the other two handpumps have included *Lancaster Bomber* and *Wye Valley HPA*. *Napton Red Devil* cider was on a fourth handpump when our reporter visited in December. High quality pork pies, scotch eggs and sausage rolls were all found to be very tasty.



• The Gate



• The Plough

Stretton-on-Fosse

THE PLOUGH

Much has been happening at **THE PLOUGH** in Stretton-on-Fosse. During 2018 an outdoor, dog-friendly, heated, covered dining area has been

built together with a separate heated smoking den. Inside the pub the open fire in an inglenook will warm you in winter and on a December visit this reporter found the excellent *North Cotswold Winter Solstice* on handpump together with *Doom Bar* and *Banks's Mild*. *Pearson's Medium Cider* was on the fourth handpump.

Stratford-upon-Avon

STRATFORD ALE HOUSE

Just before Christmas 2018 **THE ALE HOUSE** announced the arrival of its 1000th different cask ale. "Our purpose is to bring new tastes and flavours to your palates but we try to balance things out by keeping favourites on tap for the less adventurous"



Fullers sell brewing arm to Asahi

Fuller, Smith & Turner is quitting the brewing business after 174 years with the surprise £250 million sale of its beer business, including *London Pride* and its historic *Griffin Brewery* in west London. The deal with Asahi, the giant Japanese drinks group, also includes the *Frontier* beer brand, *Cornish Orchards* cider and *Dark Star*, a craft brewery in West Sussex.

Fuller's was founded in 1845 by John Bird Fuller, Henry Smith and John Turner and the families still speak for about 50 per cent of the shares and 75 per cent of the votes. Four years ago, Simon Emeny, chief executive, told *The Times* that the beer business was "the heart and soul" of the business, and added: "In many ways it defines what we do and makes us the special company we are." Michael Turner, chairman and a member of one of the three founding families, admitted that selling the beer business had been a tough decision. "It's emotional, but the logic for doing it was compelling," he said. "The forces of change were just too great." Fuller's plans to return between £55 million and £69 million of the £205 million of net

proceeds to investors, half of which will go to about 220 family shareholders. Most of the rest will be used to expand its pubs and hotels business, which has about 400 outlets and generates 87 per cent of operating profits, although some will be injected into its pension fund.

Shares of Fuller's, which will be left as a premium pub and hotel operator when the deal goes through in the first half of this year, rose by 141p, or 15.5 per cent, to £10.50 yesterday as investors welcomed the terms of the agreement with Asahi.

Mr Emeny said that the deal, which is subject to approval by the Competition and Markets Authority, "secured the future of both parts of our business, including protecting the

heritage of the Griffin Brewery in Chiswick" and ensuring that Fuller's beers reached a global audience.

The company said that it would form a strategic alliance with Asahi giving the Japanese brewer the right to the Fuller's beer brands in perpetuity on a royalty-free basis. Fuller's will continue to sell the beers in its pubs under a supply agreement for five years, with an option to extend by another five years. Paul Hickman, analyst at Edison, described the sale of Fuller's beer business, including its "spiritual home" in Chiswick, as "nothing short of astonishing". Douglas Jack, at Peel Hunt, said that it provided "the foundation for many years of strong growth."

Jackie Parker, chairwoman of the Campaign for Real Ale, said that it was "a very sad day". She called on the new owner to "pledge to continue brewing operations at the Chiswick site as well as show a commitment to not only continuing cask beer production, but to preserve the full range of Fuller's, Dark Star and Gale's beers".



The Crown & Trumpet

The Crown & Trumpet is located behind the village green of Broadway, this 17th Century Inn provides excellent accommodation. Being centrally located and just off the Cotswold Way, it is an ideal base for touring Shakespeare's Country and the surrounding Cotswold and Malvern Hills.

Serving Lunch and Dinners all through the week, all our seasonal homemade dishes are created on the premises using locally produced ingredients. Voted Shakespeare's CAMRA pub of the year in 2012/ CAMRA Good Beer and rated in Room at an Inn and Good Pub guides, we have four exclusively brewed seasonal beers. Come along and drink them at our weekly Jazz and Blues evenings.



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Brewery News...



PURITY GREAT ALNE

Looking back to early December, after this magazine went to print, last week saw them scoop Best Business under 50 Employees at the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Coventry and Warwickshire Business Awards at Coombe Abbey, which celebrate industrious, hardworking and enterprising SMEs in the county. They also were awarded runners up in the Green category, in recognition of their efforts to recycle waste and minimise energy consumption in the brewing process with their steam capture technology and wetland system.

