

Shakespeare

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



FREE
Please
take one

Help Protect **YOUR** Local?

The above headline is an all too familiar one, hopefully CAMRA's new approach is the next step in stemming the loss of the local.



CAMRA is putting weight behind its new services to branches to try and get as many pubs listed as ACVs (asset of community value). The ACV

is not a new thing by any means, the initiative here is to be a proactive approach rather than a reactive one as often a pub only gets listed as an ACV when there is a hint of danger in losing it. Essentially anyone can initiate the request for a pub to be ACV listed, then there is an amount of form filling and signatures required to gain support to put it forward to the local council.

So what is an ACV?

ACV Status basically slows down the process at which an owner can change the use of a pub, it will trigger the requirement for a full planning application. In theory there is no reason why every pub should not be listed as an ACV, in reality it's usually more the case where there is a very active community or a pub maybe is the last one in the area.

So this is where you can change that, so far there are 800 listed already and hopefully 1500 by the end of the year. To pledge your support you can go about this yourself via your local council website or you can visit your local CAMRA branch meeting - there is no need to be a member to come and talk to us and we can help get the ball rolling. CAMRA now has dedicated officers at HQ that can assist in submitting the form. The ball is already rolling in our area with some gems already listed – **THE BLACK HORSE**, Moreton Morrell, within a very small community which would suffer very badly with its loss.



To find out more see the CAMRA website: www.camra.org.uk/list-your-local



Use your mobile phone's QR reader to scan

See our website www.shakespearecamra.org.uk



OUR WATER, OUR HOPS, OUR FINE CRAFT ALES



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...



Water from our own well, six varieties of **hops grown on our land** and our **solar powered brewery** are just part of what makes the Stratford Upon Avon Brewery unique. Even **our left-over malts and hops get recycled** with the help of our hungry pigs.



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



STRATFORD UPON AVON BREWERY



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@suabrewery
Find us on Facebook



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.

Hello Branch Members,

Although it's seem such a long time ago we start with this year's branch AGM which was held at the **FLEECE INN** Bretforton on the April 22nd and it was encouraging to see that so many members had made the effort to attend. One of the more significant points of the evening came when it was noted that branch membership has continued to grow and the latest figures are now indicating that we have 430 members with more still to come through after the beer festival weekend. As a result of this it was confirmed by the Regional CAMRA Director that we no longer have the lowest number of members in the West Midlands region.

I am also pleased to say that our beer festival in June again proved to be a very successful event for all concerned and it was a real pleasure to have the helpers polo shirts sponsored for the first time by Richard from the new Stratford upon Avon brewery (SuA). It took a small group of committee members just over six months to plan the event and with seventy five different beers placed on the stillaging by the Tuesday night they were carefully conditioned over the next few days by the Bar Manager, Bob Kirby, who did not leave the Racecourse site during this period.

Although the weather proved to be rather mixed over the weekend I am pleased to say that the support for the festival remained very high with around 1,500 people enjoying the range of beers and ciders on offer by the end of Saturday evening. The extra floor space that was also made available last year by moving the bars into the larger room again proved to be a

very popular move as it created a lot more seating areas for people to relax in whilst enjoying the festival.

After such a weekend I must commend and thank all the helpers who gave so freely of their own time to support, organise and staff the event as without their involvement there would never be a Festival in Stratford.

As I then complete this letter I would also like to bring to your attention that the **COACH AND HORSES** in Harvington has again been voted Runner up in the Worcestershire county rounds of the Pub of the Year competitions. Steve and Di, who along with all their bar staff, work so well together that the atmosphere they have created in the pub is something that everyone involved should be justifiably proud of and we would like to offer our congratulations on receiving this recognition again for the second year running.



Next Branch Meeting:
NORMAN KNIGHT, Whichford CV36 5PE on October 20th

Best wishes as always, Lloyd

Pub News & Beer Reports...

Evesham

RED LION

Although some time back now, Evesham's annual Vintage Fair over the May Bank Holiday weekend adopted a wartime theme in support of the commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Staff and customers of Evesham's **RED LION** pub in Market Square enthusiastically entered into the spirit of the celebrations, decorating the pub with wartime memorabilia and in case of an air raid protected the pub with camouflage netting, sandbags and taped



up the windows. Staff and customers in 40's costumes including a variety of WW2 uniforms, added to the magical atmosphere in the town and pub.

RED LION customers were entertained by background music from Glenn Miller and others together with old-time ukulele sing-alongs whilst they enjoyed the six real ales from *Cannon Royall* plus real cider and perry which were on offer throughout.

OLD SWANNE

With a newish manager in charge at this Evesham *Wetherspoons*, it looks like there is a good chance of seeing plenty of local beers. At the time of the report *Battledown Black* from Cheltenham was available amongst others and in July you could of found the full range of *North Cotswold* available. Worth paying this town pub a visit and it can be reached like allot of our pubs on the no.28 bus.

