

# Shakesbeer

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



FREE  
Please  
take one

## ACV and the Plight of the Public House

I find myself writing again about Asset of Community Value - we featured this in Shakesbeer 60 as an emerging key directive that CAMRA want to follow and how we are looking for people to "list their local". Since issue 60 there has been quite a bit of activity with no less than eight pub/social clubs being listed with others under way such as the **COACH AND HORSES**, Harvington.

Although this is a key campaign from CAMRA, it is not a CAMRA vehicle but part of local planning. To get an ACV application off the ground and keep it moving CAMRA HQ and your local branch can give you guidance but this needs an interested group of local people to propose and submit the application to your local council. Those most likely to survive are applications where maybe it is the last, or there are only one or two pubs in an area. Those giving back to the community are considered even more of an asset when partaking in community events. That said, every pub is an asset to those that use it and every pub is worth a shot.

There will be success stories and others not so successful; act now whilst your pub is alive and kicking, this makes it easier. Recently we learnt of the previously mentioned **SHAKESPEARE INN**,

Welford-on-Avon which has recently been awarded an ACV, achieved through a group of regular drinkers rather than the pub itself. Another example where the ACV could prove interesting is the **THE WHITE HORSE**, Ettington. Currently



closed and facing an uncertain future it will more than likely become a residential conversion. It must be said that the award of an ACV does not guarantee the future as a public house or other

### Current ACV protected pubs:

- **BLACK HORSE**, Morton Morell
- **FERRY**, Alveston
- **PLOUGH INN**, Stretton-on-Fosse
- **MOTHER HUFF CAP**, Great Alne
- **RED LION**, Ilmington
- **WHITE HORSE**, Ettington
- **SHAKESPEARE INN**, Welford-on-Avon
- **COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB**, Bretforton

community building, but merely puts the brakes on the process of change of use and will also insist on a full change of use application to be submitted which currently is not required.

So, if you love your local pub and think it adds value to your community, you can apply for it to be registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) to give it extra protection from developers (England only). Without ACV status, developers can convert local pubs to a wide range of retail uses or even demolish them without applying for planning permission,



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# STRATFORD UPON AVON'S NEWEST AND ONLY BREWERY...

In fact, we're more than Stratford Upon Avon's only brewery. **We're also one of the UK's most eco-friendly too.** And luckily for our customers, being ecologically sound goes nicely hand-in-hand with producing great tasting beer, with no additives or chemicals...



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STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



**Contact** Rich Williams  
07866 495 232  
rich@sua-brewery.co.uk  
www.sua-brewery.co.uk  
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# Chairman's Letter

*For those of you who normally receive **Shakesbeer** in the post you will be used to a word from our Chairman, Lloyd Evans. We have decided to include this in the magazine so that those who might be thinking about coming and joining the branch in a more active way can see a small summary of what we get up to that previously may not have made it in here.*

Hi Everyone,

The start of the year has already 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 the major decisions that we have resolved is our proposals for our pub entries into the 2017 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.

My thanks also go to Dave Page (Treasurer) who on February 4th arranged what has become an annual branch pilgrimage to the Tewksbury Winter Ales beer festival. With 32 keen ale drinkers on the bus from all parts of the branch area, it proved to be a very enjoyable night for all concerned and when we arrived it was already busy with it being CAMRA member's night. Over 80 lovely beers were available; all of them brewed only in the winter months, and the choice and quality of the beers was excellent as always.

This edition of the Shakesbeer magazine also features another article on the role of ACV's in protecting our local pubs and the support that CAMRA HQ is offering members and the local community in achieving this status. I would therefore draw your attention to those parish councils who have already been very pro-active in working with their pubs

to achieve this recognition as they are proving what can be achieved in the local area.

Finally, with us being able to confirm that our annual beer festival is now being planned for the weekend of the 10th / 11th June, we are again looking for members to help us in a variety of different ways in order to make this a success. Even if you cannot help on the Friday and Saturday, we will need support throughout the week from the Tuesday, which is when the stillaging is built and the beers racked, right through to the Sunday when it all has to be taken down again and removed into storage for another year.

**Please try and spare some of your time to help us make this a success again for what will be the 10th year in Stratford.**



Next Branch Meetings:

**Wednesday April 27th - AGM at THE HOLLY BUSH, Alcester B49 5QX**

**Wednesday 18th May - SHAKESPEARE INN, Welford CV37 8PX**

Best wishes as always, Lloyd

# ACV and the Plight of the Public House

(continued from page 1)

denying local people a say. Make sure your voice is heard by nominating your local pub as an ACV today.

## Why nominate my local pub?

Nominating a pub and securing support from the community demonstrates that it is important to the local area. In addition;

- ACV status means planning permission will be required for the pub to be converted to any other use or demolished
- The sale of an ACV pub to a developer can be delayed for up to six months while the community explore options to keep the pub open
- Property developers who want to avoid a contentious planning application may be dissuaded from buying an ACV listed pub

## Getting 21 people together is easier than you think!

Here are a few ideas on getting to that magic number of 21:

- ✓ Visit the pub you hope to list and ask the regulars to add their name
- ✓ Visit a local beer festival and collect signatures
- ✓ Ask your family and friends
- ✓ Engage with other local groups in the area
- ✓ Launch a petition to list your local using 38 Degrees and gather signatures online: <http://tinyurl.com/savepubs>

**Remember, you will only need to gather support from 21 people if nominating as an unincorporated body.**

## How do I nominate my local pub?

To nominate your local as an Asset of Community Value, all you need to do is follow these simple steps:

- Decide who you are nominating on behalf of. You can either nominate as an unincorporated group of 21 local people, as a Parish Council, or in connection with a local group including CAMRA Branches
- Go to your Council website and look up the section on Assets of Community Value or Right to Bid. Here you can download a nomination form (or if there isn't one available CAMRA provides a template)
- Fill in the form with as much detail as you can on why the pub should be classified as a community asset
- If nominating as an Unincorporated Group, demonstrate that at least 21 people from the local community support the listing of the pub
- Check your local Council website to see where the nomination needs to be submitted. Many Councils have produced guidance explaining how they are accepting nominations
- Request a receipt from the Council to acknowledge they have received the form as planning protection will be granted at the point of nomination

## What then happens if a registered pub is put up for sale?

As well as protecting your local pub from demolition or change of use without a planning application, ACV registration



provides the opportunity for the community to bid for the pub. If the owner of a registered pub wishes to sell to a property developer, a six-week interim moratorium period kicks in and the Council will tell you. If during this time your local community group decides it would like to consider bidding to take the pub on, you can trigger a full moratorium period of six months – which will give you time to raise finance, develop a business plan and make a bid to buy the asset on the open market. It's important to stress that if you put your name to listing a pub, you will be under absolutely no obligation to bid to buy the pub in the future.

### Other organisations to contact:

Government Funded "My Community Rights" website: [www.mycommunity.org.uk](http://www.mycommunity.org.uk) Helpline: 0845 345 4564

The Plunkett Foundation: The Plunkett Foundation helps communities buy and run their local pub under community ownership and operates a Co-operative Pubs Advice Line. Details of how to contact the Plunkett Foundation can be found here - [www.plunkett.co.uk/](http://www.plunkett.co.uk/) Advice Line: 01993 817030

Pub is the Hub: [www.pubisthehub.org.uk](http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk)

*Information taken from CAMRA guide to ACV's [www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal](http://www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal)*

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# Pub News & Beer Reports...

## Alcester

### ROYAL OAK

After four years at the helm, Hayley and Jake will be leaving **THE ROYAL OAK** when their tenancy expires in April to explore other avenues. We thank them for their time and wish them well in the future.

## HOLLY BUSH

After a brief one-year tenure, Nigel Smith and his team are handing over the baton of this popular town institution. Incoming are Venetia Bachelor, a trained chef and Paul Carey, who will be taking care of all things front of house. As an Everards tied house the intentions are for *Everards Beacon*, *Tiger* and *Original* to be on permanently and then a total of eight will be made up from the Everards guest list plus cider from *Hogan's* and *Westons* in the coming months. We would like to thank and congratulate them in becoming this branches latest members having joined on their first day of opening.



## Alderminster

### THE BELL

**THE BELL** were also finalists in the Hospitality Business of the Year category. Well done to both.

## Bidford-on-Avon

### THE BULLS HEAD

Currently under the stewardship of a relief manager from an external company

**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! [shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk](mailto:shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk)**

having been appointed by Punch Taverns. The Manager was currently running the pub single-handedly and was considering whether to take on the pub himself. The pub is listed as available on the Punch Taverns website for anyone wishing to enter the trade.

## Badsey

### THE WHEATSHEAF

Diversification is the name of the game at **THE WHEATSHEAF** where on the first Saturday of the month they hold an over 18's film club. High Definition films are projected onto a big screen and there is surround sound to complete the experience. Under 18s are catered for with a once a month children's cinema club.

## Cherington

### CHERINGTON ARMS

French chef Jean-Michel is now the landlord of this Hook Norton pub after moving from the **NORMAN KNIGHT** in nearby Whichford. Besides his delicious food there are three handpumps serving cask beers. Two are dedicated to *Hook Norton* ales (usually *Hooky* and a seasonal) whilst the third pump is reserved for the *Turpin Brewery* based near Hook Norton village and *Golden Citrus* was a recent Turpin offering. Folk musicians gather on the first Friday of the month and live blues music plays on alternate Mondays.

## Evesham

### THE RAILWAY HOTEL

Home of The Iron Road music venue, it continues to go from strength to strength. They are now also doing food and have

been developing a range of gourmet burgers which are available Mon- Thurs 5.00 - 9.00 Fri- Sun 12.00 - 9.00. The full Gourmet Burgers and Exotic Cheesecakes menu officially launched on March 1st.

## Lower Quinton

### COLLEGE ARMS

We have been advised that the pub shut on New Year's Day; however, nearby residents understood the pub was likely to reopen. Currently it is listed on the Enterprise Inns site looking for a tenant.

## Halford

### HALFORD BRIDGE

After a refurbishment we learn that this traditional inn is now open again after a short spell of closure. We await further information.

## Stretton-on-fosse

### THE PLOUGH

It's all change here! After a short stint for Steve and Mandy and picking up Winter Pub of the Season 2014 whilst in tenure, they move to pastures new closer to their roots in the guise of the **RAILWAYMANS ARMS**, Blockley. In coming, or rather side stepping, is Ben, already working at the pub who has taken this coveted local on. Great to see a pub staying open.

## Bretforton

### THE FLEECE

**THE FLEECE** continues to garner accolades. This time they were one of five finalists of the Visit England Award for

The Fleece family at Blackpool Winter Gardens



Excellence Tourism Pub of The Year and one of the first pubs in the country to be a Visit England Accredited Pub and have walked away with the top award of GOLD! This is from over 400 entries across the UK. This award is for pubs who make a significant contribution to the tourism industry. You can see a happy Fleece family at the award ceremony at Blackpool Winter Gardens. Cotswold Life have already included them in their Top 15 Real Ale Pubs. We congratulate them on their continued success.