Quoting MD Paul Halsey said: "Whilst we pride ourselves on the quality of our beers and our eco-friendly values, we're



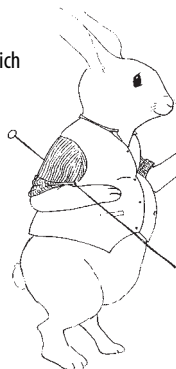
• Boiler and Gerald

also proud to be a local employer and an active part of the community. These awards celebrate regional business and with so many fantastic companies out there thriving, it's great to be recognised in this way. Cheers."

CANNON ROYAL/ WHITE RABBIT HONEYBOURNE

FOLLOW THE RABBIT. Remember what the dormouse said... Shakespeare CAMRA are delighted to welcome a new brewery to the branch.

In October 2018 *White Rabbit Brewery* owned and run by branch stalwarts Gerald and Glenda Harvey, assisted by son Gareth, started brewing on the Weston Industrial Estate at Honeybourne. White Rabbit now incorporates *Cannon Royall Brewery* which the family previously ran in a somewhat cramped location at the **FRUITERS ARMS**, Ombersley. The new brewery is a vast improvement on the old site, being



• Purity celebrates award win



Closing date for copy for the next issue of **Shakespeare** is **Wednesday 15th May 2019**

light, spacious and easy to maintain. Some of the *Cannon Royall* equipment has been upgraded and is back in use but Gerald's pride and joy is a huge Fulton steam boiler which is far more efficient and powerful than the old one giving the brewery a 15 barrel run. *White Rabbit* beers such as 'Elwood Dark' (4.1%), a dark mahogany mild and 'Jammers Ale' (4.3%), a sweeter porter are already regular brews and alongside the existing range of *Cannon Royall* beers are available at the family's two pubs, the **RED LION**, Market Square Evesham and **THE BUSH** in St Johns, Worcester.

There are plans for a hospitality area in the brewery to which the branch will be invited: this will hopefully be operational by the spring.

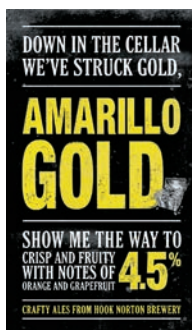


HOOK NORTON

To coincide with the Six Nations kick off, *Hook Norton* began February with their brand new 'Outside Half' 3.8% abv with a malty, bittersweet taste. Cheers! Following this is one of my all-time favourites from *Hook* – the



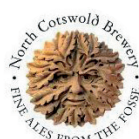
multi award winning 'Double Stout' 4.8% a lovely dark ebony maltiness with lovely coffee roast notes with hints of liquorice available from March then in to April with 'Amarillo Gold' a lovely crisp golden citrusy 4.5%.



NORTH COTSWOLD STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

The brewery is pleased to be reporting beer production was up 7.5% last year, ever promising in current climates. Not wanting to rest on their laurels they are planning two new beers this year along side their regular brews the first being *Green Man IPA* abv 4%. Double hopped. Hops include Nelson Sauvin. The second brew to be unveiled later in the year.

In addition to the new beers they have plans to open a shop and hospitality area at the brewery where you'll be able to go, sample or purchase their beers and other merchandise.



OUTSIDE OUR AREA...

TITANIC BREWERY BURSLEM

Lifetime achievement award for Titanic Brewery's Bott brothers

Brewing brothers Keith and Dave Bott have been honoured for their dedication to business and the brewing industry.

The *Titanic Brewery* owners were presented with the lifetime achievement honour at the culmination of the Sentinel Business Awards, a long-standing, highly respected awards programme celebrating business achievement in Staffordshire and Cheshire. The honour came as a complete surprise to the business partners, who were at the awards to show their support for local business. Keith had been in the trade throughout his working life, starting as an apprentice brewer with *Titanic*, which began life as a tiny micro-brewery at the back of the **TRAVELLERS' REST** pub, Middleport, on the outskirts of Burslem.

Keith was honoured with an MBE two years ago for services to industry and the Staffordshire economy, and has served as chair and president of SIBA.