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

Whichford

THE NORMAN KNIGHT



Well who would have thought such a popular country pub could ever be prized from any landlord's hand? This is exactly what happened back in April, the long standing Tim Young decided to move his enterprises to Somerset where he already owns another pub and took with him the *Patriot Brewery*. The pub has enjoyed a popular position in village life with weekly events bringing people in from far and wide under the stewardship of Tim and team. In then steps our new boy in the form of Rich Williams – readers may know Rich from our newest brewery in Stratford. It had always been in Rich's sight even at the outset of the brewery to own a pub.

THE NORMAN KNIGHT is big shoes to fill as such a prominent pub but folks need not be worried as Rich and his team are simply fine tuning this much prized local pub and building on its already popular nights, such as pie night and vintage car



night. You will also find a full range of Stratford upon Avon Breweries beers on tap. See the website for more details:

www.thenormanknight.co.uk

Alcester

WHITE LION

Now Dave and Sharon have moved on to pastures new we await to see if real ale will be once again a feature of this popular town pub, currently there is normally no real ale available.

Tredington

WHITE LION

Currently closed having previously stated by the outgoing tenants that there was a lack of support, we are pleased to see that it should be opening again soon. They are currently advertising at the moment for



staff whilst giving the place a refurbishment and well deserved make over. It is promised that there will be three ales on offer, *Sharps Doombar* which has come as a popular request apparently, *Hook Norton* beers and the lesser known *Ambridge* beers from Inkberrow. We wish Carly and Paul all the best for a successful opening. Keep a check on the facebook page for opening details. www.facebook.com/thewhiteliontredington

Ilmington

THE HOWARD ARMS

This popular quintessential country pub has changed hands as of June 1st to be nurtured by a local group of people which should see a good vested interest in

showcasing good food and beer. There is a new chef on board who is no stranger to success with AA rosettes to his name who will look to celebrate local and seasonal. Look out for *Hook Norton* and *Purity* available here.

Edgehill THE CASTLE



In a jointly run award "Pub Design Award 2015" between CAMRA and English Heritage this Hook Norton owned pub has been awarded the refurbishment and the conservation award. The historic listed folly dates from the 1700's and it was noted that the recent refurbishments have been done sensitively whilst bringing about a modern function to allow it to thrive.

Stratford-upon-Avon BRITISH LEGION

We learn that here there is a single pump offering Greene King IPA at a bargain £2 a pint, worth a check though first before visiting.

WHITE SWAN

Our roving beer reporters tell us that there are and has been a good succession of seasonal ales through this Fullers establishment seeing amongst others Gales Redwood a 4% fruity, spicy number and Fullers Oliver's Islands a 3.8% citrusy hoppy thirst quencher. Look out for more this coming Autumn.

Ardens Grafton THE GOLDEN CROSS

Hoping to repeat the same success as last year, they are once again holding their

apple day showcasing "bring your own apples" for juicing and cider making. You will also find live music and a pig roast - **Saturday October 3rd.**

Broom BROOM TAVERN

I was very pleased to find the recent new beer from *North Cotswold* on here on my last visit *Moreton Mild*. A good range of usually local beers is always to be found - normally *Purity*, *Wye Valley*, *North Cotswold*, *Ambridge* and *Stratford upon Avon Brewery* and on occasions the odd Cornish contingent as this area is a particular favourite of the landlord.

Cherington CHERINGTON ARMS



Early in the year it was looking a little uncertain for this *Hook Norton* village pub with no sign of life. Never fear Hooky weren't going to let a little gem like this disappear being one of our few pubs that plays the old outdoor pub game Aunt Sally. So on June 1st, Jean Michel Dupin and Tracey Clegg opened the doors to a packed house majoring on food and beer in the form of *Old Hooky* and *Hooky* and sporting a lovely huge garden to the rear where you can find a perfect spot for a pint. Keep an eye on their facebook page if music is your thing as they are featuring various acts along with regular folk nights. Search by name to locate the page.

Harvington COACH AND HORSES

Ale lovers should venture out to our current Shakespeare Worcestershire Pub of the Year this September 25th to 27th as they are planning another beer and cider

festival with up to 20 in total. This is also timed to coincide with the start of cask ale week. See their facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/CoachandHorsesHarvington

Salford Priors THE BELL

Having been closed for quite some months with a search for a tenant seeming an impossible task since Dave and Sally headed to pastures new at **THE THROCKMORTON**, it has now reopened with Helen and Dave at the helm. They are open weekdays from 5pm and weekends from 1pm with the kitchen to follow very soon - and if you're a keen darts player, they'd love to hear from you to join their team! We wish them all the very best and a long and successful time at the pub.