## Stratford-upon-Avon

### ODDFELLOW'S ARMS

We learn that it is no longer open and is listed for sale.

### QUEEN'S HEAD

Carol & Geoff have now completed the upstairs refurbishment of five rooms for letting and they have acquired the cottage next door which has a further two extra

rooms. They have 30 years' experience of running pubs and were previously at **THE STAR** in Pershore before being approached by Punch Taverns who have agreed a six year fixed rent lease on the Queens (yes, fixed rent!). Beers kept are - *Doombar* and *London Pride* and as of January they now hold their first Cask Marque accreditation. So well done, keep it up!

### UNION COCKTAIL

Unfortunately currently no real ales but they will be occasionally back on. . . . So if you're passing its worth a look and let us know.

### GARRICK

Some interesting statistics we learn from this historic inn - every day they sell one nine gal of *Abbot Reserve* and every three days sell one 18 gal of *IPA* and *Abbot*. So if you like your *Abbot* fresh this is the place.

### CHURCH STREET TOWNHOUSE

This eating house with bar is now under

*Brakspear* control. Beers currently on - one *Brakspear* and one *North Cotswold Brewery* beer.

## NEW BULLS HEAD

Here you can always find a reliable pint of *Timothy Taylor Landlord*. Now also selling *TT Boltmaker* which is Champion Beer of 2014, alongside a changing selection of two or three more beers and a traditional cider.

## KEYS AND KITCHEN

Good news here for a popular growing music and real ale venue. They now have an approved music licence after a complaint during last Summer which had put the music in jeopardy.

## THE OLD TRAMWAY

**THE OLD TRAMWAY** has been awarded the Shakespeare CAMRA Pub of the Season Autumn 2015. Unfortunately, the presentation took a little while to arrange hence its late reporting, but nonetheless does not take away from this recognition. See the editorial later for full details.

## THE ONE ELM

**THE ONE ELM** was winning finalist at the Touch FM Pride of Stratford Awards. They received the Customer Care Award at the gala evening in February.

## Honeybourne

### THE THATCH

Richard and Carys are flying the nest to take up residence running the Donnington pub **THE PHEASANT** at Taddington just outside our branch. **THE THATCH** continues to remain open and is being run on a temporary basis for up to three months by Sophie who has worked with

Continued page 8 ▶

# Pub News & Beer Reports...

Carys for at least a year. Hopefully there will be full time tenants/manager appointed soon.

## Snitterfield

### SNITTERFIELD ARMS

The new extension at the **SNITTERFIELD ARMS** is now finished and was celebrated with a re-launch party in early February. They are now working on a games corner in the pub with old fashioned board games to play whilst you enjoy your beer.



in winter. A huge cedar tree overlooks the large garden with tables for summer enjoyment. The inn was once the Dower House to Ettington Manor and has eight bedrooms. It is open every day and closes in the afternoons from 3 till 6.

of an in-pub convenience store selling basics such as eggs, bacon, sausage as well as olives, chutneys etc. So a great excuse to get down to the pub (if any excuse was needed).



## Houndshill

### THE HOUNDSHILL INN

This pub lies on the A422 between Ettington and Stratford and hosts Andrew and Elaine are celebrating 38 years of running this free house. *Timothy Taylor Landlord* and *Purity Gold* are the regular beers and an open log fire will warm you

## Whichford

### THE NORMAN KNIGHT

Its all go at the **NORMAN KNIGHT**, with planning permission secured for an extension to increase the letting rooms - hopefully to tap into the lucrative tourist market.

### The Boars Head



## Hampton Lucy

### THE BOARS HEAD

This village local has added another string to its considerable bow with the opening

# PubAid

## PUBS RAISE IN EXCESS OF £100M FOR CHARITY EVERY YEAR!

In early February over 1450 pubs clubs and bars across the country took part in what was billed as The World's Biggest Pub Quiz. Organised by PubAid it was held to raise money for over 900 charities. So hats off to all who took part and to the quizzers in our area at:

- **THE BLACK HORSE** Shipston • **THE BROOM HALL INN** Alcester • **THE COACH & HORSES** Harvington
- **THE CROWN** Tiddington • **THE FISH & ANCHOR** Offenham • **THE GEORGE** Lower Brailes
- **HALFORD BRIDGE** Halford • **THE HORSESHOE** Shipston • **THE STAGS HEAD** Wellesbourne
- **THE WHITE SWAN HOTEL** Stratford



Closing date for copy for the next issue of **Shakesbeer** is **30th April 2016**

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Check out the website for forthcoming events



## 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.

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# Brewery News...

## NORTH COTSWOLD

As ever its always going strong at NCB, and hopefully some of you will have caught their Rugby seasonal special – *Fosseway Flanker*.

I must say this just hit the spot as a lovely easy going session beer. April sees the brewery release their new spring seasonal - *Jumping Jack* - which celebrates Spring, bringing a vibrant pale hoppy beer with fruity notes. Look out for it in your local. Alongside this they have been awarded Bronze in the CAMRA West Midlands Region of Champion Beer of Britain which you can read about further in the magazine for their *Hung Drawn 'N' Porter*ed in the Porters category. And finally they are also offering Shakespeare CAMRA Members a special offer: *in recognition of your continued support we would like to offer 10% discount on all 10 litre and 20 litre "ale in a box" to all CAMRA members. All you need is proof of membership.* Contact the brewery direct.



## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BREWERY

It's just keeps getting busier and busier at Stratford's only brewery – already having smashed the business plan targets for their first year having achieved what was expected in 4 years! Its time to install some new shiny kit in the form of 8 \* 1000l fermentation tanks to allow for increased capacity. Alongside this, Rich's trusty assistant Dave is now working full time in getting the beer out and as summer approaches this only looks set to be getting busier now they are beginning to explore markets like London. This spring will also see them venture into the bottle



market with *Stratford Gold* making a first appearance. Look out for it in your beer bottle outlet and if not stocked, make a request.

A stronger IPA is on its way out to tickle the taste buds - *Immortal* which will be 5% and made with cascade and chinook hops. Look out in a local near you or checkout the brewery website for outlets.



## PURITY

They have made it in to the awards again, having been awarded silver in the Bitters Category with *Pure Gold* and joint silver in the Best Bitters with *Pure Ubu* in the CAMRA West Midlands regional round of the Champion Beer of Britain competition.



## BIRDS BREWERY

From just outside our branch: It is with sadness we learn that the brewery and the shop will be closing their doors at the end of March. Over the years they have been keen supporters of this magazine through advertising and our Stratford Beer Festival. The decision has been taken after Ladybird Crane Hire Ltd, which operates from the



same site on Old Burcot Lane, is moving to a newly-built yard and office at the former HMP Brockhill site. The brewery's administrative work used to be done by the crane hire company's staff but the transition means that will no longer be an option.

Owner Chris Bird said: "Whilst the brewery and the shop have thrived over recent months it is not commercially viable to employ additional staff to handle the admin requirements.

"Further to this we would need to move the shop to the back of the site where the brewery is based and the cost implications simply outweigh revenue potential. We have not taken this decision lightly and I'd like to thank everyone who has supported Bird's Brewery over the years."

Paul Richards, the chairman of Redditch and Bromsgrove CAMRA said the group was disappointed. "Bird's has helped to champion the cause of real ale in North Worcestershire, and Bromsgrove in particular. We've enjoyed some great beers from the brewing team such as *Black Widow Stout* and *Naturally Blonde*. We hope someone else is able to step up and fill the gap that the demise of Bird's will inevitably leave."

Bird's Brewery has developed a strong and loyal following of fans since it was established nearly six years ago. A refurbishment of the brewery took place last winter and a schedule of brewery tours was launched in January. The date of the last tour will be March 19 and bookings will be subject to a maximum of 15 people. Anyone who has a brewery tour voucher but is unable to attend the March tour should contact the Brewery direct on 01527 889 870 (during weekday working hours).

Those presenting unredeemed vouchers will be offered either a £10 refund or the opportunity to select £15 worth of Bird's beer from the brewery shop.



OUR WATER, OUR HOPS, OUR FINE CRAFT ALES



# STRATFORD UPON AVON'S ONLY BREWERY...

The **water from our own well**, the **hops grown on our land** and our **solar powered brewery** are just part of what makes the Stratford Upon Avon Brewery unique. Find out more at [www.sua-brewery.co.uk](http://www.sua-brewery.co.uk)



## THE NORMAN KNIGHT



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# Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival 2016

## 10th Anniversary June 10th & 11th

Well it seems to be the milestone year for local beer festivals - first Tewkesbury 21st Winter Ales now your very own Shakespeare CAMRA branch's - Stratford Beer Festival reaches the big TEN!

This year we are planning to bring you Wales, The West and The Best. So you can expect to find that the core beers on offer (possibly near 40) will be made up of the best from Wales, the West (covering with some license what was the old Wessex county right through to Cornwall) and then TEN of the best which will be either past beer of the festivals or alternative from the Brewer. Keep watching the website for a draft ales and ciders list.

Of course there will be cider, and this year we are hoping to collect from the big names you might expect. All real of course but also some of the much smaller "farm gate" producers bringing hopefully some unseen or rare items.

As always wanting to promote "don't drink

and drive", there will be camping available (book early with Stratford Touring Park which is on site) or take our shuttle bus from Stratford train station to the site. We will do our best to coincide with arrivals from Birmingham, Leamington Spa, Banbury etc. where we can. There is also plenty of parking if you want to drive and walk or take a taxi home.

### Can I get involved I hear you ask?

If you're a CAMRA member and think you might like to come and help us either during setup or open time or even more important tear down on the Sunday, then we would love to hear from you. Check the Festival website for a link to submit your details.



Anyone can help – even if you think you might not have skills to offer. We would especially like to hear from you if you're a trained first aider. There is always someone experienced on hand to guide and you might even learn something new. For your time we can offer food and water (or a responsible beer or cider) and subject to availability, a festival polo shirt. If you're working several shifts and you bring a tent or caravan, you can also camp for a night for free or more, depending how long you are working with us.

[www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk](http://www.stratfordbeerfestival.org.uk)

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# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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# Tewkesbury Winter Ales Festival 21st Anniversary

This is fast becoming an annual trip for the Shakespeare CAMRA at the 21st Tewkesbury Winter Ale Festival. What started out as a few people travelling with a designated driver has now grown to needing a full size coach.