Titanic Brewery's beer has won many major awards, including a gold medal in the champion beer of Britain competition for its popular *Plum Porter*. The company has also invested heavily in its brewery, based at Callender Place, Burslem, vastly expanding its beer range and capacity.

WEATHEROAK TAP HOUSE

STUDLEY

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LocAle

CAMRA LocAle - promoting pubs that sell locally-brewed real ale, reducing the number of 'beer miles', and supporting local breweries. CAMRA LocAle is an initiative that promotes pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale. The scheme builds on a growing consumer demand for quality local produce and an increased awareness of 'green' issues.

The CAMRA LocAle scheme was created in 2007 by CAMRA's Nottingham branch which wanted to help support the tradition of brewing within Nottinghamshire, following the demise of local brewer Hardys and Hansons. Following on from our LocAle feature in Shakesbeer Spring 2013 we will be keeping you up to date on the most recent LocAle accredited pubs. Below are our most recent locale conscriptors and so you should be able to track down a pint of beer produced with 30 miles of that pub.

Everyone benefits from local pubs stocking locally-brewed real ale...

- Public houses as stocking local real ales can increase pub visits
- Consumers who enjoy greater beer choice and diversity
- Local brewers who gain from increased sales
- The local economy because more money is spent and retained locally
- The environment due to fewer 'beer miles' resulting in less road congestion and pollution
- Tourism due to an increased sense of local identity and pride - let's celebrate what makes our locality different

Accreditation is at the sole discretion of the local CAMRA branch and subject to the licensee agreeing to the following...

- That they will endeavour to ensure at least one locally brewed real ale, as defined by the local branch, is on sale at all times
- Only real ale, as defined by CAMRA, can be promoted as a CAMRA LocAle
- Where the standard of real ale sold falls below an acceptable quality, accreditation will be withdrawn
- That accreditation can be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the local branch
- That should accreditation be withdrawn, or should the licensee withdraw from the scheme, all LocAle publicity material must be removed from the pub and the licensee cease using the CAMRA LocAle logo.

Definition of Local

The Sustainable Communities Act, which CAMRA strongly supports, provides a definition of local as up to 30 miles from the point of sale. CAMRA recommends that the distance is calculated from the pub to the brewery and should be based on the shortest driving distance. Real ales from regional and national breweries as well as from microbreweries can be

regarded as "local" if they are brewed within what the branch has decided as being the local area.

How do I find a LocAle Pub?

Pubs which have been given LocAle status by their local CAMRA branch can display the LocAle sticker on their windows/doors. The stickers have the

year for which they have been accredited as LocAle pubs by their branch. They may also have posters up in the pub and on the pumps that are serving locally brewed beers there will be LocAle pump clip crowners.

To find a locale accredited pub in this area see the branch website and look for the <http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk/rainshc/>



Armscote **FUZZY DUCK**; Brilles (Lower) **GEORGE INN**; Brilles (Upper) **GATE INN**; Bretforton **FLEECE INN**; Broadway **CROWN & TRUMPET, BROADWAY HOTEL**; Broom **BROOM TAVERN**; Cherington **CHERINGTON ARMS**; Edgehill **CASTLE INN**; Evesham **RED LION, ROYAL OAK, TRUMPET**; Great Alne **MOTHER HUFF CAP**; Hampton Lucy **BOARS HEAD**; Ilmington **HOWARD ARMS, RED LION**; Little Compton **RED LION**; Long Compton **RED LION**; Newbold-on-Stour **WHITE HART INN**; Oxhill **PEACOCK**; Sedgeberrow **QUEENS HEAD**; Shipston-on-Stour **BLACK HORSE INN, COACH & HORSE, GEORGE INN, THE WHITE BEAR**; Stratford-upon-Avon **BEAR (SWANS NEST), FALCON HOTEL, GOLDEN BEE, ONE ELM, STRATFORD ALE HOUSE**; Stretton-on-Fosse **PLOUGH**; Welford-on-Avon **BELL INN**; Whichford **NORMAN KNIGHT**.

Stratford Beer Festival



And so, another year turns and it is time to look forward to the 13th Stratford-upon-Avon Beer and Cider Festival. The event, as usual, is held at Stratford Racecourse and as can be seen from the flyer opposite will feature over 70 real ales and more than 30 ciders. Not forgetting the fabulous food and live entertainment.