Bretforton THE FLEECE

Following on from previous years one not to miss is the **APPLE & ALE FESTIVAL** showcasing traditional methods of apple processing for cider and juice along with some vintage machinery and plenty of beers to choose from. October 16th to 18th, see website for details; www.thefleeceinn.co.uk/events/apple-ale-festival

Bidford-on-Avon THE BULLS HEAD

After a four year stint we waved goodbye to Kevin and team and see a "run this pub board" on the outside. Punch have installed a temporary management team in the short term as they seek a permanent tenant for this vital local village pub. The ale continues in the absence of the previous tenants and when our roving reporter visited he was greeted with *Enville Ale* to be followed by *Old Hooky* so still worth a visit.



the Fleece Inn

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Brewery News...

NORTH COTSWOLD

Having had a very busy spring & summer Guy and his team had to delay the launch of their new recipe "Summer Solstice". However this is now available at good ale outlets across the surrounding counties. *Summer Solstice* is a pale, hoppy, refreshing ale full of summer sunshine. Following on from the success of *Summer Solstice* they will be launching yet another new ale to celebrate the rugby world cup. "Fosseway Flanker" is a 3.8% golden ale and will be available from the beginning of September.



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BREWERY

Well they say progress never stands still. As you will have read already, Rich Williams and his brewery have not been content with just



brewing lovely beers for you, they are now the proud owners of a very popular country local pub – **THE NORMAN KNIGHT** @ Whichford. Some would say big shoes to fill but reports so far tell us that all is well at this lovely local and it is now showcasing the full range of beers from the brewery and they are planning to build on the ever popular nights such as pie night and classic car night which seem to see the place full to bursting which is always good to see. If all this activity was not enough, having taken a number of months to come to fruition, Rich and team have found time to bring us 2 new beers – *Golden Bee Bitter* a 4.7% copper coloured honey bitter destined to see off those winter blues on those cold nights containing sweet cinnamon notes and *Stratford Citra* a 4.5% premium single hopped made with Citra hops only. This is full bodied with balance and wonderful floral notes, so keep a look out for these.

Demand is at such a level that the brewery capacity is set to increase shortly by 100% going from 50 to 100 casks a week, which

is good going when starting out last year selling just 5 a week which grew to a weekly average of 40. A small sales team has been taken on to continue growth and bottling of beer starts from late Autumn.

PURITY

Not content with brewing wonderful beers from their local base at Great Alne, they have now been awarded "Sustainable Manufacturer of the Year" at the "Made in the UK Awards" back in July. This saw them triumph over four other regional winners because of their devotion to upholding its core value of brewing with a conscience. The award recognised that Purity has demonstrated the greatest commitment through its products and processes to forge a low carbon manufacturing future and made the greatest commitment to reducing the impact of manufacturing on the environment – and who thought it was just all about making beer. Well done team Purity!



The Broom Tavern



BEAUTIFUL 16TH CENTURY PUBLIC HOUSE

TRADITIONAL BAR SERVING LOCAL AWARD WINNING REAL ALES, CIDERS AND FINE WINES AND SITUATED IN ONE OF SHAKESPEARE'S DRINKING HAUNTS

SUNNY SPACIOUS FRONT AND REAR BEER GARDENS FOR THE WARM WEATHER AND ROARING LOG FIRES FOR THOSE COLD RAINY DAYS

GREAT QUALITY, FRESH LOCAL INGREDIENTS BROUGHT TOGETHER TO CREATE FANTASTIC SEASONAL MENUS FROM TWO WELL ESTABLISHED CHEFS IN THE MIDLANDS

REFURBISHED AND RESTORED BOTH INSIDE AND OUT, OFFERING FREE WI-FI AND DAILY NEWSPAPERS

LOVELY SUNDAY LUNCHES WITH FRITZ'S FAMOUS YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS SERVED EVERY WEEK FROM 12PM

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Other News...

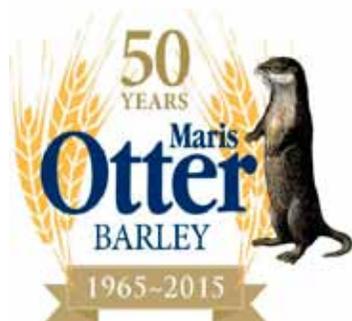
Maris Otter turns 50!

It may seem strange to note the anniversary of a cereal variety, but there's good reason to celebrate the half century of one particular barley type. Particularly so given the tale of domination, decline, rescue and revival that spans its extraordinary 50 year history.

While Maris Otter might not be a household name, it is legendary amongst a group of craft brewers and beer-lovers. Once malted, it becomes the ingredient by which loyalist brewers swear.

Although less than 6% of British beer is produced with Maris Otter malt, nine of the most recent fourteen Champion Beers of Britain (64%) are made with Maris Otter. Quite the record for an ingredient.

Most cereal varieties are superseded within five or six years. 50 years' continual production is truly exceptional.



PUNCH SELLS £50m WORTH OF PUBS TO RETAIL SPECIALIST...