**W**hy Tewkesbury? Nobody really knows why, but the fact there are 80+ excellent winter beers selected from far and wide, including 21 from Gloucestershire is reason enough! So thanks this year to our branch treasurer Dave Page for getting us there (we are currently looking for a permanent social secretary by the way if anyone fancies

*Corinium Caracalla*. Locale overall festival winner was *Severn Vale – Severn Swans*. Amongst the non-Gloucestershire beers, it was good to see our very own local Stratford-upon-Avon Brewery beers with *Dark Start Porter* and *Winter Warmer*. A particular favourite of mine available was *Stouter Stout 4.7%* from Marble which won Beer of the Festival at Stratford

and Cheltenham CAMRA a relatively new branch split out from Gloucester who held their own first festival in 2015. Along with this, it is good to also catch up with Brewers and Publicans alike who also visit.

So please ensure your email is up to date with HQ and you too could be joining us



organising more of these kind of trips!). As with most festivals we like to know the popular favourite, after a fastidious judging panel had given their opinion – 1st *Dark Star Crème Brulee*, 2nd *Cloudwater Imperial Stout* and 3rd

Beer Festival 2015 in the form of their *Earl Gray IPA 6.8%*. So popular, it did not survive opening night! Members nights and festivals in general I find are an excellent way to meet up with neighbouring CAMRA branches. This time we met up with North Cotswold

next year for the TWAF17.

I should also add that on the same dates usually each year is Redditch & Bromsgrove CAMRA Winter Ales Festival which although never having been myself, I understand is another long standing quality event.



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# CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain - regional level

CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain is judged at the Great British Beer Festival in London each August. The road to being crowned as the best beer in Britain is a rocky one and goes through several stages.

Each year CAMRA determines which beers are eligible for the competitions depending upon the beer style. Standard Bitters and Milds need to be produced for 12 months of the year but some beer styles – Porters and Stouts as an example – need only be brewed for a few months. An eligible beer list is then made available to every CAMRA member in the country on a region by region basis. The West Midlands region covers all the breweries within Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire. Each CAMRA member is then able to go online and vote for their five favourite beers in each of CAMRA's style categories and rank them from one to five. The votes of every CAMRA member within the region are then aggregated to produce a list of the best beers.



The top six beers in each Style category are then selected for regional judging. The judging takes place at a CAMRA beer festival and judges are appointed who usually have experience in the trade or have been on a CAMRA taste training course. The judging takes the form of a 'Blind tasting' whereby the judges are provided with a sample of the beer but they are not told who brews it. The beers are judged on clarity, aroma and taste. The winner of each local judging competition then move forward to the national judging competition at the Great British Beer Festival, held annually in London. We were delighted when we heard that both *North Cotswolds* and *Purity* beers had successfully come through this process and that they had both received awards for the quality of the beers that they produce in our branch area. *North Cotswold Brewery* were awarded bronze in the Porters category for their *Hung, Drawn 'N' Porter*ed beer which is brewed in their family run brewery situated on the Fosseway just a few miles outside Shipston-on-Stour. The brewery was established in 1999 and has gone from strength to strength in recent years under the guidance of Guy Holiday and his family. Producing "Fine Ales from the Fosse" the brewery has a core range of four beers, *Windrush Ale*, *Cotswold Best*, *Shagweaver* and *Hung Drawn 'n' Porter*ed available in both draught and bottles. *Purity Brewing Company* also achieved silver in the bitters competition with *Pure*



*Gold* and joint silver in the Best Bitters with *Pure Ubu*. Based on a working farm in the heart of the beautiful Warwickshire countryside, having been established in 2005, Purity are committed to brewing "beer with a conscience". The current range of cask beers includes *Pure Gold* (3.8%), *Pure UBU* (4.5%), *Mad Goose* (4.2%), and *Saddle Black* (seasonal 5.1%) Our congratulations are offered to both breweries on this significant achievement and just to say that beers from both of our winners will be available at the 10th Stratford Beer festival in June.

“ We were delighted when we heard that both North Cotswolds and Purity beers had received awards for the quality of the beers that they produce in our branch area. ”

# A first-hand account of an ACV application

Words: Roger Dipple

Like many pubs throughout the country, particularly those owned by pub companies, **THE SHAKESPEARE INN** at Welford-on-Avon has had its ups and downs. There have been periods of closure when there was a threat of possible redevelopment, particularly as the owners, Enterprise Inns have two other pubs within the Parish.

**T**he current Landlord is very keen and supportive of local events and charities. **THE SHAKESPEARE** is the 'locals' pub where everyone can meet for a drink and a chat, without necessarily feeling obliged to eat. Usually there is a choice of three real ales – *Sharps Doom Bar*, *Purity Mad Goose* and *Charles Wells Bombardier*.

Having read all the excellent guidance provided by CAMRA, I decided to try and get the 'Shake' listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). I found the process relatively straightforward, and I also found that a few other Warwickshire pubs were already listed as ACV's on Stratford District Council's (SDC's) website – amongst them **THE COTTAGE TAVERN** at Ashorne, **THE RED LION** at Northend and **THE BLACK HORSE** at Moreton Morrell.

The forms were obtained from the CAMRA website, after a discussion with Will, the Landlord, I asked him to collect the required 21 signatures from people who lived within the Parish to form the basis of the Unincorporated Body 'Friends of the Shakespeare Inn'. CAMRA Campaigns also provided me with copies of Land Registry and Title Plan – Faye and Katie on 01727 798452 were very helpful. Once we had the signatures I approached the Parish Council, they were very interested and gave their

full support.

With the completed forms obtained from Stratford District Council website, giving reasons why the pub was of particular value to the community, and stating that the application was also supported by the Parish Council (referring to minutes of the meeting). I delivered the application and nomination form by hand to Elizabeth House and obtained a receipt. About a month later I received a letter from SDC confirming that **THE SHAKESPEARE INN** had been included on the list of Assets of Community Value established under the Localism Act 2011 giving it some protection now from planning law should it come under threat again, and the Community will have six months to mount a bid should Enterprise



decide to sell (Right to Buy). We have not yet prepared a constitution for the "Friends of the Shakespeare Inn", but would need to formalise the group should we want to bid at some point in the future.