As always, with a venture of this magnitude Festival Organiser, Jason Norledge, relies on the help and support of a battalion of volunteers to make all this come together. This is an appeal to all Branch Members to perhaps offer their time and skills to make this a memorable occasion and turn a battalion into an army.

The Branch Diary lists a number of Beer Festival meetings but if you are unable to attend one of those you can contact Jason by email at an address in the list of Branch Contacts.

And finally, the supporters of the branch are important to make this event a success by their presence. This is your Beer Festival so help if you can or turn up for the sessions and make this year's event as good or better than all the previous ones. Don't be put off by the number 13, this could be your lucky number, enjoy it.

Watch out for a Special Edition of Shakesbeer

We will be producing a Special Stratford-upon-Avon Beer and Cider Festival edition, so I am looking forward to receiving lots of information about Sponsors, Music, Food outlets etc. relating to the 13th SuA Festival. Dates for Festival meetings are in our Branch Diary.

Prestigious Award for Designer of Stratford Beer Festival Poster

Andrew Gorsuch awarded best beer festival poster/flyer at the regional awards ceremony in December 2018 for his Stratford Beer Festival 2018 artwork, presented by David Griffiths (right hand side) Warwickshire area Organiser.

Every year the West Midlands region of which we are a branch has an awards ceremony just after Christmas at the Barton arms in Brum. Many categories from best campaigner, best branch website etc. A new one is best beer festival poster/flyer of which ours won 2018 and Andrew is the artist responsible. David Griffiths is an area organiser with responsibilities at regional level. Shame about the spelling.



• Andy Gorsuch (left) receives his award from David Griffiths

13th Stratford-upon-Avon Beer & Cider Festival

Friday 21 June 12.00 - 23.00

Saturday 22 June 11.00 - 23.00

2019

Stratford Racecourse

Luddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9SE

Shakespeare Branch

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Website: stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk

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SoABeerFest



The Wild Rover

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player
Founder Chairman, Shakespeare CAMRA (1981)
www.alanwhitbread.co.uk



As well as liking a good quality pint of beer, I'm a bit of a songster. And we songsters often get asked to do sing requests. Guess which song we most frequently asked to sing? Drunken Sailor?, South Australia?, Jerusalem?, God Save the Queen?, No! It's not even Happy Birthday to You! Yes, it's The Wild Rover.

Since writing about Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale for the Winter 2007 edition of Shakesbeer I have written some 35 articles on songs about ale for our magazine. So why not The Wild Rover? Well it's not my favourite song. But I can put it off no longer. The time has come to write about this popular & enduring song. As we all know it's a quintessential Irish drinking song. Wrong! But it was made popular in recordings by The Dubliners in 1964, the Clancy Brothers with Tommy Makem in 1965 and by The Pogues, the British Celtic band, in 1984. It therefore became "imported" into the Irish tradition.

Yet it has been sung and recorded by hundreds of singers & bands from all over the world, including:-

- Burl Ives (USA) on Folio of Australian Folk Songs in 1955,

- Albert Lloyd (England) on Across the Western Plains in 1958,
- Martin Wyndham-Read & Phyl Winnicombe on Bullockers, Bushwackers & Booze (Australia) in 1967,
- The Corries (Scotland) on The Corries in Concert in 1969,
- Andy Stewart (Scotland) on All Time Scottish Favourites in 1975, and
- The Mahones (Canada) on The Black Irish in 2011.

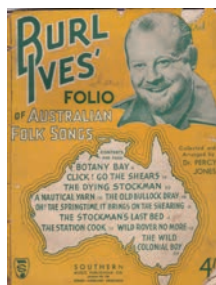
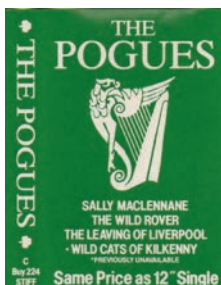
So, if it isn't (or rather wasn't) Irish what is its origin? Many people think it is Australian. For instance, A. B. (Banjo) Paterson (Australia) included it in the book *Old Bush Songs* in 1909, which he edited.

However, it is much older than that and it isn't just seen as a rollicking pro-drinking song. Professor Thomas Devine in his

book *The Scottish Nation 1700 - 2000* published in 2001 suggests that the song was written as a temperance song, placing it no earlier than 1829. Also, the song is found printed in John Kenedy & Tyrone Power's *USA book, The American Songster*, in 1845 and it was certainly spread from Scotland to America by the Temperance Movement.