"Punch Taverns is in talks to sell the 150-strong package of pubs it placed on the market earlier this year to New River Retail, which specialises in the food and value sector. New River Retail bought 200 pubs from Marston's for £90m in 2013. Many of the sites have been leased to Co-operative Food. Sources close to the developer said it was likely to keep some of the Punch sites running as pubs." The Times

Let's see what this brings for the Punch estate in the Shakesbeer branch!

CAMRA GBBF Champion Beers of Britain 2015

CAMRA are pleased to announce this year's Champion Beers of Britain as follows:

SUPREME CHAMPIONS...

Gold: Tiny Rebel *Cwtch* **Silver:** Kelburn *Jaguar* **Bronze:** Dancing Duck *Dark Drake*

MILD

Gold: Williams Brother *Black* **Silver:** Rudgate *Ruby Mild*
Bronze: Great Orme *Welsh Black*

BEST BITTER

Gold: Tiny Rebel *Cwtch* **Joint Bronze:** Barnegates *Tag Lag* and Salopian *Darwin's Origin*

SPECIALITY

Gold: Titanic *Plum Porter* **Joint Silver:** Kissington *Black Cherry Mild* and Saltaire *Triple Chocolate* **Bronze:** Hanlons *Port Stout*

BITTER

Gold: Pheasantry *Best Bitter* **Silver:** Acorn *Barnsley Bitter*
Joint Bronze: Purple Moose *Madog's Ale* and Timothy Taylors *Boltmaker*

GOLDEN

Gold: Kelburn *Jaguar Silver* **Silver:** Adnams *Explorer*
Bronze: Blue Monkey *Infinity*

STRONG BITTER

Gold: Dark Star *Revelation* **Silver:** Salopian *Golden Thread*
Bronze: Grain *India Pale Ale*

PURE GOLD IS A REFRESHING GOLDEN ALE



BREWED WITH THE ENGLISH MARIS OTTER AND CARAGOLD MALTS PLUS NORTHER BREWER, HEREFORD GOLDING AND STYRIAN GOLDING HOPS TO CREATE A ZESTY AND CRISP ALE WITH A DRY FINISH, MAKING FOR A VERY SATISFYING AND EASY DRINKING BEER.

WWW.PURITYBREWING.COM

Festival Time... War of the Roses

With all the months of planning (around six to be precise) Stratford's ninth festival was over in a flash! Having had the privilege to be involved in a handful of Stratford festivals, each year it just gets better.



Continuing with 75 beers and 30 ciders, in the dark months of winter we settled on the beer theme of "War of the Roses" to add an ever changing interest to our line-up. I hope you all found a great tittle to whet your whistle! Casting our net across Yorkshire and Lancashire our bar manager Bob Kirby came up with a fabulous list of about 45 beers to fulfil the brief and then left us the opportunity to work with our excellent local breweries such as *Stratford upon Avon Brewery, North Cotswold, Cannon Royall, Purity, Wye Valley and Hook Norton*. Each year we welcome back the Hook Norton Shires who did a sterling job of promoting the festival for us around Stratford. You thirsty folk consumed around a staggering 6000 pints of beer and cider and voted your overwhelming favourite beer as *Marble Brewery's Early Grey IPA 6.8%* and such was its popularity, it only lasted for Friday's session. Cider of the festival had another overwhelming winner which

was a one off produced by one of our own branch members Dave Wilson, with the cider "*Cuckoo Spit*". Once again we were utilising the large new function room at our disposal which people still comment on as being a great addition even though this was actually our second year in the room. Even though the weather was a little mixed it still brought out around 1500 of you beer lovers to the racecourse. Having a long relationship with the Shakespeare Hospice - a charity dear to a lot of people, we invited them back to raise money at the festival and they raised a massive £1200 with over £100 coming from one our members donating a large amount of beer pump clips in return for donations from festival goers. We also presented our donation

of £574 (accepted on their behalf by Doug Burns) which was raised by your generously donated unused beer tokens. Entertainment this year was from the ever popular "Swing from Paris" which saw their return for the third time, a great covers band 4more and the wonderful Worcester Ukulele band all performing sets on Saturday afternoon and evening. The festival is a massive undertaking - without our merry band of volunteers



f the Roses



Festival organiser and cider bar manager Julian Stobinski



Hospice presentation



we would not even be able to put on half of what we do, some of whom are becoming festival veterans and have travelled a great distance to be with us. Alongside our volunteers, are you our customers, friends, punters, drinkers and beer lovers alike - you keep coming back and for that we thank you and hope you continue to find Stratford Beer Festival an interesting point in the festival calendar for unusual, regular and classics to try. And finally, our sponsors... The involvement from our sponsors is immense from large nationals to very small locals and public houses. Sponsorship covers all areas from shirts, glasses, even radio communication and any involvement is greatly welcomed to allow us to showcase the very best that real ale has to offer.

"Having a long relationship with the Shakespeare Hospice - a charity dear to a lot of people - we invited them back to raise money at the festival once again and they raised a massive £1200"

The hard work...