Having read all the excellent guidance provided by CAMRA, I decided to try and get the 'Shake' listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).



# A New Brewery on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire

On a cold Saturday morning in January I took a drive out to the village of Lower Brailes, half way between Shipston and Banbury, to visit South Warwickshire's newest brewery - *Clouded Minds*.

**C**louded Minds have developed a range of eleven high quality and innovative beers by borrowing brew kit in breweries ('cuckoo brewing') in London and Derbyshire for the last two years. Luckily for South Warwickshire and Oxfordshire beer drinkers they have now decided to settle down and produce their distinctive brews from their own brewery, so have made a permanent move to the Brailes site - once the home of Whale Ale brewery. When I arrived the Head Brewer, Riccardo Pulcinelli, was just about to rack casks directly from the fermentation vessel.

Riccardo went on to rack up a total of 22 casks of Luppol, currently being supplied to the wide customer base from London to Nottinghamshire. *Luppol* (from 'luppolo' - Italian for hops) is one of the best sellers, the other being '*Hazel Nutter*' - a very special brown ale brewed with hazel nuts.

I tried *Hazel Nutter* straight from the fermentation vessel during my first visit to *Clouded Minds* and found the nut flavour to be surprisingly subtle, with a hazelnut flavour appearing very late, balanced by malty dryness. I do not usually take to beer that has strong

flavouring from adjuncts, but *Hazel Nutter* had me intrigued, so I asked Riccardo how it was made. Riccardo has all his recipes locked away, but let me take a photo of (most of!) the ingredients.

The hazelnuts come from the Pulcinelli family farm near Rome, and Riccardo toasts them himself.

## The Brewery

Joint owner and Director, Peter Hutchison, took me through the brewing process: At *Clouded Minds* the brewing process follows the usual micro-brewery practices, starting with the hot liquor tank which feeds a fifteen barrel capacity mash tun. After mashing, the wort travels through the underback into the copper. Following a boil in the copper, there is a rapid cool via a heat exchanger and then into the fermentation vessels, of which there are three in use, with a forth being installed soon.

Fermentation takes up to seven days at



● Riccardo Pulcinelli



● The secret ingredients!  
Anti-clockwise from the centre: brown malt, crystal malt, torried wheat, Galena hops and toasted hazelnuts

● 20 and 30 litre recyclable (PET) key kegs



● Toasted Hazel Nuts

around 20 °C, maintained by coolers piped to the fermenter's inbuilt cooling jackets. The coolers are wired into digital temperature controllers to maintain the correct temperature. Once fermented it is then dry hopped for two days at 20 °C, then crash cooled to around 5 °C for another three days allowing the hops and yeast to drop prior to racking, this process is used for additional flavour and aroma. The beer is then conditioned ('aged') for two weeks in the cold room at 12 °C before delivery. The brewery is currently brewing up to twice a week, which gives a maximum weekly output of around 90 casks. Most of the beer is supplied in conventional nine gallon (40 litre) casks, although 20 and 30 litre recyclable (PET) key kegs are also available.

## Availability

Clouded Minds beers appear regularly at the **STRATFORD ALEHOUSE** – check their website for details [www.thestratfordalehouse.com](http://www.thestratfordalehouse.com) and is also soon to be seen at **THE BEAR** in Stratford.

## Future Plans

As well as expanding the capacity of the brewery, Riccardo and Peter are looking to build a brewery tap and bottle shop where customers will be able to try the beers on site and buy bottles to enjoy at home.

Having an established customer base in London, Birmingham and Notts/ Derbyshire, the brewery will now be looking to supply more pubs in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire and across the Cotswolds. Bottling is currently done by hand,

● The copper



but they are considering the option of contract bottling or buying their own semi-automated bottling plant. Longer term aspirations include acquiring an annexe to the brewery where they can barrel age beers such as imperial stouts.

## Full list of Clouded Minds beers:

### Dolce Vita

West Coast IPA, fruity and mildly spicy, 6.2%

### Black Pike

Black IPA, fruity and piney, 6.1%

### Hazel Nutter

American brown ale, with roast hazelnuts, 5.0%

### Luppul

Punchy golden ale, 4.2%

### Catholic's Choice

Unfined summer beer, 2.8%

### Clout Stout

Classic stout: dark, velvety and malty, 4.5%

### Double Clout Stout

Coffee stout, rich and smooth, 6.6%

### Elisir

Amber ale, 5.3%

### N18

Light session pale ale, 4.0%

### N29

Rye session pale ale, 3.7%

### N253

Medium bodied oatmeal pale ale, 3.9%





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### Local Trading Standards Offices:

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Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP

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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 crownners.