An alternative history of the song is suggested by the fact that a collection of ballads printed in London, dated between 1813 and 1838, is held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The bundle contains *The Wild Rover*. The Greig-Duncan collection compiled in 1848-1917 contains no less than six versions of the song.

However, the latest thinking suggests that the modern song is most likely directly descended from *The Good Fellow's Resolution* by Thomas Lanfiere c1682 collected as part of the *Oxfordshire Ballads*. This led to all sorts of offshoots from these ballads being printed in the next 2 centuries. Nowadays there is even a multitude of parodies to choose



The Wild Rover...

I've been a wild rover for many's the year
 And I've spent all my money on whiskey and beer.
 But now I'm returning with gold in great store
 And I never will play the wild rover no more
 And it's no, nay, never, (clap, clap, clap, clap)
 No, nay, never, no more
 Will I play the wild rover,
 No, never, no more

I went into an alehouse I used to frequent
 And I told the landlady my money was spent.
 I asked her for credit, she answered me Nay,
 Such custom as yours I can have any day.

I took from my pocket ten sovereigns bright
 And the landlady's eyes opened wide with delight.
 She said I have whiskey and wines of the best
 And the words that I told me were only in jest.

I'll go home to my parents, confess what I've done,
 And I'll ask them to pardon their prodigal son.
 And when they caress me as oft times before
 Then I never will play the wild rover no more.

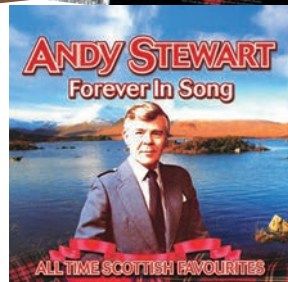
If you want to hear and join in with the choruses of traditional song & music sessions in pubs in the GB&E 2019 which are in or close to the Shakespeare CAMRA area, try the following places:-

- **Every Thursday at The Fleece at Bretforton (a NT property) WR11 7JE;**
- **Second Friday at The Boar's Head, Hampton Lucy CV35 8BE; and**
- **Fourth Sunday at The Baker's Arms at Broad Campden GL55 0UR**

from entitled: Land Rover, Dog Rover, Drunk Driver, Wild Raver, Hard Drinker, Hell's Angel, Folk Singer, etc. So you can take your pick: it can be seen as an Irish, Australian, Scottish or a Temperance song. Or like dozens of other traditional English songs it was derived from the Roxburghe Ballads collection from the 17th century. Whatever it's lineage, I'm still not keen on it. If asked I usually say I don't know it or I might even start singing it with a rather different verse:-

I've sung The Wild Rover for many's the year
 There's some folk would boo
 and some who would cheer
 I've sung it so often it, its
 become such a bore
 So I never will sing The Wild Rover no more!

So above is the Dubliners version of the song.





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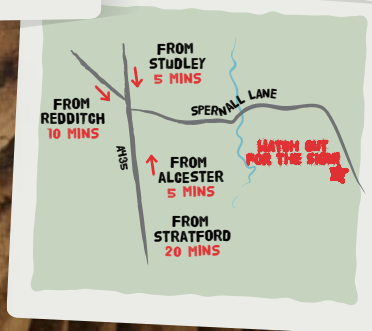


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Your Pub: Your Business Rates 2019

by Ian B. Sloan FRICS BANKIER SLOAN Chartered Surveyors, based in Oxfordshire

The Chancellor's Autumn Budget passed relatively unnoticed due to the on-going political arguments over Brexit but for most publicans and pub-chains there will be some considerable benefits in terms of Business Rates.

In recent years many pubs (those run as a one location business) with a Rateable Value (RV) under £12,000 have paid no rates, for those also run independently with a rateable Value of up to £15,000 there has been some relief, whilst all pubs with rateable Values of under £100,000 have benefited from "PUB RELIEF" which for the 2018/2019 financial year has been £1,000

From 1st April the rules are changing, there will no longer be "pub-relief" as the scheme was not renewed in the budget and it will come to an end on 31st March 2019. The vast majority of publicans (and takeaway/restaurant owners) will be able to benefit from the new Retail Relief, but your rateable value will need to be under £51,000 (fifty-one thousand pounds). For these establishments the annual savings on rates payable will be 33%. The scheme is intended to run for two financial years, up until 31st March 2021. For establishments with a RV of say £40,000 which currently pay rates of £19,720 (based on 48 p in the £), the savings based on the pre-announced

business rate multiplier of 49.1p in the £ for 2019/20 is as illustrated (right).