- Four Real Ales
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FOOD SERVED:

Traditional Pub Food & Sunday Lunches
Mon-Sat: 6.00-9.00pm :: Sunday Lunch: 12.00-3.00pm

We show..



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Spring 2013

Shakespeare Branch
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2014 & 2015

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- Live entertainment all over the weekend •
- World Cup Rugby being shown •

Up to **20 Beers and Ciders**

Watch our Facebook page for more information www.facebook.com/coachandhorsesharvington



Branch Pub of the Year 2015

As Shakesbeer branch is blessed with covering portions of two counties – Warwickshire and Worcestershire, we award two branch pubs of the year. This award also sees us put them forward – these are decided by the attendees of one of the Good Beer Guide selection meetings back in the depths of the winter as an additional task.

THE COACH & HORSES Harvington Worcestershire

On the 15th April, **Lloyd Evans** our Branch Chairman presented **Steve and Di** with the Worcestershire area Pub of the Year award for the second time running. To win this award once is quite an achievement but to do so twice is a real reflection on what our members see as being the undoubted quality of this village pub. Situated opposite the church, which can be seen from miles around due to its green copper clad spire, it would be worth noting that previously no pub in Harvington or the surrounding area north of Evesham had ever won this award in the sixteen years of its existence.



After last year's presentation it subsequently led to the Pub's first entry into the national GBG. The joy that this further recognition brought to Steve and Di was evident for us all to see as a copy of the guide appeared in the pub before the official launch date along with a very visible banner proclaiming this fact, which allowed everyone who visited the pub to outwardly share in their achievement.

During his speech Lloyd explained that the qualities that were recognised by the branch previously in the Coach and Horses have over the past year, just got stronger highlighting a number of reasons as to why they were again awarded the Pub of the Year -

- The contribution that the pub makes to the community and village of Harvington.
- The superb development of the skittles alley into a quality function room which has been used extensively since its refurbishment.
- The quality and range of real ales that have been on offer where the consistency has been nothing short of excellent.

Finally, but most importantly, he congratulated Steve and Di themselves who, along with all their bar staff, have made the **COACH AND HORSES** into the pub that we see today. They work so well together and the atmosphere that has been created is something that everyone involved in should be justifiably proud of and therefore he had no hesitation in presenting the **COACH AND HORSES** with our POTY for 2015.

We would now like to offer all our best wishes to Steve and Di as they now move forward to the county judging with the hope that they go one better than previously and win the county title.

THE BEAR, Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire

On the 31 March, CAMRA members gathered together at the **BEAR FREEHOUSE** in Stratford for what we

thought was going to be a "quiet" night out with a few beers and a presentation for the Warwickshire area award.

As it turned out the pub was busy with match watchers in the main bar. Not to be thwarted, we waited our turn but soon realised that the fine real ales on offer were far too good to turn down and we eagerly refreshed our palates from the choice of



seven real ales, of which many were from Locale breweries such as the *Stratford upon Avon Brewery*. Half time came, and went, and we were engrossed in our own banter away from those on the pitch but soon realised we should get matters back in hand (not the pint hand that is). At the end of the game we gathered together the bar team plus Bar Manager, Simon Taylor and General Manager, Neil Hanson for a presentation under the eagle eye of some very thirsty match watchers.

Praise must go to Simon and the whole team for ensuring that their real ales on offer are always in tip top condition plus also to have a wide range is no mean feat in itself. The pub offers drinkers a place to slip away from some of the town centre pubs but still enjoy the delights of river watching. We wish them heartily congratulations on achieving progress to this stage and they now go onto the next round with other Warwickshire pubs.



The
NORMAN
KNIGHT



Now under the ownership of Stratford upon Avon Brewery

Situated in the picturesque Warwickshire village of Whichford, we pride ourselves on a warm welcome, excellent food and beer brewed in our very own Stratford Upon Avon Brewery.

Delicious food served daily, Tuesday to Sunday for lunch & dinner.

Plus - Hog Roasts, Barbeques, Sunday Lunch and much more.

Large Parties catered for too.

Please ask for our **Daily Specials Menu** for additional offerings...

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The Norman Knight is now
owned by SUA Brewery

My Favourite Pub

Andy Clough, Shakespeare Branch Member

Situated right in the centre of the medieval market town of Knaresborough in North Yorkshire is my favourite pub - **BLIND JACK'S, named after the famous 18th century road builder (see box).**

Indeed, on the wall outside the pub you will find Jack playing his fiddle in one of the trompe l'oeil style blind window paintings that are a feature of the town. It may be a surprise to find out that **BLIND JACK'S** has only been open 25 years when it was converted from two shops. The present owners, Debbie and Paul Holden-Ridgway, have been there since 2002. Paul's 'day job' is running the *Bad Co.* brewery in nearby Dishforth.