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

Armscote **Fuzzy Duck**; Bidford-on-Avon **Royall**; Brailes (Lower) **George Inn**; Brailes (Upper) **Gate Inn**; Broadway **Crown and Trumpet Inn**, **Broadway Hotel**; Broom **Broom Tavern**; Cherington **Cherington Arms**; Edgehill **Castle Inn**; Evesham **Red Lion**, **Royal Oak**, **Trumpet**; Great Wolford **Fox and Hounds Inn**; 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**; Sedgberrow **Queens Head**; Shipston-on-Stour **Black Horse Inn**; **Coach and Horses**; **White Bear**; Stratford-upon-Avon **Bear (Swans Nest)**; **Falcon Hotel**; **Golden Bee**; **One Elm**; Stratford **Alehouse**; Stretton on Fosse **Plough**; Welford-on-Avon **Bell Inn**; Whichford **Norman Knight**

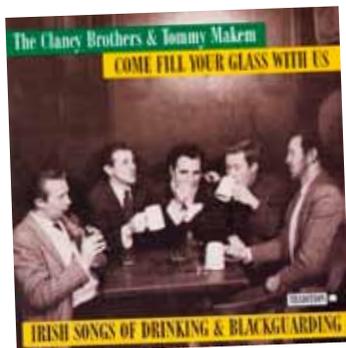
# How Old is Beer?

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player,  
Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster [www.alanwhitbread.co.uk](http://www.alanwhitbread.co.uk)



So, who invented beer and when? Well, according to a traditional English music hall song from the early 1800s, it was Charlie Mopps! Although we presume that he was a fictional character, his name does rhyme with barley and hops, two of the main ingredients in beer.

I wrote about that song a few years ago in this series about beer or ale songs. Its various titles are: "Beer, Beer, Beer", "An Ode to Charlie Mopps – The Man Who Invented Beer!" or just "Charlie Mopps". In fact, Charlie Mopps has been described as "one of Mankind's greatest benefactors". There are many versions of the song and it has been recorded by many people, including the Clancy Brothers.



● The Clancy Brothers, who recorded "Beer, Beer, Beer"

So how many UK pubs have been named in honour of Charlie Mopps? Well, perhaps surprisingly, I couldn't find any in the "What Pub?" directory, although there were a handful named "Charlie's Bar". So I looked further afield and a Google search revealed a "Charlie Mopps Bar" in Sandy Springs, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; but that closed in 2010. However, the Italians have

come to the rescue! There is a "Charlie Mopps" bar/restaurant in San Vito Romano, Lazio, Italy! Has anyone been there? Next time I'm passing that way I'll certainly look it up and I might even sing the song!! So do you believe it was actually Charlie Mopps who invented beer in the early 1800s? No? Really? Well, alright then! In fact, the oldest reference to beer is said to be in the Epic of Gilgamesh. It is a poem about the exploits of a king who reigned over the Sumerian city of Uruk in c2,700BC. Sumer was an ancient civilisation in South Mesopotamia, which is now Southern Iraq. And the poem makes clear that the Sumerians were no strangers to drunkenness! It tells of Gilgamesh's semi-divine ancestry and then introduces Enkidu, who is half man & half beast and who is required to slay a demon living in a distant cedar forest. Enkidu is persuaded to join civilisation by a prostitute named Shanhat, who educates



● Enkidu, the half man & half beast, who is taught to drink beer

him in the ways of men. Now I know a Shan but she doesn't wear a hat! Anyway, the story goes on:-

*Enkidu knew nothing about eating bread for food,  
And of drinking beer he had not been taught.  
The harlot spoke to Enkidu, saying:  
"Eat the food, Enkidu, it is the way one lives.  
Drink the beer, as is the custom of the land."  
Enkidu ate the food until he was sated,  
He drank the beer - seven jugs!  
And he became expansive and sang with joy!*

So in Sumer beer was not just a refreshment but a source of merriment and a means of relaxing the vocal chords for singing. Just like today really! They even had a goddess of beer named Ninkasi. She can top up my glass of beer anytime she likes! Now you probably knew beer was invented a long time ago but did you know it went back quite that far?



# Beer, Beer Beer (or Charlie Mopps)

A long time ago, way back in history,  
When all there was to drink was  
nothing but cups of tea  
Along came a man by the name of  
Charlie Mopps,  
And he invented a wonderful drink  
and he made it out of hops.  
He must have been an admiral, a  
sultan or a king,  
And to his praises we shall always  
sing.  
Look what he has done for us, he's  
filled us up with cheer!  
Lord bless Charlie Mops, the man  
who invented beer, beer, beer,  
fiddly, beer, beer, beer.

The Curtis Bar, the James' Pub,  
the Hole in the Wall as well,  
One thing you can be sure of, its

Charlie's beer they sell.  
So all ye lads a lasses at eleven  
O'clock ye stop,  
For five short seconds, remember  
Charlie Mopps.  
1 2 3 4 5  
He must have been an admiral .....

A barrel of malt, a bushel of hops, you  
stir it around with a stick,  
The kind of lubrication to make your  
engine tick.  
40 pints of wallop a day will keep away  
the quacks.  
It's only eight pence ha'penny and one  
£ six in tax.  
Shame, shame, shame, shame, shame.  
He must have been an admiral .....

The Lord bless Charlie Mops!



● Ninkasi, the Sumerian Goddess of Beer



● The tablet recording the Epic of Gilgamesh c2,700BC

If you want to hear and join in with the choruses of traditional songs in the Shakespeare CAMRA area, try the following places:-

- Third Tuesday at **THE GOLDEN CROSS INN** at Ardens Grafton B50 4LG;
- Every Thursday at **THE FLEECE INN** at Bretforton (a NT property in the GBG) WR11 7JE;
- First Friday at **THE CHERINGTON ARMS** at Cherington CV36 5HS;
- First Sunday at **THE GATE INN** at Upper Brailes (GBG) OX15 5AX;
- Second Sunday at **THE MARY ARDEN** at Wilmcote CV37 9XJ;
- Third Sunday at **THE BLUE BOAR INN** at Temple Grafton B49 6NR; and
- Fourth Sunday at **THE HORSESHOE INN** at Shipston on Stour (GBG) CV36 4AP

# Pub of the Season Autumn 2015

## The Old Tramway, Stratford-upon-Avon

The Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA presents a "Pub of the Season" award to a pub that has promoted real ale, promoted CAMRA and played a part in community life. The award is not normally presented to pubs that have already achieved Good Beer Guide status, but is presented to recognise other pubs within our Branch area. Members of Shakespeare Branch of CAMRA voted **THE OLD TRAMWAY**, Stratford as their Pub of the Season for Autumn 2015.