Surprisingly to us this relief is not restricted to only one property. There is a limit of available relief (agreed by the EU, which will remain operative even if we Exit without an agreement) of 200,000 Euros over three years, but this will affect only the larger chains. For those publicans running a few pubs or eating establishments the scheme will prove great news. The government have asked, no have instructed, local council to calculate the 2019/20 rates bill taking account of this relief, you should not need to claim. BE warned do not sign a contract with any third party who promise to act for you to get the relief. It should come automatically.

BANKIER SLOAN have written on the subject of Business Rates relief for many years, and many councils publish our tables on Small Business Rates Relief as if they had prepared them (with our permission)



• Ian Sloan

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= £19,640**

**Retail discount (1/3):
= -£ 6,547
(this is your saving for the
2019/20 tax year)**

**Rates due (after retail discount):
= £13,093**

Reader Chris Dallimore writes...



In connection with your “cider appeal” in the winter edition of Shakesbeer.

I have no other qualification to talk knowledgeably about cider other than being a cider drinker. It's good that CAMRA are able to define what makes a “real” cider - if only they could tell us how to recognise it when we stand at the bar.

The artificial ciders can, of course, be flavoured to taste like the real thing or whatever the makers desire and the general public tend to not care one way or the other, like most bar staff. The makers don't let on either. Weston's are proud that their Stowford Press is their biggest seller but don't tell us that it ain't real.

My own taste buds are not that refined that

they can always tell the difference and my only criteria is, like beer, if it's served under pressure it ain't the real stuff.

Quite a few ciders are now served in boxes and I think that these are usually the genuine article.

One other comment re “Shakesbeer” which irritates is that most reports on the local pubs only talk about the beer stocked and very rarely what cider(s) - for example see your chairman's report on **THE TURKS HEAD & THE FLEECE INN**, Bretforton (which I know sells real cider) in the winter edition

Afraid my comments don't add much to your knowledge of cider - perhaps the “experts” at CAMRA can be of more help helping us decide.

Best wishes & cheers

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ALL NEW
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ADDRESSES

Are you interested in joining your local Shakespeare CAMRA committee?

We would like to hear from you if you could help us to help our local members.

Do you have a few spare moments during the week when you could help our local committee with organising social events if so we would like to hear from you. Or could you assist in gathering news or assist publishing this magazine by being part of our editorial team. What about liaising with the local landlords and pubs within our branch? If so we would like to hear from you however much time you can spare in any capacity. **Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to join: chair@shakespeare.camra.org.uk**

SUBSCRIBE TO SHAKESBEER...

If you are a CAMRA member in the Shakespeare branch, you should receive a copy of Shakesbeer through the post (one per household). If you prefer, a PDF copy can be sent to you by email - just let Shakesbeer know. If you live outside the area or are not a CAMRA member but would like to subscribe and receive copies through the post, then please send an email to **editor@shakespeare.camra.org.uk** for further details or write to us at :

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Shakespeare Branch DIARY

All events 8pm unless
otherwise stated

Wednesday, 10th April Beer Festival Meeting, 20:00 at
THE BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Hampton Lucy, Warwick
CV35 8BE

Tuesday, 30th April Shakespeare Branch AGM, 20:00 at
THE FLEECE INN, The Cross, Bretforton, Evesham WR11 7JE

Wednesday, 8th May Beer Festival Meeting, 20:00
THE BROOM TAVERN, 32 High St, Broom, Alcester
B50 4HL

Thursday, 16th May Branch Pub of the Year presentation
(Worcestershire), 20:00 **THE COACH & HORSES**, Station
Road, Harvington, Evesham WR11 8NJ

Friday, 21st June - Saturday 22nd June
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Forename(s)		(UK & EU)				
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Joint Membership	£30.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£32.50 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Address		(Partner at the same address)				
.....						
.....		*For information on Young Member and other concessionary rates please visit www.camra.org.uk/membership-rates or call 01727 798440.				
Email address						
Tel No(s)						

Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title	Surname	I/we wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association these are available at camra.org.uk/memorandum <input type="checkbox"/>
Forename(s)		
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		
Joint member's Email		
Joint member's Tel No		Signed
		Date

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