Inside there are four cosy rooms over two floors. The décor is very simple with bare boards and exposed Georgian brickwork. No TVs, gaming machines or modern stuff. Just brilliant beer, comfy seats and a great atmosphere. So what does 'great atmosphere' mean? As a member of CAMRA's Shakespeare branch I get to submit entries to the Good Beer Guide and find 'atmosphere' an elusive element when describing a pub. In the case of **BLIND JACK'S** it is a combination of knowledgeable and friendly bar staff

and the conviviality of the regulars. I guess the nearest equivalent within walking distance of my home in Stratford upon Avon would be the **STRATFORD ALEHOUSE** micro pub in Greenhill Street.

At **BLIND JACK'S** the range of beers is always outstanding - the range available on my last visit (June) included two pale ales, two blonde beers, two bitters, two milds, an IPA and a stout.

As you would expect, *Bad Co.*'s beers are show cased at **BLIND JACK'S** along with a wide range of local beers and draught ciders.

In the photo you can see my pint of *Comfortably Numb* (*Bad Co.*'s 3.8% abv pale ale) being pulled - very refreshing, very tasty. You can also see a number of local brewers represented on the pump clips including: *Hop Studio* (x2), *Yorvik* (x2), *Kirkstall*, *Bad Seed*, *Black Sheep* and *North Riding*.

I then got chatting to Debbie the manager/owner, who informed me her



twin aims are to provide interesting local beers as well as different, non-mainstream beers, sometimes from as far away as Hawaii and New Zealand. I also picked up a two pint carry out of my favourite stout - *Bad Co.*'s '*Dazed & Confused*' - a superb milk stout with hints of coffee and almond (coincidentally barrel number one at the recent Stratford Beer Festival).

Blind Jack was born John Metcalf in 1717. Jack contracted smallpox at 6 and went blind. Despite this disability he learned to play the fiddle and the oboe, and was musician to the Knaresborough Volunteers when they fought Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebels in 1745.

At various times horse trader, haulier, fishmonger and stage coach operator, Blind Jack was best known as a pioneering road builder, and built hundreds of miles of road in the North of England.

The bronze statue of Blind Jack sits outside the pub in Knaresborough Market Place, he is holding a Road Builder's surveying wheel.





The Fleece Inn

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The quintessential English Pub
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- run with love of tradition

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Mediaeval Thatched Barn available to hire for
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For further details contact Nigel on 01386 831173
Email: nigel@thefleeceinn.co.uk www.thefleeceinn.co.uk

Check out the website for forthcoming events

THE CROWN AND TRUMPET INN

CHURCH STREET - BROADWAY - WORCESTERSHIRE - WR12 7AE



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

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

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



Shakespeare's CAMRA Pub of the year 2012

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



Timothy Taylor's
Landlord - 4.3%
<http://timothytaylor.co.uk>



Stanway Brewery
Artixis Ale - 4.0%
<http://www.stanwaybrewery.co.uk>



Moles Brewery
Black Rat Cider - 4.7%
<http://www.molesbrewery.com>



Celtic Marshes
Lily The Pink - 4.5%
<http://www.celticmarshes.com>



Stroud Brewery
Tom Long - 3.8%
<http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk>



Moles Brewery
Black Rat Perry - 7.5%
<http://www.molesbrewery.com>

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

Shakespeare Spring Pub of the Season

At the May Branch meeting, members of Shakespeare CAMRA voted the **KEYS AND KITCHEN**, Stratford-upon-Avon as their Pub of the Season for Spring 2015.

We like to award pub of the seasons to up and coming establishments in real ale terms and are keen to promote the aims of CAMRA. Matt Homans and Marilyn Herdman have invested in a major refurbishment of the old Cross Keys pub, which re-opened in October 2014. The pub was packed by regulars and CAMRA members, who enjoyed a good celebration with a lovely buffet provided by the kitchen. The presentation was made on 30 June 2015 by Pete Godfrey, Shakespeare CAMRA Pubs Officer, to a delighted Matt and Marilyn.



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 [insert any brand or make you have] then you may now write to us again... **Shakesbeer Editor, c/o The Coach and Horses, Station Rd, Harvington WR11 8NJ**

THE AREAS ONLY MICROPUB

THE STRATFORD
Alehouse
Cask Ales, Ciders & Wines

We are a family-run business with a pledge to support smaller, local breweries as well as casting our net further afield to the four corners of the British Isles in our quest to maintain an unusual and varied selection of beers.

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Sunday: closed all day
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....and at a fair price



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MICROPUB Association

Brewery and Cotswolds pub tour

First Saturday of every month!

Tour includes:

- Pick up and drop off from Stratford-upon-Avon, Leamington Spa, Warwick or Warwick Parkway rail station (times from Warwick Parkway coincide with trains to and from Birmingham & London).
- 90 minute Purity Brewery Tour (11am), including a pint of at least one of their award-winning ales.
- Lunch and a pint of beer/soft drink in a fantastic country pub.
- Visit to at least two further pubs in the Cotswolds, including one in the beautiful market town of Chipping Campden.