The award was presented to the Bar Manager, Martin (Jim) Tatlow, and Assistant Bar Manager, David Pagan by Pete Godfrey, Shakespeare CAMRA Good Beer Guide and Pubs Officer. Previously at **THE SALMON TAIL**, Stratford; **THE VINE INN**, Warwick; and **THE KINGS HEAD**, Napton, Jim joined **THE OLD TRAMWAY** about a year ago. Since then the beer quality has continued to improve and the staff have become very attentive to the customers' needs regarding real ale. The

Old Tramway also fits in very well with the local community, arranging lots of events such as the regular Tuesday night quiz and the November fireworks display, which was absolutely fantastic and appreciated by many people in the area. The pub was packed with regulars and CAMRA members who were delighted to witness Jim and David accepting the award in recognition of all their hard work in ensuring that the Stratford pub continues to provide high quality real ales and serve the local community.



● Simon, Belle and Dave



● Assistant Bar Manager David Pagan, Pete Godfrey and Bar Manager Martin (Jim) Tatlow

## Shakesbeer goes retro!

In this modern time of email and smart phones, we thought we'd step on the brakes a little and reintroduce snail mail. So if you prefer to put pen to paper or just don't own a computer or device for this, then you may now write to us again... **Shakesbeer Editor, c/o The Coach and Horses, Station Rd, Harvington WR11 8NJ**

# Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up

All events 8pm unless otherwise stated



## APRIL

**Wednesday 13th** Beer Festival Planning meeting at THE FLEECE WR11 7JE

**Friday 15th & Saturday 16th** Coventry Beer Festival Coventry Rugby Football Club, The Butts Park Arena Butts Rd, Coventry, CV1 3GE

**Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd** Stourbridge Beer Festival Crown Centre, Stourbridge, DY8 1YE

**Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd** 4th CAMRA Gloucester Beer & Cider Festival Historic Blackfriars Priory, Ladybellegate St, Gloucester, GL1 2HN

**Wednesday 27th** Branch AGM, HOLLY BUSH, Alcester B49 5QX

## MAY

**Wednesday 11th** Beer Festival Planning meeting at THE FLEECE WR11 7JE

**Wednesday 18th** Branch Meeting at SHAKESPEARE INN, Welford CV37 8PX

**Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd** Spring Ale & Steam Weekend Winchcombe Station, Station House, Winchcombe Cheltenham, GL54 5LD

**Wednesday 25th** COACH AND HORSES - Worcestershire Branch Pub of the Year Presentation  
**Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th** Kidderminster Beer and Cider Festival Kidderminster Town Hall, Vicar St, Kidderminster, DY10 1DB

## JUNE

**Saturday 4th** CAMRA West Midlands Region meeting & AGM. Location TBC [www.westmidlands.camra.org.uk](http://www.westmidlands.camra.org.uk)

**Thursday 9th to Saturday 11th** 41st Wolverhampton Beer Festival Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN

**Friday 10th and Saturday 11th** Stratford-upon-Avon Beer Festival

See Shakespeare CAMRA web site for the latest news, updates and full details on meetings and diary appointments: [www.shakespearecamra.org.uk](http://www.shakespearecamra.org.uk)

## CAMRA Branch Contacts

• <b>Chairman:</b> LLOYD EVANS	<a href="mailto:chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk">chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Secretary:</b> GWEN GODFREY	<a href="mailto:secretary@shakespearecamra.org.uk">secretary@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Treasurer:</b> DAVE PAGE	<a href="mailto:treasurer@shakespearecamra.org.uk">treasurer@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Membership:</b> JOHN ROSS	<a href="mailto:membership@shakespearecamra.org.uk">membership@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Pubs Officer:</b> PETE GODFREY	<a href="mailto:pubs@shakespearecamra.org.uk">pubs@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>APPLE Contact:</b> JOHN ROSS	<a href="mailto:cider@shakespearecamra.org.uk">cider@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Branch Contact:</b> KEITH BARKER	<a href="mailto:contact@shakespearecamra.org.uk">contact@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Branch Young Members Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:bymc@shakespearecamra.org.uk">bymc@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Campaigns Officer:</b> JASON NORLEDGE	<a href="mailto:campaigns@shakespearecamra.org.uk">campaigns@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Editor - Shakesbeer Newsletter:</b> JASON NORLEDGE	<a href="mailto:shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk">shakesbeer@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>GBG Selection Officer:</b> PETE GODFREY	<a href="mailto:gbg@shakespearecamra.org.uk">gbg@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Public Affairs Officer:</b> JASON NORLEDGE	<a href="mailto:publicaffairs@shakespearecamra.org.uk">publicaffairs@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Social Secretary:</b> VACANT	<a href="mailto:socials@shakespearecamra.org.uk">socials@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>
• <b>Website:</b> KEITH BARKER	<a href="mailto:websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk">websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk</a>

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 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@shakespearecamra.org.uk](mailto:chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk)



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### Your Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_  
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I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association

### Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
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01/15

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