£55*
pp



For more information please visit www.gocotswolds.co.uk/ale
or contact Tom on 07786 920166 or tom@gocotswolds.co.uk

 @Go_Cotswolds  /GoCotswolds

*Tours operate with a minimum of 6 people, group bookings welcome, discounts available for groups of 8 or more booking together. Over 18s only. Photographic ID may be required to enter brewery/pubs. Go Cotswolds will not provide a refund if entry to any venue is refused.

Dave's Story

Dave Page

Age: Would not say 😊

Sunny Shakespeare Branch



CAMRA volunteer

Although I have had an affection for real ale from the age of 18 (obviously no earlier!) I was a relative latecomer to the CAMRA fold having only joined just over 2 years ago.

I received my first copy of Shakesbeer magazine and noted that the next branch meeting was not too far from Stratford where I live. With the inducement of a free new member's pint I turned up not knowing what to expect. Another newbie turned up as well so I thought great, safety in numbers. I need not have worried as everyone was friendly, and I was certainly not put off going to the next meeting.

I have assisted the branch treasurer with planning 2014 Beer Festival, and worked as a volunteer at that festival, enjoyed many other social events and when the treasurer role became vacant, I was more than happy to volunteer my services and since the turn of the year been branch treasurer. As an accountant by profession it has been easy to settle into that role.

Now what will your story be...



Evesham Fair

with Alan Whitbread, Folk Singer & Concertina Player,
Alcester Court Leet Ale Taster www.alanwhitbread.co.uk



This month I'm featuring a song written by Colin Pitts, a friend of mine, who lives in Evesham and who has written many songs about Evesham's everyday life. It is about drinking and enjoying other delights of the Evesham Mop Fair, at which many ales and ciders have been drunk over the years!



Colin first performed in folk clubs while a student in Swansea in the late 1960s and he became popular in Midlands folk circles in the early 1970s. He even has memories of the Cherry Trees Folk Club in Alcester – that was long before I moved to Alcester!

Colin re-emerged as a singer/songwriter in the 1990s with a reputation for writing songs which can make you think, make you laugh or just make you feel good. He has performed at clubs, village halls and festivals

all over the UK and has also been on many local radio shows and on BBC Radio 2. Four albums later he is still delivering his special brand of intimate songs with a sprinkle of wry humour and many other artists have recorded covers of his songs. Keep up the good work, Colin! His website, which details all of his recordings, is at www.colinpitts.co.uk

History of Mop Fairs

Hiring fairs were also called statute or mop fairs. They date from the time of King Edward III, who attempted to regulate the labour market with the Statute of Labourers Act 1351. This was a time of a serious national shortage of labour after the Black Death, which started in 1348 and which killed around half the population of the country. Because so many people gathered at a fair, it quickly turned into the major place for matching workers and employers. Agricultural workers and servants would bargain with prospective employers and, hopefully, secure a position for the coming year. These fairs turned into major feasts in their own right and gained a reputation for drunkenness and immorality. Of course, the drinking of ale and cider is still popular at such events!

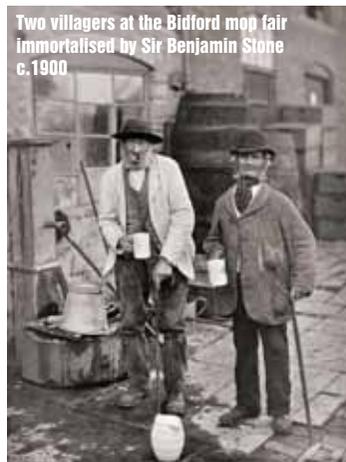
The workers often sported a badge or carried a tool to denote their skill. Shepherds held a crook or a tuft of wool, cowmen brought wisps of straw, dairymaids carried a milking stool or pail and housemaids held a broom or mop. Hence many hiring fairs became known

as mop fairs. Employers would look them over and, if they were thought fit, they would hire them from one October to the next.

Local Mop Fairs

There are three towns in our area still holding mops on or around Michaelmas Day (originally 29 September in the old Julian calendar or 11 October in the modern Gregorian calendar which was introduced in 1752). These towns are and were medium-sized thriving market towns surrounded by a large number of smaller villages, hence their obvious choice as the location for mop fairs. This year their mop fairs are on the following dates in October. Maybe you'll spot me at one of them having a pint!

Two villagers at the Bidford mop fair immortalised by Sir Benjamin Stone c.1900



EVESHAM MOP
Thursday 1st to Sat 3rd October
ALCESTER MOP
Monday 5th & Tue 6th October
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON MOP
Sun 11th & Mon 12th October
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RUNAWAY
MOP Thu 22nd & Fri 23rd October



Evesham fair Colin Pitts ©

Autumn's here again and the work is
hard to find
The harvest's in the barn the fields all
ploughed in time
The apples are pressed and the cider's
brewing
The hops in the kiln close by

I'll meet you at the old Mop Fair
We'll drink the barrel dry
I'll meet you at the old Mop Fair
We'll drink the barrel dry"

The mist's on Bredon Hill in the morning
now I see
Evesham's Vale is turning brown as
leaves fall from the trees
There's work to find if you've a mind
If you're young and free

I'll meet you ...

Making nails or brewing beer, ah, they
work you till you're tired
Evesham Fair is the place to go if you want
to get hired
Maybe a house on Greenhill High
Where it's easy to get fired

I'll meet you ...

There's cider and beer to drink all brewed
in the lane nearby
Cheeses and hot fruit pies all the girls
with hair piled high
If you're lucky you might win a penny
At the wrestling you might try

I'll meet you ...



Pig roast at the Stratford-upon-Avon Mop Fair

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 Brailles (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.

Shakespeare Branch Diary and Beer Festival Round up



OCTOBER

- 2nd & 3rd** Solihull Beer Festival @ Knowle and Dorridge cricket club, B93 8ET
- 3rd** Apple Day, **THE GOLDEN CROSS** Ardens Grafton
- 14th** First Stratford Beer and Cider Festival planning meeting at **THE FLEECE** Bretforton 8pm
- 16th to 18th** Apple and Ale Festival, **THE FLEECE** Bretforton
- 20th** Shakespeare branch meeting at **THE NORMAN KNIGHT** Whichford 8pm
- 28th to 31st** Birmingham CAMRA beer festival www.birminghambeerfestival.org.uk

NOVEMBER

- 17th** Shakespeare branch meeting **CROWN & TRUMPET** Broadway 8pm
- 26th to 28th** Dudley Winter Ales Festival, Town Hall, DL1 1LZ www.dudleycamra.org.uk

FEBRUARY 2016

- 17th to 20th** National Winter Ales Festival, **THE ROUNDHOUSE**, Derby 17th to 20th nwaf.org.uk

See Shakespeare CAMRA web site for the latest news and updates on meetings: www.shakespearecamra.org.uk

CAMRA Branch Contacts

- **Chairman:** LLOYD EVANS chair@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Secretary:** GWEN GODFREY secretary@shakespearecamra.org.uk
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- **Social Secretary:** socials@shakespearecamra.org.uk
- **Website:** KEITH BARKER websupport@shakespearecamra.org.uk

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



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

For just £24* a year, that's less than a pint a month, you can join CAMRA and enjoy the following benefits:

- A quarterly copy of our magazine BEER which is packed with features on pubs, beers and breweries.
- Our monthly newspaper, 'What's Brewing', informing you on beer and pub news and detailing events and beer festivals around the country.
- Reduced entry to over 160 national, regional and local beer festivals.
- Socials and brewery trips, with national, regional and local groups.
- The opportunity to campaign to save pubs and breweries under threat of closure.
- The chance to join CAMRA / Brewery Complimentary Clubs that are exclusive to CAMRA members. These clubs offer a variety of promotions including free pint vouchers, brewery trips, competitions, and merchandise offers.
- Discounts on all CAMRA books including the Good Beer Guide.



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Hoseasons 10% discount on booking with Hoseasons.

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For more on your CAMRA Membership Benefits please visit www.camra.org.uk/benefits

* This price is based on the Direct Debit discount. ** Joint CAMRA memberships will receive one set of vouchers to share. CAMRA reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time without warning and members should check CAMRA website for updated and details of current offers.

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 Forename(s) _____
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I enclose a cheque for _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

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 Forename(s) _____
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) _____
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01/15

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- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay by Direct Debits.
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 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The Campaign For Real Ale Ltd asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

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

Stratford Ale House Stratford :: Fox & Hounds Great Wolford :: Howard Arms Ilmington :: Red Lion Little Compton :: Red Lion Long Compton :: George Hotel Lower Brailes :: White Hart Newbold-on-Stour :: Peacock Oxhill :: White Bear Shipston-on-Stour :: Plough Stretton-on-Fosse :: Gate Inn Upper Brailes :: Bell Inn Welford-on-Avon :: The Fleece Bretforton :: Crown & Trumpet Broadway Castle Edgehill :: Boars Head Hampton Lucy :: Queens Head Sedgberrow :: Coach & Horses Shipston :: The Black Horse Inn Shipston The Falcon Stratford :: New Bulls Head (formerly The West End) Stratford :: The Bear Stratford :: Norman Knight Whichford Bidford Legion Bidford :: The Golden Bee Stratford



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The new Guide will be published in September 2015, you can order a copy now (details below).

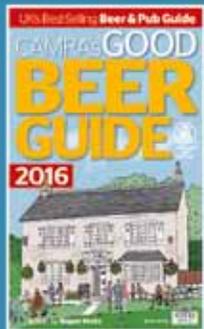
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Card Number <input type="text"/>		
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